

# 29th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

## Mayor's Question Time 22 February 2024

This is my twenty ninth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 5 January – 8 February 2024

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

## Executive Summary

### Universal free school meals funding

On 9 January I was pleased to announce that I plan to provide £140m to continue to fund universal free school meals for state primary school children in London for another year from September – saving families up to £1,000 across the two years of funding from City Hall.

The new funding will see boroughs offered £3 per meal to continue to deliver the meals from September, a 13 per cent increase in funding. This is 18.5 per cent higher than the amount they receive from Government for universal infant free school meals. Delivering free school meals has been one of my proudest moments as Mayor as I have seen the difference it has made to the children and their families. I am thrilled to extend this lifeline for families for yet another year.

On 18 January I also announced plans to extend funding to our free holiday meals programme, helping hundreds of thousands of London families struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

We're proposing to spend £4m in our 2024/25 budget to continue the programme, which provides free meals to families during schools holidays and at weekends.

This will extend a partnership with the Mayor's Fund for London and The Felix Project that has helped to deliver more than 10.1m free meals to families across the capital since April 2023.

### TfL fares

On 19 January I announced that I plan to allocate £123m of GLA funding to freeze TfL fares until March 2025. Millions of Londoners are set to benefit with potential savings of up to £90 a year. In contrast, national rail fares are going up by 4.9 per cent.

With record numbers of commuters using pay as you go, compared with Travelcards, the freeze will help more Londoners than ever as the cost of living continues to soar. The move will put money back in people's pockets, and also be a boost for London's culture, retail and hospitality sectors

New analysis shows that fares set me in 2024 will be 14 per cent lower than if they had risen in line with National Rail fares, and 21 per cent lower than if they'd risen in line with RPI since 2016.

On 28 January I asked TfL to trial groundbreaking 'Off-peak Fridays' to help Londoners make the most of the city's fantastic offering, to help keep London roaring back and support a further return to the office. The trial is expected to begin in March and last for three months.

This could transform the morning commute for Londoners and provide a welcome further boost to London's economy. Midweek Tube ridership is now at up to 85 per cent compared to pre-

pandemic levels and is continuing to grow, but Friday ridership remains lower at around 73 per cent

The move forms part of wider plans to ‘revitalise Fridays’, working with businesses, the hospitality sector and other key stakeholders to encourage more Londoners back into the city on Fridays to make the most of all London has to offer.

### **Grenfell testimony week**

During the week commencing 22 January, my Deputy Mayors for Housing and Residential Development, Fire and Resilience, and Communities and Social Policy and I attended a session at Grenfell testimony week, where many of those impacted by the fire spoke about the harrowing events of that night and its aftermath. I remain committed to doing everything in my power to ensure justice for the bereaved, survivors and residents of the Grenfell community, and to taking all steps needed so a tragedy such as this can never happen again in our city.

### **TfL launches consultation on plans to extend DLR to Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead to boost connectivity and provide new journey options**

TfL is inviting people to have their say on proposals for an extension of the DLR. The preferred route is a cross-river extension of the DLR from Gallions Reach to Thamesmead via Beckton Riverside, and working with the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the London Borough of Newham two brand new stations would be created.

The plans would support the delivery of new transport links, homes and regeneration in Thamesmead and Beckton, and the consultation is open until 18 March 2024.

Public feedback will be used to help make decisions about the scheme and inform the designs and next steps. The next stage in the process after public consultation will be progressing the scheme towards Outline Business Case.

TfL has been working together with the Royal Borough of Greenwich, the London Borough of Newham and the Greater London Authority (GLA), as well as landowners Peabody, Lendlease, abrdn, St William (Berkeley Homes) and Homes England to support the delivery of new homes, improved town centres and better access to jobs within and from Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead. This will only be possible by improving public transport connections. The partnership is also working closely with Government, demonstrating the importance of the project to the local and wider area.

### **One million learners supported by Mayoral skills programmes**

On 8 February, new analysis showed that more than one million funded learners have participated in the Mayor’s adult skills programmes since I took control of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) in 2019.

Enrolments to London’s adult skills programme increased by a fifth between the 2019/2020 (when responsibility for London’s adult education was delegated to the Mayor) and 2022/2023, compared to eight per cent in other areas of the country which remain under central government control. London now has the highest rate of adult skills participation in the country and more than 100,000 Londoners were helped into work, accessed further learning or boosted their wages in the last year alone.

We also announced a London Multiply Roadshow - a series of fun, family-friendly events across the city launching this month, focused on helping Londoners build their confidence with numeracy in everyday life. There will also be a pan-London campaign, including digital marketing and Spotify ads, to encourage Londoners to develop their maths skills.

On 1 February, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe attended the opening of Euston Skills Centre, a new space that is part funded by City Hall to help Londoners access the information, advice and skills they need to work in the construction industry. He was joined at the opening by Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council, and Transport Minister Huw Merriman.

### **New rough sleeping service and call on Ministers to act as rough sleeping rises**

On 31 January, I announced a further expansion of services to help rough sleepers, with a new No Second Night Out hub in West London, as new figures showed more than 1,200 rough sleepers were helped into emergency accommodation during two weeks of freezing weather in January – around 30 per cent more than during the same period last year.

Worryingly, of those helped under Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) arrangements, 19 per cent - 242 people - reported that they had just left Home Office provided accommodation. Government rules give newly recognised refugees just 28 days to move on from asylum support accommodation. With no time to access universal credit, find a job and receive wages or secure private rented accommodation, many are forced to sleep rough on the streets. As an example of the chaotic way this is being dealt with, in addition last week also saw the announcement that 400 asylum seekers would have to leave temporary accommodation in Walthamstow with only days' notice.

More broadly, new Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) stats published at the same time showed the number of people helped by outreach teams in London rose by eight per cent in October to December 2023, compared to the previous quarter.

### **Mansion House London Government Dinner**

On 11 January, I attended the annual London Government Dinner at Mansion House, where I gave a speech that called for a 'new and enhanced settlement' with the EU to turbocharge our economy and raise living standards. Alongside this I commissioned two economic reports (one by GLA Economics and the other by Cambridge Econometrics) that reveal that Brexit has and will continue to harm both the London and UK economies, costing both economies billions of pounds in foregone revenue and exacerbating the cost-of-living crisis.

I noted that this 'cost-of-Brexit' crisis could only be solved by taking a mature approach to trade and economic relations with our European neighbours, and highlighted the need for an evidence-based approach to migration that tackles London's labour shortages.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony 2024 – 22 January**

On 24 January I marked Holocaust Memorial Day in a joint ceremony with the London Assembly. This year's service, in collaboration with the Holocaust Educational Trust and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, commemorated the survivors and victims of the Holocaust as well as those affected by other genocides, under the theme 'Fragility of Freedom'. Freedom means different things to different people but what is clear is that in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted have had their freedom restricted, and removed, before many of them are murdered. This is often a subtle and slow process.

I was honoured to welcome Holocaust survivor Janine Webber BEM and Bosnian genocide survivor Safek Vukalić BEM, who shared their personal testimonies. It is their stories that remind us that the Holocaust is one of the most harrowing events in living memory. I am proud that City Hall holds this annual service to commemorate those who lost their lives in the most atrocious of circumstances, and this year's theme 'Fragility of Freedom' is extremely pertinent as we reflect upon global events and the devastating impact on innocent people. By joining together and remembering that we have more in common than divides us, we are building a fairer, more tolerant city for all.

The Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony at City Hall also saw contributions from Rabbi Epstein and Rebbetzin Ilana Epstein of the Western Marble Arch Synagogue, Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassadors, who also delivered the Holocaust Memorial Day Statement of Commitment, and the Chief Executives of the Holocaust Day Trust, Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE, and Holocaust Educational Trust, Karen Pollock CBE. Cantor Rachel Weston and accordionist Josh Middleton, courtesy of the Jewish Music Institute, opened and closed the service.

### **Apology on behalf of the GLA for the death of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah**

On 2 February I delivered an apology to Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah on behalf of the Greater London Authority (GLA) for it not acting sooner to tackle air pollution, which ultimately led to the death of her daughter Ella in 2013.

Nine year-old Ella's life was tragically cut short as a result of a severe asthma attack which, in a landmark inquest, the Coroner concluded was "contributed to by exposure to excessive air pollution". Ella lived very close to the South Circular, one of the busiest roads in London, and the Coroner found that the principal source of Ella's exposure was traffic emissions – and that her mother, Rosamund, was not given information about the health risks of air pollution and its potential to exacerbate asthma.

### **Launch of Grow London Local**

On 30 January I officially launched Grow London Local, my single front door support service for small businesses, at Camden Lock Market. Grow London Local, delivered by London & Partners, will provide online and in-person support to help businesses grow and thrive, including business planning, skills, sales and marketing guidance, as well as opportunities to connect with like-minded business owners and mentors. It fulfils my 2021 Mayoral election manifesto pledge to create a 'single front door' for business support in London.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **Ban on zombie-style knives and machetes**

It is simply unacceptable that zombie-style knives and machetes are still on the streets of London and the UK eight years after Ministers first proposed banning the sale of the blades. Having been repeatedly promised action, we've seen a merry-go-round of Home Secretaries failing to deliver. On 23 January I wrote to the current Home Secretary, urging him to bring forward and toughen up this legislation to finally end the scourge of these weapons on our streets.

On 25 January I welcomed the long-overdue decision by the Home Secretary to finally ban zombie-style knives and machetes and act on the calls I have been making for the last eight years around these dangerous weapons. These knives have been a key driver of violence affecting young people for far too long. It's vital that this new legislation does not repeat previous mistakes and closes all legal loopholes around their sale online once and for all.

### **London Inclusion Charter**

On 6 February I launched London's Inclusion Charter – the first city-wide of its type – to help tackle rising suspensions and thousands of children losing out on learning.

We launched the Charter as data shows growing suspensions and persistent absenteeism in London. The equivalent of 1,430 children each day lost learning due to suspension or absenteeism in London alone in the latest figures – up more than 70 per cent on pre-pandemic levels.

The Charter is underpinned by four guiding principles centred on inclusive practice that is backed up by research on the views of young people, parents and teachers. A key strand of the charter is a new £1.4 million investment from the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit in a partnership with UNICEF UK that will provide child rights resources and training to support inclusive practice, learner voice and engagement for all state-funded school and education settings in London for the next four years. The Award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond.

## Transport

### **London's boroughs to be allocated £80.4 million in funding to continue vital work making streets healthier and safer for all**

London's boroughs play a key role in the planning and delivery of schemes that transform local areas and meet the aims of my Transport Strategy. These include improved public transport, schemes that support my Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury from the transport network and opportunities for safe and active travel in local communities. Enabling more people to walk, cycle and access public transport is vital to a healthier and more sustainable city for all Londoners.

In January TfL and London Councils published a Borough Three Year Report, which demonstrates how boroughs have used Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding over three years (2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22) to transform local areas, making London's roads safer and more attractive for people using public transport, walking and cycling.

The report outlines the vital new infrastructure delivered through the funding, including:

- Making public transport more accessible and reliable with 89 new accessible bus stops, more than 110 schemes to increase bus priority or accessibility and 7km new or improved bus lanes
- Making walking and cycling safer through 50km of wider footways, 157km of new or upgraded cycling routes and 74 new pedestrian crossings
- Access to cycling has also improved through nearly 110,000 new on- and off-street cycle parking spaces and training provided to 50,000 adults and just under 135,000 children
- Around 500 School Streets have also been introduced, with almost 25 per cent of primary schools now having a School Street

TfL's funding for the next financial year (2024/25), will initially see £41m allocated to outer London boroughs and £25m in funding to inner London boroughs.

It's fantastic that London boroughs will receive this funding from TfL to continue the vital work they do to keep London's streets clean, safe and accessible. It is only by working together, with boroughs at a local level and with central Government that we can keep building a better, safer, greener city for all Londoners.

### **UK Infrastructure Bank commits £300m to the Docklands Light Railway Rolling Stock Replacement Programme, boosting growth and opportunity**

On 15 January the UK Infrastructure Bank announced a £300 million loan to TfL to support the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) Rolling Stock Replacement Programme, boosting connectivity, job opportunities and helping to further cut emissions.

The loan is provided through the Bank's Local Authority function and will finance a significant part of the overall £0.9bn project cost, alongside TfL's wider financing and a £237.5 million grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). UKIB's loan forms part of TfL's borrowing requirement for the DLR Rolling Stock Replacement Programme and will be applied to the replacement of ageing trains, some of which have been in use since 1991, as well as infrastructure on the DLR in London.

The programme will provide 54 new trains with enhanced comfort and accessibility, replacing existing DLR rolling stock, and increasing the number of trains. Alongside this, the project is funding further infrastructure improvements such as an advanced signalling system, power upgrades, new sidings, a maintenance shed at the Beckton depot, and minor station upgrades.

Together these improvements will increase capacity across the network by more than 50 per cent, supporting up to 10,000 new homes and helping to improve access to high quality jobs, as well as help shift more journeys towards a lower-carbon mode of transport.

Early-stage TfL internal funding and DLUHC grant, combined with TfL's project delivery experience, has allowed the DLR Rolling Stock Replacement Programme to make rapid progress.

Construction of the DLR trains commenced in December 2020, with 22 new DLR trains now built, including two in testing in London across the network ahead of them starting to enter service during 2024. The whole new fleet is targeted to be in place by 2026.

### **1,400 new e-bikes and a new day pass to be introduced in major boost to London's Santander Cycles scheme**

TfL and Santander are making significant improvements to the Santander Cycles scheme by introducing a new day pass to make cycling even more accessible and affordable to Londoners. Lack of access to a bike is a key barrier that stops people cycling and Santander Cycles is helping to eliminate this hurdle by boosting sustainable transport options for people across the capital.

Following feedback from Santander Cycles users, customers indicated a new tariff structure would encourage more people to try the scheme and is a more economical way to use the service. A new day pass will be introduced from Sunday 3 March and will provide excellent value to customers, with a daily rate of £3 for unlimited hires up to 30 minutes within 24 hours. Hires longer than 30 minutes incur an extra £1.65 for each additional 30 minutes.

Following their hugely successful introduction in 2022, the Santander e-bikes fleet is expanding from the current 600 bikes to make it even easier for Londoners to find an affordable e-bike.

I'm delighted that we're adding a further 1,400 new e-bikes to the fleet, almost tripling the number available to hire. The e-bikes have proved hugely popular since they were introduced and help break down the barriers that stop some people from cycling. The new day pass rate will also make Santander bikes one of the most affordable ways to travel in the capital.

I'm determined to continue building a cleaner, greener and more prosperous London for everyone, and Santander Cycles plays a hugely important role in making active travel around the city as accessible as possible.

### **TfL launches new online data platform, creating a pioneering map of London that shows the link between deprivation and road casualties**

TfL has launched its Vision Zero Inequalities Dashboard tool, creating a new map of London that shows the stark levels of road traffic injury inequality in the capital.

The pioneering new tool is the first of its kind in Europe and shows how deprivation is linked to higher road casualty levels, reinforcing the need to target investment and improvements to protect those most vulnerable.

The dashboard enables users to filter the data on the relationship between deprivation levels and road casualties by year, borough, casualty severity and mode of travel, while the mapping function makes it easier to explore areas of higher casualty or casualty location rates.

The dashboard complements the [Inequalities in road danger in London](#) (2017-2021) report, published earlier this year, which focused on two areas, the collision location and the demographic characteristics of the people who are injured. This report found that in London the more deprived the area, the higher the risk that someone travelling in that area will be seriously injured or killed in a road traffic collision in that area.

The interactive dashboard displays crucial information on the relationship between deprivation levels and road casualties in London. Protecting everyone on the road is a priority for me and we will continue to research how road risk varies for certain groups of Londoners and engage with boroughs, police and other stakeholders to reduce these inequalities.

### **TfL requires suppliers to be FORS Gold accredited from April 2024, ensuring safer fleet services across the capital**

TfL is introducing new requirements for fleet service contracts to continue improving vehicle safety on London's roads. From April 2024, all Greater London Authority Group contracts, worth over £1 million and involving vehicles, will need to be FORS Gold accredited or a TfL equivalent approved scheme (Mission Zero and DVSA Earned Recognition). Encouraging fleet operators to take part in FORS is an important part of my Vision Zero goal to eliminate death and serious injury on the transport network.

Making roads safer is a priority for me, TfL and the freight industry. FORS currently have over 203,000 vehicles accredited across 4,700 companies both within the UK and abroad. The introduction of additional safety equipment and additional driver training through FORS has led to a 31 per cent reduction in serious injuries as a result of collisions involving commercial vehicles based on performance data submitted for Silver audits between 2021 and 2022. However, freight vehicles remain disproportionately represented in fatal collisions in the capital, and more action is needed to achieve the Vision Zero goal. Moving to the higher standard of FORS Gold (or equivalent) will ensure accredited operators meet the enhanced standards which are above the legal requirements for operating commercial vehicles, further reducing the risk to vulnerable road users.

I am committed to eliminating death and serious injury on London's roads as part of our Vision Zero strategy. London has been leading the way in improving lorry safety through the Direct Vision standard, which has seen a huge reduction in fatal collisions where sight is a contributing factor. FORS Gold is another example of how we are driving up standards in the freight and fleet industry to build a better, safer city for everyone.

### **TfL appoints Mercedes-Benz AG and Sopra Steria to its first of a kind new Innovation Collaboration Framework to co-develop solutions to key transport challenges**

Last month TfL announced that Mercedes-Benz AG and Sopra Steria have been successfully appointed as partners on its new Innovation Collaboration Framework (ICF).

The four-year framework will look to directly address key transport challenges such as achieving sustainability, making public transport safer and helping services become more efficient and reliable.

Mercedes-Benz AG is one of the world's largest manufacturers of luxury passenger cars. The company focuses on the development, production and sales of passenger cars, vans and vehicle-related services. The company also aspires to be the leader in the fields of electric mobility and vehicle software. Within the company, the Mercedes-Benz Data initiative develops, bundles, and distributes innovative data solutions related to Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

Sopra Steria is a purpose-led digital transformation specialist with considerable knowledge and expertise within the transport sector. This includes partnering with TfL to provide a range of innovative services, such as London's world-leading traffic management system.

Through the framework, TfL and the innovation partners will work together to create new concepts and products to help improve how people move around and to make the city a better place to live.

Making London's transport network safer and more sustainable is a key priority for me, which is why we welcome this new framework agreement between TfL, Mercedes-Benz AG and Sopra Steria. This exciting new collaboration will address key transport challenges facing the capital.

I look forward to seeing the innovative solutions that come from this partnership, which will support me in building a better London for everyone.

### **Places for London launches search for new development partner in east London**

Places for London – Transport for London's (TfL) wholly owned commercial property company – has announced that it is searching for a new joint venture development partner to work with in east London.

The new partnership will jointly bring forward a development scheme at the Limmo Peninsula in Newham, utilising Places for London's existing estate, with the potential for other sites to be added in the future.

The Limmo Peninsula site covers around 5 hectares of land, with 600m of river frontage, and sits within the Royal Docks and Beckton Riverside Opportunity Area. Previously used as a work site for the Elizabeth line, the area now has the potential to deliver up to 1,500 new homes, including affordable housing, alongside a range of improvements for the local community as well as new residents.

The site could potentially include commercial space which would support the local economy, large areas of publicly accessible open space, and enhancements to the connectivity of the area, such as a new cycle and pedestrian bridge and a new river walkway.

### **New video installation by award-winning artist Douglas Gordon launches at Tottenham Court Road station**

A thought-provoking new artwork that celebrates the vibrant culture of Soho launched on 1 February at Tottenham Court Road station. The artwork, by award-winning artist Douglas Gordon, is presented by TfL and sponsors Almacantar, the City of London Corporation and Derwent London.

Gordon's undergroundoverheard is one of several artworks commissioned by Crossrail Art Programme for the Elizabeth line, the largest collaborative public art commissioning process in a generation. It will sit alongside works including Chantal Joffe's A Sunday Afternoon in Whitechapel at Whitechapel station and Conrad Shawcross' Manifold (Major Third) 5:4 at Liverpool Street station. Situated in the Dean Street entrance to the Elizabeth line at Tottenham Court Road

station, Gordon's new artwork comprises a video on a large screen seen by thousands of customers each day as they descend the escalators to the platforms.

Douglas Gordon's undergroundoverheard is a wonderful addition to the Elizabeth line. Translated into different languages, it celebrates our capital's greatest strength – our diversity. This programme, alongside Art on the Underground, delivers amazing creative works to the travelling public every day, bringing us joy, encouraging us to stop and think and making art accessible to all, helping us build a better London for everyone.

### **Samsung partners with Transport for London to reimagine the Tube map for first time in 90 years**

The iconic Harry Beck Tube Map has been reimaged for the first time in over 90 years, as part of a new partnership between TfL and Samsung, to promote the Circle to Search with Google feature on the newly launched Samsung Galaxy S24.

In a transformative collaboration, the world-famous Tube Map, which was designed by Harry Beck in 1933, has been reimaged into a circle to more clearly emphasise the Circle line. The temporary redesign champions the new Circle to Search with Google feature – a new tool on the Galaxy S24 device where users can instantly search anything you see on your phone, without switching apps.

As part of the two-week collaborative takeover, the limited-edition map, which has been designed to work as a functional map of the Tube network, is on display on Circle line platforms at five stations: King's Cross, Blackfriars, Westminster, Liverpool Street, Paddington. While not replacing the current Tube map, it shows all 11 London Underground lines, and also temporarily shows the Circle line as the 'Circle to Search' line.

### **Plans to make London transport fairer, more accessible and more inclusive and commit to grow number of step-free stations**

TfL has published an ambitious new customer plan to help create a fairer, more accessible and inclusive transport network for everyone. The new plan, Equity in Motion, commits to more than 80 new and ambitious actions to further build on TfL and the Mayor's ongoing efforts to create a fairer and safer London.

The wide-ranging commitments in the plan cover key areas for improvements around accessible travel, keeping customers safe, understanding customers, affordable travel, inclusive information and connecting Londoners.

The plan commits to introducing an innovative bridging device across the London Underground network by the summer for stations, which are designated step-free from street to train but where a small gap persists between train and platform. More than 45 mini ramps are now being introduced across the network and this follows a TfL trial in 2022 on the Jubilee line. The device was designed to provide additional support and reassurance for customers, with TfL research showing that 63 per cent of respondents would be more likely to travel with this device.

New research will also be carried out to understand the needs of a range of different communities across London and TfL will create a new inclusive Design Centre of Excellence. TfL will also be reviewing its approach to translating communications into different languages, including British Sign Language, increasing the number of step-free access stations, expanding the Project Guardian school sessions on sexual harassment and making it easier for people to report crime, antisocial behaviour, discrimination, and safety concerns. These improvements, some of which are underway

already, will help make everyone feel welcome on the transport network, enable more people to travel confidently and with ease.

These bold new commitments are part of a number of actions I am taking to achieve the ambition of my Transport Strategy and move London forward safely, inclusively and sustainably.

London is for everyone and I am committed to making our transport network as fair and accessible as possible so that every Londoner can make the most of our fantastic city.

TfL is committed to removing the barriers that people face when using the transport network and enabling more people to travel spontaneously, seamlessly and easily. Some of these vital improvements are already underway and there are many more to come, helping us to continue building a better, fairer London for everyone.

### **TfL completes work on two major new sections of Cycleway in Hackney and Islington, making cycling even more accessible**

TfL has completed work on the latest phase of Cycleway 50 in Islington and Cycleway 23 in Hackney, as part of TfL's commitment to expand the network, making it even safer and easier for people to travel around London. The extended routes will play a vital role in enabling people living in and travelling through the area to travel affordably and sustainably. Around 60 per cent of households in inner London do not have access to a car and creating enough space for people to walk and cycle safely is vital to a sustainable transport network.

On Cycleway 50 in Islington, the new sections between Finsbury Park and Holloway Road connect people in local neighbourhoods along two new segregated cycle lanes, running westbound along Seven Sisters Road and eastbound along Isledon Road and Tollington Road.

On Cycleway 23, Lea Bridge Roundabout has been transformed to make it safer for people walking and cycling. There are now new segregated cycle lanes on the overhauled roundabout to separate people cycling from traffic, while pedestrian crossing and signals at the roundabout have been upgraded to make it easier for people to walk.

I want to build on the boom in cycling we've seen in recent years, as our rapidly expanding cycle network enables more and more Londoners to switch to cycling for local journeys. The extension of these two cycleways will make cycling journeys easier and safer around Hackney and Islington and help us continue building a better, greener, safer London for everyone.

### **Colindale Tube station to close from Friday 7 June until December 2024 as part of its major upgrade**

TfL is advising customers who use Colindale Tube station that vital work to upgrade the station, including a larger ticket hall and installation of a lift to give the station step-free access for the first time, means that it will have to close from Friday 7 June until December 2024.

Work has already started in the vicinity of the station to prepare for the major upgrade, which is funded by the Government's Levelling Up Fund and significant contributions also being made by Barnet Council, local developers and TfL.

During the temporary closure of the station, customers are advised to take local bus routes to nearby Northern line stations at Burnt Oak or Hendon Central, or to Kingsbury for the Jubilee line.

In addition to the temporary closure of Colindale Tube station, there will also be a series of associated planned track closures of the Northern line between Golders Green and Edgware between April and July this year to facilitate the upgrade works. These planned closures are necessary due to the proximity to the track of some of the construction work to upgrade Colindale station.

The major upgrade of Colindale station is set to transform the journeys of many thousands of our customers, making the station more accessible and welcoming, and ensuring it's fit to serve this rapidly growing community for many decades to come.

TfL will launch a widescale communications campaign ahead of the temporary closure of Colindale station and the associated track closures which will include targeted customer emails, posters and PA announcements at stations. TfL's Journey Planner and TfL Go will also be updated with the latest travel information.

Delivering step-free access at Colindale station will continue TfL's work to make the capital's transport network more accessible. Since 2016, TfL has worked to reduce additional journey times for those who need accessible routes by 40 per cent, well on the way to reaching my accessibility stretch target of 50 per cent by 2030 (from 2041).

## Environment

### **Meeting with iChoosr**

On 10 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Cas Bijolt, the CEO of iChoosr. iChoosr are the delivery partner on Solar Together London. Solar Together has supported the installation of more than 24,000 solar panels across more than 3,400 London homes including delivering significant discounts for customers. Due to one of the scheme's suppliers going into liquidation, which affected Solar Together customers across the country, some customers in London experienced unacceptably poor levels of service. Whilst most have had installations completed or refunds this meeting was to discuss progress by iChoosr on the remaining few customers who have been affected.

### **Meeting with Greg Jackson (CEO) Octopus Energy new offices**

On 11 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended a meeting with Greg Jackson, CEO of Octopus Energy at their London headquarters. Octopus Energy are the partner who deliver energy to my company, London Power, and my Deputy Mayor met some of the team who deliver excellent customer service. My Deputy Mayor also heard about the investment being made in new net zero energy products and services, helping to meet my net zero targets while creating new green jobs.

### **Roadmap to 2030 Event at Kew Gardens**

On 16 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended as a panel member on the 'Roadmap to 2030' event arranged by the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew.

A discussion took place after the panel introductions, which re-emphasised the significant achievements made in London towards the Global Biodiversity Framework and the challenges that face London now because of climate change.

[In 2022, the Mayor signed on to the Montreal Pledge – Cities United in Action for Biodiversity](#) and the [C40 Urban Nature Accelerator](#).

### **Breathe London Event at London Mithraeum Bloomberg**

On 17 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues gave the keynote speech at the Breathe London Community Event, hosted by our delivery partners Bloomberg Philanthropies to celebrate the success of the Breathe London Network and specifically the Community Programme. Breathe London enables near-real-time monitoring of air pollution at over 400 locations across London, prioritising locations such as schools, hospitals, and locations chosen by local communities. This event was an opportunity to meet the communities involved in the network and hear about how the Breathe London programme is empowering communities by enabling them to monitor air pollution in their neighbourhoods and use the data to lobby for change.

### **Meeting with Christopher Woodward at Garden Museum**

On 23 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Christopher Woodward, Director of the Garden Museum to hear about their plans.

### **Inda Global Forum's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual UK – India Parliamentary lunch**

On 24 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the India Global Forum's 6th annual UK-India Parliamentary Lunch. The event brought together leading figures from the world of politics, business, finance, and culture to celebrate the growing ties between India and the UK.

### **Canal and Rivers Trust**

On 24 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the Canal and River Trust, Trustees' Evening Reception. The event brought together David Orr, Chair of Canal & River Trust and Sir Peter Dixon, Chair of London & South-east Regional Advisory Board, with the rest of the Trustees and Regional Advisory Board members at an informal networking reception. There were informal discussions about how to help make London's canal system greener, more biodiverse and inclusive.

### **Site tour/masterplan update at Earls Court Development Company**

On 25 January my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the Earls Court redevelopment and met Rob Heasman (CEO) and Rebekah Paczek (Director of Public Affairs) for the Earls Court Development Company to hear about their vision and masterplan for the site including the sustainability aspects of their plans.

### **Meeting with the Cory to hear proposals for their Riverside site**

On 29 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with the CEO and other representatives from Cory to hear about progress and their potential plans for their Riverside site, and to discuss what they could do to support London's waste authorities in their ambitions on waste.

### **Natural Environment Board, City of London Dinner at Livery Hall, Guildhall**

On 29 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended dinner with the Natural Environment Board of the City of London Corporation. Attending at the invitation of the Board's Chair, Caroline Haines, they discussed the strategic direction for the City of London Corporation's work across its open spaces and natural environment.

### **Meeting with Tayshan Hayden-Smith at Union Street**

On 30 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Tayshan Hayden-Smith, a WWF High Profile Supporter, RHS Ambassador for Communities and Young People, and CE and founder of Grow2Know, to learn more about the work that Grow2Know does reconnecting communities to nature through place making.

### **Parliamentary launch of Taskforce for Lung Health**

On 30 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the Parliamentary launch of the Taskforce for Lung Health which heard from Parliamentarians and campaigners on their commitment to improving lung health.

### **Meeting with Dr Liz Goodwin and Wayne Hubbard ReLondon re Waste Matters**

On 31 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with the CEO and Chair of ReLondon to discuss the work of ReLondon to support local authorities on recycling and the circular economy.

## **Fire and Resilience**

### **Budget & Performance Committee**

On 8 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended the London Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee to discuss London Fire Brigade's budget for 2024/25.

### **Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning (FREP) Committee**

On 15 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, briefed members of the London Assembly FREP Committee on the London Fire Brigade's progress towards completing recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report. Baroness Twycross also briefed the Committee on the Brigade's preparations for an upcoming inspection from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

### **Resilience Governance Group**

On 16 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross attended a meeting of the Resilience Governance Group. This group, made up of representatives from the GLA, London Councils and the London Resilience Forum is overseeing the transfer of the London Resilience Group from the London Fire Brigade to the GLA.

### **Fire Brigades Union**

On 18 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with the regional chair of the London Fire Brigades Union.

### **Visit to Forest Hill Fire Station**

On 19 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, visited Forest Hill Fire Station to see the Brigade's new Command Units and meet with firefighters.

### **Ministerial Roundtable on Electric Powered Personal Vehicles**

On 22 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, attended a ministerial roundtable, convened by the Fire Minister, to discuss the need for government regulation of Electric Powered Personal Vehicles, given the growing fire risks.

### **Resilience First Dinner**

On 25 of January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross hosted a dinner, in partnership with Resilience First, to discuss the importance of women's leadership in the resilience sector.

### **Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network Executive Governance Board**

On 26 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a meeting of the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network Executive Governance Board.

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

On 30 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a regular meeting of her Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board.

### **Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee**

On 31 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended the London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to discuss London Fire Brigade's Community Risk Management Plan.

### **Grenfell Response Steering Group**

On 2 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a regular meeting of the GLA's Grenfell Response Steering Group.

### **Chair of London Fire Brigade's Advisory Panel**

On 2 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with Martin Forde KC, the Chair of LFB's Advisory Panel for culture to discuss progress.

### **Shadow Minister for Resilience**

On 5 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with the Shadow Minister for Resilience to discuss the role of local resilience forums.

### **London Assembly Plenary**

On 8 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended the London Assembly's Plenary to discuss matters relating to fire and resilience.

## Growth and Skills

### Jobs and Skills Business Partnership

My Jobs & Skills Business Partnership met on Wednesday 7 February 2024. The meeting opened with a presentation from Capital City Colleges Group on their experience delivering a digital skills hub under the Mayor's Skills Academies programme.

The Business Partnership then provided feedback on the GLA's proposed approach for Wave Five of the Skills Bootcamps programme, including updated priority sectors and the procurement plans submitted to the Department for Education.

Officers led a discussion on the Grow London Local programme with London & Partners, which will provide a single front door for small & medium-sized enterprises in London. Members shared insights on how the programme can make skills provision more locally relevant to the needs of the local economy, businesses and employers.

The session closed with an update on the GLA's proposed approach to the Early Connect UCAS Pilot programme which was designed to increase the uptake of apprenticeship opportunities among 17-18 year olds.

### London Multiply Roadshow

In the first week of February, I launched my London Multiply Roadshow, which will be delivering a series of fun numeracy family-friendly events across the city. Roadshow events have been designed to help reduce negative perceptions of maths and build Londoners' confidence with numbers in a fun and engaging way. It will also raise awareness of learning opportunities in their local area, including my [London Multiply Programme](#).

Roadshow events are free to all and are being run in partnership with community organisations in local areas. Events will run from February to March 2024 and then again in the summer.

### Skills Bootcamps for Londoners

I am pleased to announce we have been awarded £21.62m grant funding from the DfE to deliver Wave 5 of my Skills Bootcamps for Londoners programme. The programme will focus on key sectors of the London economy, including Green, Digital, Construction, Creative, Health and Social Care, Technical (Engineering and Manufacturing), Hospitality, and Finance (Professional Services). The Skills Bootcamps for Londoners programme aims to help Londoners aged 19+ to progress in work by giving them access to in-demand skills training and a guaranteed interview for a more sustainable, higher-skilled job and higher wages over time. The programme will also benefit the capital's employers by helping them to fill specific skills shortage vacancies, increasing productivity within their organisations.

## Housing

### **Raising standards in social housing**

My Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley wrote to the Regulator of Social Housing, setting out my support for the strengthening of enforcement powers and the raising of standards for social housing tenants. It is my hope that the Regulator's new powers to survey homes and issue notices for emergency remedial action will mean that tenants at the most acute risk of harm from their housing will receive the urgent interventions they require to make their homes safe to live in, should their landlord fail in the first instance.

### **Deputy Mayors visit New Horizon Youth Centre**

On 9 January, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley and my Director of the Violence Reduction Unit, Lib Peck visited New Horizon Youth Centre. New Horizon provides invaluable help to vulnerable young people including those impacted by violence and homelessness.

### **Mayor's response to the government's consultation on restricting ground rents**

I have responded to the government's consultation on restricting ground rent by calling for the cap of ground rents at a peppercorn. Over a quarter of households in London (28 per cent) live in leasehold properties and I have long called on the government to undertake a reform of the tenure which tackles unfair ground rents. Capping ground rents at a peppercorn will improve housing outcomes for Londoners by removing barriers to leaseholders wanting to re-mortgage or sell their homes and protect leaseholders from unfair charges for which they receive no service in return. I look forward to the outcome of the consultation and will continue to lobby the government to improve the leasehold tenure.

## The Economy, Business and Enterprise

### **Business Advisory Board**

On 31 January I chaired the final Business Advisory Board meeting of the term to thank the members for their advice and support in helping the GLA Group develop economic and business policies. We discussed the opportunities and challenges businesses are facing and ways in which we could continue to support businesses and champion London globally. London & Partners presented on Grow London Local and we discussed ways in which the GLA group and members could collaborate on supporting small businesses in the capital.

### **Night Czar visit to Good Work Standard employer Mercato Metropolitano**

On 17 January my Night Czar Amy Lamé visited Mercato Metropolitano, a sustainable food market, to congratulate them on becoming a Good Work Standard employer and present their plaque. My Good Work Standard recognises organisations who champion the best employment practices. Amy met with Andrea Rasca, CEO and Founder, who highlighted the importance of paying the London Living Wage in the hospitality sector. She also heard from independent traders and employees on good work practices at Mercato Metropolitano, including for those working at night.

### **Deputy Mayor for Business participation in the South Bank BID Ballot Launch Event**

On 10 January my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, spoke at the South Bank Business Improvement District (BID) Third Term Ballot Launch Event at Merlin's SEA LIFE Aquarium. The event was to inform levy payers of the ballot process and the BIDs plans for the third term which is due to commence on 1 October 2024 subject to the ballot outcome. There were around 100 levy payers and partners of South Bank BID in attendance along with Nic Durston, CEO, South Bank BID who also spoke at the event.

### **Deputy Mayor for Business participation in London & Partners' Cohort 3 of Grow London Global launch**

On 22 January my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, spoke at the launch event for London & Partners' 3rd cohort of the Grow London Global programme, which supports high-growth companies to expand internationally. The event welcomed over 100 scaleup founders and CEOs representing sectors such as Fintech and Enterprise Tech, Life Sciences, Creative Industries and Sustainability, and for the first time included a number of businesses from Scotland and the West Midlands, alongside London companies.

### **Deputy Mayor for Business meeting with the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC)**

On 23 January my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber met with Shevaun Haviland, Chief Executive of BCC and discussed how we could continue to work closely to support business during challenging times.

### **Deputy Mayor for Business meeting with Uber**

On 29 January my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, met with Uber's Global Chief Legal Officer, Tony West and UK General Manager Andrew Brem. Uber highlighted the work they were doing on safety and sustainability and their £5m investment to install over 700 chargers across the London boroughs of Brent, Newham and Redbridge.

### **Deputy Mayor for Business attends the Economy Committee as part of an examination of issues around late payments to businesses**

On 6<sup>th</sup> February Howard Dawber, my Deputy Mayor for Business, gave evidence to the Economy Committee as part of their investigation into late payments. The session set out the causes and impact on businesses and traders and self-employed who rely on fair payment. Howard outlined the action being taken to support businesses and traders, including reducing barriers in public sector procurement. It examined GLA's commitment to pay suppliers promptly in 10 working days.

### **Deputy Mayor for Business visit to Brompton Factory**

On 6 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, visited the Brompton Bicycle factory in Greenford. Howard met with Brompton Managing Director Will Butler-Adams OBE and discussed Brompton's future growth plans.

### **Deputy Mayor for Business chaired the London Business Forum**

On 8 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, chaired the London Business Forum on my behalf, bringing together leading business representatives from across the city to discuss the current economic situation and key policy priorities for London.

## **Deputy Mayor for Business speaks at the London Anchor Institutions' Network Conference**

On 8 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, welcomed over 100 senior leaders from London's biggest organisations to City Hall for their annual conference. LAIN is London's first ever city-wide initiative, bringing together members from across the public, private, faith-based, education and cultural sectors to address London's long-standing social, economic inequalities and the growing climate emergency. In the past 12 months the network has focused on maximising its procurement, recruitment and estate management capacity for social and economic benefit.

## **Communities and Social Policy**

### **Local Hong Kong Welcome Fund Year three**

On 10 January, I launched the third year of the Local Hong Kong Welcome Fund, which aims to build London local authorities' capacity and capabilities to support the welcome and integration of Hongkongers arriving and settling in London via the British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa scheme. Two types of grants are available in Year 3: Continuation grants (up to £35,000) are open to Local Authorities that have taken part in our Year 1 and Year 2 programme, and Connection grants (up to £20,000) are open to Local Authorities who are new to working with BN(O)s in their borough.

## **Children and Young Londoners**

### **Young Ambassador programme**

On 6 February, during Children's Mental Health Week, I was proud that my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, visited St Catherine's School in Bexley, to celebrate the work of the exciting new mental health stream which has been added to the long-running Young Ambassadors programme. This new stream, which was funded by my Children and Young Londoners team, is allowing young people to create social action projects to improve wellbeing at their schools. At the event, Joanne presented certificates of achievement to the young people and saw some of the projects in action.

### **New Deal for Young People**

On 9 January, the Director of my Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the Chair of New Deal for Young People (NDYP), Lib Peck, visited an excellent NDYP funded project, New Horizon Youth Centre. Through my NDYP funding, New Horizon provides vital mentoring support for young people experiencing homelessness. My Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, also attended the visit.

On 31 January, the Director of my Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the Chair of New Deal for Young People (NDYP), Lib Peck, welcomed 41 organisations that will deliver mentoring projects as a part of NDYP. These new projects will be delivered over the next two years and will reach over 15,000 disadvantaged young people by building trusted relationships.

## Culture

### **King's Head Theatre**

On 24 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the Opening Gala Night of the King's Head Theatre. The project is funded by £800,000 from the third round of my Regeneration-led Good Growth Fund. The total project value is £1.85m, with more than £1,051,000 match funding from the King's Head Theatre and donors. Justine unveiled the Mayor of London's plaque and gave a speech. The funding has enabled the theatre to move from its existing, unsecured premises at the back of the King's Head Pub into a permanent new home in Islington Square.

### **Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm**

On 31 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes Bernard chaired the final meeting of the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm.

### **London Made Me shop**

My London Made Me retail training and shop programme returned for a second year in December 2023. The London Made Me shop in Carnaby Street featured 12 creative entrepreneurs from across my Creative Enterprise Zones - four of which were collectives - and showcased a further 60 creatives in-store.

During the month-long trading period, the total sales for the artists came close to £82,000, more than double last year's sales of £35,000 when the shop was based in Regent Street. While the shop was open, visitors were also able to take part in more than 20 creative activations including workshops and evening events, and view live art being created on a daily basis.

### **24 Hour London**

#### **Morley College Chelsea Centre for Creative Industries**

On 17 January, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, gave a speech at the relaunch of Morley College's Chelsea Centre for Creative Industries. She was also able to share her own experiences of learning at Morley's Waterloo campus.

Amy praised Morley College on the trusted reputation it has built up over many years as a provider of quality learning and education for all ages and across the day and night.

The creative industries are vital to London's economy, and I'm proud to be supporting Morley College through my adult education budget and to award them my Skills Quality Mark.

#### **Business Friendly Licensing Workshop**

On 23 January, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, took part in an online panel discussion looking at how regulators can take a more business friendly approach to support night time businesses.

The event, which is part of my Business Friendly Licensing Fund, also showcased the projects I'm funding in Hackney, Merton and Westminster. These projects are all cutting red tape for businesses to help them thrive.

### **St Paul's Cathedral Lighting Trials**

On 25 January, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, was invited by the City of London to provide feedback on the proposed new lighting designs for St Paul's Cathedral.

The use of good lighting schemes, including on our historic buildings, helps create welcoming and safe environments in all parts of the capital. My Night Czar is working across boroughs to develop Night Time Strategies that look at all aspects of life at night, including lighting. As the only local authority with a dedicated lighting strategy, the City is leading the way in this area.

### **SPACE UK**

On 26 January, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, gave a keynote address at SPACE UK, a conference for professionals in the built environment sector.

Amy spoke about the work City Hall is doing to help London thrive as a 24 hour city, including the need for better planning for all aspects of life at night through Night Time Strategies. She also encouraged the audience to think about how night time uses could and should be included in new developments to create vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods.

### **Hackney Boroughwide Pubwatch**

On 31 January my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, spoke at the Hackney Boroughwide Pubwatch alongside representatives from the council and police. Organised by Hackney Council, the event gathered representatives from more than 90 licensed venues.

Amy spoke about the support the GLA is providing to night time businesses, including Hackney Council's funding via my Business Friendly Licensing Fund, which helps make licensing easier for boroughs and businesses.

### **Hospitality and Live Events Roundtable**

On 7 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, chaired the Hospitality & Live Events Roundtable, bringing together high-level representatives to have an open conversation about the state of these sectors in London and how better they can be supported. She was joined by my new Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, and Michael Rodrigues, the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner for New South Wales, Australia.

Amy listened to the concerns raised by sector representatives, spoke about the support the GLA offers to the hospitality and events sector, such as the recently launched Grow London Local, and discussed ways of working closely going forward.

## Civil Society and Sport

### **Young Ambassadors and climate change**

Between the 11-29 January a network of 10 heat sensors have been installed across my Young Ambassadors schools. The Young Ambassadors helped to install the sensors and learnt about reducing exposure to extreme heat, in the context of climate change. The pilot that I have funded in partnership with University College London will raise awareness of the role that heat sensors can play in providing evidence to inform the public, professionals, and those most vulnerable to acute and prolonged exposure about the risks, and potential harm.

### **Young Ambassadors and Holocaust Memorial Day**

My annual Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony took place on Monday 22 January at City Hall, over thirty Young Ambassadors and their teachers attended the memorial event. This ceremony commemorated victims of the Holocaust and provide a time of reflection for those affected by more recent genocides. The Young Ambassadors and teachers fed back that they were visibly moved by the survivors meaningful testimonies.

### **Equality Diversity and Inclusion Volunteer Managers Forum**

The second Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Volunteer Managers Forum took place in person at City Hall on 25 January, bringing together 20 members from a diverse range of charities across the city, to discuss challenges and find solutions around improving EDI in their volunteer workforce. My team convened the EDI Volunteer Managers Forum in 2022, providing a unique opportunity to bring together volunteer-involving organisations specifically to discuss EDI within volunteering, to share learning and experience, to skill share, problem solve and access peer-to-peer support amongst volunteer managers across London.

### **Young Ambassadors and mental health**

On 6 February, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, spoke at a school participating in my Young Ambassadors programme. St Catherine's school celebrated the mental health social action projects delivered as part of the programme. This event took place during children's mental health week where my Young Ambassadors showcased the podcasts, toolkits, training developed and the whole school approach to tackling mental health for Young Londoners.

## Health

### **Meeting with NHS Regional Director**

On 11 January I continued my series of regular meetings with the NHS England Regional Director for London. We discussed winter resilience and preparedness and the impact of the junior doctors' strike.

I was also briefed on seasonal illnesses, including flu and Covid, neither of which was currently causing concern or putting pressure on the NHS. Additionally, close attention was being paid to a small measles outbreak in north-west London.

We discussed the impact of London's All-Age Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat, signed up to by a wide range of partners in July 2023, including the GLA, the Metropolitan Police and the NHS. It

has resulted in very positive outcomes, reducing unnecessary hospital attendances, as well as reducing the number of people in hospital that didn't need to be there.

### **Six Tests: Adult acute mental health service change proposals in North West London**

As part of my commitment to champion, challenge and collaborate with the NHS on behalf of all Londoners, I have developed six tests for all major changes to NHS services in London.

On 26 January I wrote to the NHS to set out my position on proposed changes to adult acute mental health services in Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea. This was informed by an independent review of the proposals that I commissioned from the Strategy Unit.

My letter called for analysis of the reasons behind inequalities in the current service and for specific plans for reducing those inequalities through the proposed future service. I also called for the final plans to directly address structural racism and to set out more robust demand and capacity modelling for the future service.

### **Great Mental Health Day 2024**

On 26 January 2024, London marked its third annual Great Mental Health Day. This regional awareness day focussed on celebrating the power of meaningful connections and recognising what Londoners do to support themselves and others. I was proud to show my support for the day, including posts on @MayorofLondon throughout the day. This was alongside a video of support from my Statutory Health Advisor Professor Kevin Fenton, as well as posts from my Deputy Mayors Justine Simons OBE, Joanne McCartney and Debbie Weekes-Bernard.

As part of my commitment to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of Londoners, I worked with our partner Thrive LDN to co-ordinate regional activity across the city alongside local authorities, community groups and workplaces. The aim of the day was to get Londoners talking about mental health, break the stigma around asking for help, and to raise awareness of the great support available across the region.

To mark the day, hundreds of Londoners got involved in free events and initiatives across London, with local activity being organised by boroughs and communities themselves. Examples include the 'Walk Talk Walk' event where 40 Londoners from across the city joined an organised walk to share experiences and create a safe space to talk about mental health. Meanwhile young Londoners released Connections, a short film offering messages of hope. Local and online events included a Parents Wellness Expo in Haringey; an evening of stories from Sikh history in Croydon; an over-60s gardening workshop in Camden, and an online suicide prevention training. Londoners were also invited to participate in an ongoing discussion around mental wellbeing on City Hall's online community, Talk London. I'm pleased to say that hundreds of Londoners participated in Great Mental Health Day activities, both in-person and online.

The aspirations and aims of Great Mental Health Day aren't limited to a single day. I am encouraging Londoners to champion great mental health every day through my #ChampionMentalHealth campaign. By signing up, Londoners can pledge to #ChampionMentalHealth and have access to training opportunities, tools and other offers straight to their inbox to help them navigate conversations about mental health with confidence and compassion all year round.

## International Relations

### **Swedish Minister for Social Services meeting with London's Violence Reduction Unit**

On 22 January, the Swedish Minister for Social Services Camilla Waltersson Grönvall, met with my Violence Reduction Unit. Alima Qureshi, Head of Communities and Young People and Darwin Bernardo, Senior Manager of Youth and Community Engagement met with the Minister to discuss youth crime prevention in London. This gathering served as a valuable opportunity to showcase the initiatives and strategies implemented in London to address and mitigate crime in the capital. Minister Waltersson Grönvall and the Swedish Minister for Gender Equality Paulina Brandberg also met with my Victims' Commissioner for London, Claire Waxman to share information and best practice around violence against women and girls and better protections for victims.

### **Executive Mayor of Cape Town**

On 23 January, I met with the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Geordin Hill-Lewis. London's South African diaspora makes an immense contribution to our capital. This meeting was a great opportunity to exchange shared experiences and challenges, and to strengthen social and economic relations between London and Cape Town.

### **U.S. Ambassador-At-Large for Global Women's Issues Dr. Reeta Rao Gupta meeting with MOPAC**

On 25 January, MOPAC met with the U.S. Ambassador-At-Large for Global Women's Issues Dr. Reeta Rao Gupta to discuss GLA gender equity work. Claire Waxman, the Victims Commissioner for London and Jain Lemom, Head of Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls, met with the Ambassador and highlighted the GLA's work with victims and survivors, partner agencies and community groups to develop ground breaking policies and interventions to transform the lives of women and girls across the capital.

### **New Pakistan High Commissioner**

On 31 January, I hosted the new Pakistan High Commissioner, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Faisal at City Hall, for an introductory meeting. I highlighted the enduring relationship between London and Pakistan and explored avenues to strengthen our cultural, business and diaspora connections.

## Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

### **Community Infrastructure Levy**

On 12 January, the Planning Inspector recommended approval of OPDC's Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule, subject to minor modifications. This follows the public consultation and hearings which took place during 2023. OPDC's Board will consider approval of the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule in February and if approved, the schedule will be implemented in April 2024. It will enable OPDC to start collecting more funding and investment to deliver public benefits and local enhancements for the local community. The Planning Inspector's report is published [here](#).

## **Acton and Park Royal Creative Enterprise Zone**

On 26 January, OPDC held an event in Park Royal to celebrate the many local businesses and creatives whose projects and businesses are benefitting from the £200,000 of Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) funding. OPDC allocated funding to ten projects that include affordable workspace, local film production, community events, workshops and public art installations.

Bollo Brook Youth Centre, one of OPDC's grant recipients, worked with young people to create a film that showcased at London's Horniman Museum that can be viewed [here](#). Standard Road Market, another grant recipient, secured more than 25 local independent vendors, and welcomed over 4,000 residents across seven markets to sample food and wares made in Park Royal.

## **Public Realm and Green Space Supplementary Planning Document**

On 1 February, OPDC began public consultation on its Public Realm and Green Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The draft SPD provides additional planning guidance that builds on the policies set out in OPDC's Local Plan.

It includes guidance about how new developments should create welcoming, sustainable, green, and inclusive public realm and open spaces, such as healthy streets, parks, public squares and urban greening. The consultation will run for six weeks, closing on Thursday 14 March.

## **Review of Statement of Community Involvement**

On 1 February, OPDC began public consultation on updates to its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how OPDC and applicants for planning permission will engage and consult with stakeholders and the community in a meaningful and inclusive way.

It was originally adopted in 2015, and this review identifies new requirements to further encourage up-to-date, transparent and inclusive consultation and engagement with local communities. The consultation will run for six weeks, closing on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

# **London Legacy Development Corporation**

## **Mayoral Development Area**

In January it was announced that London Legacy Development Corporation's (LLDC) Mayoral development area would reduce to the core area in which it owns, manages or operates land from, with changes to take effect from 1 December 2024. This followed a formal consultation on the proposal last year, and a formal Mayoral Decision being made in December 2023.

This is another important milestone in LLDC's evolution which will see LLDC's Town Planning powers return to the four Growth Boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest on 1 December 2024.

LLDC will maintain its status as a Mayoral Development Corporation and continue as a functional body of the Greater London Authority, but with reduced functions, a reconstituted Board and governance structure from 1 April 2025.

## Voices of East Bank

Coinciding with Heritage Treasures Day, the Voices of East Bank launched on 11 January. The project, led by Community History Project freelancer Lydia Powell and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, offers an online archive of stories about east London's communities, rich heritage and languages. The archive is comprised of more than 100 audio recordings made last year and captures east London's diverse history from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

## New Podium Operator

Peppermint was announced as the new operator of the Podium building on 25 January. The award-winning bars and events company won the 7-year contract which will see them deliver a fresh dining, drinks and events experience at the newly named Riverside East this spring.

## London Stadium

In another exciting addition to the venue's ever-growing event schedule, the Stadium announced its first international football friendly between Spain and Colombia on 26 January. The match will take place on 22 March.

## SHIFT

On 8 February, SHIFT – Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's inclusive innovation district - launched its second Future Industries Demonstrator challenge at Plexal, Here East. The event also showcased several SMEs that are already involved in the innovation programme.

## Planning and Regeneration

### Planning Decisions

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

### Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

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 themselves.

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2022/0241	Devonshire House	Bromley	15/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0225	30-36 Clarendon Road	Haringey	29/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0770	Lord Adonis House, Harefield Academy	Hillingdon	29/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2

2022/0152	Denby Court	Lambeth	22/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0269	Apollo Business Centre, 158 Trundley's Road SE8.	Lewisham	29/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0449	East Village Plot N16	London Legacy Development Corporation	15/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2021/1136	Wimbledon Park Golf Club	Merton	22/01/2024	Call in application	Stage 2
2023/0458	King's Place	Southwark	15/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0583	Devonshire Place	Southwark	29/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0380	Percy Ingle	Waltham Forest	22/01/2024	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2024/0011	Wimbledon Park Golf Club (Wandsworth)	Wandsworth	22/01/2024	Call in application	Stage 2

### Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0834	Southern Gas Belvedere Holders Stations	Bexley	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0787	Neasden Goods Yard	Brent	15/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0798	1-22 Brook Avenue	Brent	15/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0801	1-11 Elm Road	Brent	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0824	Acton Works, Bollo Lane W3 8QU	Ealing	12/01/2024	No Strategic Issues	Stage 1
2023/0825	27 and 1053 GREAT WEST ROAD	Hounslow	22/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

	BRENTFORD TW8 9BW				
2023/0756	Sainsbury's, Canal Way	Kensington and Chelsea	22/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0838	Bell Green Works	Lewisham	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0792	North Kensington Gate North	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0828	Land South of Billet Road (Site B)	Redbridge	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0793	London Dock Plots H & J	Tower Hamlets	15/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0812	Lea Bridge Gasworks Site	Waltham Forest	15/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0786	Fenwicks	Westminster	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0834	Southern Gas Belvedere Holders Stations	Bexley	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0787	Neasden Goods Yard	Brent	15/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0798	1-22 Brook Avenue	Brent	15/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0801	1-11 Elm Road	Brent	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0824	Acton Works, Bollo Lane W3 8QU	Ealing	12/01/2024	No Strategic Issues	Stage 1
2023/0825	27 and 1053 GREAT WEST ROAD BRENTFORD TW8 9BW	Hounslow	22/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0756	Sainsbury's, Canal Way	Kensington and Chelsea	22/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

2023/0838	Bell Green Works	Lewisham	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0792	North Kensington Gate North	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0828	Land South of Billet Road (Site B)	Redbridge	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0793	London Dock Plots H & J	Tower Hamlets	15/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0812	Lea Bridge Gasworks Site	Waltham Forest	15/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0786	Fenwicks	Westminster	29/01/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

## **Regeneration**

### **Gala Night Launch of the King's Head Theatre, Good Growth Fund, LB Islington**

The King's Head Theatre was opened by my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE on the 24 January at a Gala Night, with the unveiling of my Mayor of London Plaque and a speech. Supported with £800,000 from Round 3 of my Good Growth Fund, the funding has enabled the theatre to move from its existing, and unsecured premises at the back of the King's Head Pub into a permanent new home in Islington Square.

The Good Growth Fund has secured the long term future of an LGBTQ+ community space, enabling the theatre to evolve from operating as an at-risk organisation into a sustainable model with increased theatre capacity and new spaces, such as the café/bar/workshops spaces. Additionally, lift access into the theatre for the first time in the Kings Head's history will ensure this space is accessible and inclusive.

### **High Street Network Event**

On 25 January, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills gave the opening address at the High Street Network Event at City Hall. The event brought together over 140 delegates from London boroughs and the sector to hear how projects supported through my High Streets for All Challenge are helping high streets adapt to the challenges they face. The event also provided the opportunity to meet relevant teams from across the GLA group, and to discuss how the High Street Network could best meet the requirements of boroughs and partners to help their high streets become more inclusive, innovative and resilient.

### **Launch of Oru Sutton, Good Growth Fund, LB Sutton**

On 6 February, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills joined the Leader of Sutton Council to formally open Oru Sutton, a new work and events space with a well-being focus on the High Street. With £1.3m of funding from my Good Growth Fund, the project supports Sutton Council's plan to regenerate its town centre and diversify the local offer. Oru Sutton has

been redeveloped by the Council and Oru Space into a 500 desk workspace, with co-working and small office space for start-ups and growing businesses; a restaurant; a wellbeing studio; as well as a community roof-top garden (to be opened in spring).

### **National Association of British Markets Authorities conference**

On 25 January, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills attended the National Association of British Markets Authorities conference in Birmingham, which brought together over 100 representatives from National markets to discuss the theme, 'Markets at the Crossroads'. Jules Pipe was invited to give a speech on the challenges and triumphs of London's markets, the role of the London Markets Board, and the importance of building a national markets network.

### **Local Plans**

On 15 January GLA officers responded on my behalf to LB Tower Hamlet's Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. In that response I raised issues in relation to the borough's proposed affordable housing policies not being aligned with the London Plan.

## Key engagements

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

- I attended the Budget and Performance Committee on 9 January
- I visited Torridon Primary School providing free school meals on 9 January
- I attended the HMICFRS Policing Performance Oversight Group on 10 January
- I held my regular meeting the Met Police Commissioner on 10 January
- I held my regular meeting with the NHS & OHID on 11 January
- I attended the London Government Dinner on 11 January
- I visited Shri Kanaga Thurkkai Amman Temple on 15 January
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 15 January
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 18 January
- I visited Bond Street Station to announce a freeze to TfL fares on 19 January
- I attended the City Hall Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony on 22 January
- I met with the Shadow Chancellor on 22 January
- I met with the Mayor of Cape Town on 23 January
- I attended the Assembly Budget Plenary on 25 January
- I met with the Home Secretary on 25 January
- I attended Grenfell Testimony week on 26 January
- I launched the London and Partners 'Grow London Local' campaign on 30 January
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 30 January
- I chaired a meeting of the Business Advisory Board on 31 January
- I met with the Pakistani High Commissioner on 31 January
- I issued a public apology to the family of Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah on behalf of the GLA on 2 February
- I officially launched the City Hall VRU - London Inclusion Charter on 6 February
- I met with the Acting Director General of the IOPC on 6 February
- I chaired a meeting of the Transport for London Board on 7 February