

# 30th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

## Mayor's Question Time 15 March 2024

This is my thirtieth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 9 February – 1 March 2024

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

## Executive Summary

### #LetsDoFridays

On 1 March I confirmed that a trial in which Tube and rail fares on pay as you go with contactless and Oyster will be off-peak all day on Fridays will begin on Friday 8 March.

I'm introducing this trial to help TfL and rail operators to better understand if off-peak fares on a Friday could help drive ridership and boost London's wider economic recovery. The three-month trial will run until 31 May and will be keenly watched by major cities looking to bounce back after the pandemic. The trial follows the previous announcement that I have frozen TfL fares until March 2025, further helping to support Londoners struggling with the cost of living and London's recovery from the pandemic.

Making pay as you go journeys on Fridays off-peak all day will make it cheaper for people to travel - potentially supporting economic growth by encouraging more people back onto public transport and into the office on a day that is currently quieter than other weekdays.

The trial will also see 60+ London Oyster photocard and Older Persons' Freedom Passes allowed to be used on TfL and National Rail services before 9am, helping Londoners with these passes to travel for free all day on Fridays.

To further support the trial, TfL and London & Partners, London's business growth and destination agency, has created a new webpage - <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/off-peak-fridays> - where Londoners can see a range of offers available on Fridays during the trial. They have also been working with Business Improvement Districts across London, and key stakeholders, to identify a range of deals to further encourage people to make the most of their Fridays.

### Record City Hall investment in policing

On 14 February I announced my intention to boost funding for policing and community safety by a further £151m in 2024/2025.

This new investment means that I have now more than doubled the annual support for policing and crime prevention from City Hall since coming to office in 2016. By comparison, my predecessor cut the police budget in real terms by 28 per cent in the previous eight years. Analysis shows that compared to 2010-11, Government funding for the Met has only increased by 2 per cent in cash terms. In real terms, that's a funding cut of over £1 billion, or a 32.4 per cent real terms reduction using December 2023 inflation figures. Continuing inflation means that the real-terms reduction will be a third in 2024-25.

As a consequence, the proportion of the Met police budget provided by City Hall has now increased from 19 per cent in 2016 to 27 per cent in the proposed budget for 2024-25, showing the extent to which the Government has refused to properly fund the Met and the increased investment from City Hall.

I continue to press the Government to step up and provide the funding that our capital's police service desperately needs. I ask Assembly Members to join me in those urgent calls on behalf of the people we serve.

### **Safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse**

On 12 February I visited the Eastern European Resource Centre in Hammersmith and Fulham as I announced the latest £15m investment in my Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA) programme.

The programme is delivered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). It has supported more than 70 projects across London since its launch in December 2021, providing safe accommodation-based support to over 23,500 survivors of domestic abuse, including vulnerable men, women and children from across London.

This new investment is coupled with existing funding and will mean that these projects – as well as 14 new initiatives – are able to continue their vital work in supporting more survivors of domestic abuse.

I'm really proud to have worked with a wide range of partners to deliver this programme, an important part of the far-reaching work underway in London to tackle violence against women and girls once and for all.

Sadly, cases of domestic abuse continue to rise and we know the cost-of-living crisis is leaving many survivors with the dilemma of staying with perpetrators of abuse or facing financial uncertainty and hardship; and putting vital support services often operating on small budgets under real pressure.

This new funding will support organisations and community projects doing life-changing work by providing safe places for survivors of domestic abuse to live and the specialist support they need, as we continue to work together to build a safer London for everyone.

### **Ukraine vehicle donations**

On 22 February, I announced that I have asked TfL to amend my ULEZ scrappage scheme to enable vehicles to be donated to Ukraine and support humanitarian and medical needs there. Alongside the human toll of the conflict, there has been a significant impact on Ukraine's infrastructure, with access to healthcare in many areas severely affected. Donating non-compliant vehicles will help meet logistical and humanitarian needs while also helping to remove old, polluting vehicles from London's roads.

TfL is collaborating with registered charity British-Ukrainian Aid (BUA) to roll out the amendment to the scheme. BUA will facilitate the donation of suitable vehicles to Ukraine, provide the relevant documentation for people to receive their scrappage grant, transfer the vehicles to Ukraine and report on the number of vehicles donated in this way. BUA already works directly with organisations on the ground in Ukraine and has already delivered hundreds of vehicles during 2023

to where they are most needed. This is all subject to a formal Mayoral decision and TfL confirming updated rules and processes – but it is hoped the scheme could launch weeks from now.

## **London Overground renaming**

On 15 February, I announced that each of London’s six overground lines will for the first time ever be given a unique name and line colour. This significant change, which will include a major update to London’s world-famous Tube map, will make it easier for customers to navigate London’s transport network while also celebrating the city’s diverse culture and history.

Research by TfL has shown that some customers find the London Overground network confusing and would find it easier to navigate if it wasn’t one single colour and name.

Each route will be represented by a new line name and colour on the Tube map, on train line diagrams, at stations and on digital journey planning tools, such as TfL Go. The much-loved orange roundel will continue to be used across the London Overground network.

The new line names are:

- **The Lioness line: Euston to Watford Junction**  
Honours the historic achievements and lasting legacy created by the England women’s football team that continues to inspire and empower the next generation of women and girls in sport. It will be yellow parallel lines on the map
- **The Mildmay line: Stratford to Richmond/Clapham Junction**  
Honours the small charitable hospital in Shoreditch that has cared for Londoners over many years, notably its pivotal role in the HIV/AIDS crisis in the 1980s. It will be blue parallel lines on the map
- **The Windrush line: Highbury & Islington to Clapham Junction/New Cross/Crystal Palace/West Croydon**  
Honours the Windrush generation who continue to shape and enrich London’s cultural and social identity today. It will be red parallel lines on the map
- **The Weaver line: Liverpool Street to Cheshunt/Enfield Town/Chingford**  
Runs through areas of London known for their textile trade, shaped over the centuries by diverse migrant communities and individuals. It will be maroon parallel lines on the map
- **The Suffragette line: Gospel Oak to Barking Riverside**  
Celebrates how the working-class movement in the East End, fought for votes for woman and paved the way for women’s rights. It will be green parallel lines on the map
- **The Liberty line: Romford to Upminster**  
Celebrates the freedom that is a defining feature of London and references the historical independence of the people of Havering, through which it runs. It will be grey parallel lines on the map

Stakeholders, customers, historians, industry experts and communities have played a key role in suggesting the new names through independent engagement, which took place ahead of the decision for the final six names. This was key for me, as London’s diverse history and culture have always played a significant role in shaping the city and it was important for the line names, which will be used for years to come, to reflect this.

This is a hugely exciting moment, transforming how we think about London's transport network. Giving each of the Overground lines distinct colours and identities will make it simpler and easier for passengers to get around. In re-imagining London's Tube map, we are also honouring and celebrating different parts of London's unique local history and culture.

The new names and colours have been chosen through engagement with passengers, historians and local communities, reflecting the heritage and diversity of our amazing city.

### **Step-free access**

Work will resume to make Northolt Tube station, on the West Ruislip branch of the Central line, step-free after it was paused due to the pandemic. TfL also plans to start design work on making North Acton on the Central line and West Hampstead on the Jubilee line step-free, while also addressing capacity constraints.

This follows TfL confirming in summer 2023 that it would be reviewing ten Underground stations, spread across the capital, for potential step-free access.

The ten stations, which included Northolt, North Acton and West Hampstead, were identified using an approach focused on benefits, costs, funding opportunities and impact on customers. The approach was also influenced by feedback from accessibility campaigners and TfL's consultation on step-free access, which attracted 5,500 responses. This feedback highlighted the importance of TfL addressing the gaps in areas that have few step-free stations.

Construction work was about to start at Northolt Tube station to make it step-free when the pandemic hit. Work has now been completed to re-analyse the design, construction and costing and TfL is able to confirm that this scheme will go ahead, with a construction start date of early 2025 following awarding of contracts for the next phase, completion of remaining design activities and site mobilisation.

I am determined to make London's transport network as accessible as possible. I am committed to increasing the proportion of step-free Tube stations and I'm delighted that TfL has confirmed the next stations where work will get underway. This is just one of the ways we are working to build a better, fairer city for all Londoners.

### **Air filters to be rolled out to first 200 schools**

On 20 February, plans to further protect the health of young Londoners by installing innovative new air filters into some of the London's most polluted schools.

PM2.5 filters will be fitted in every classroom in 200 London schools, spread across London, later this year. This pilot project, if successful, could then be expanded to cover every school in London.

The additional £2.7m funding forms part of our 2024/25 budget. In addition to the air filters themselves, the funding will pay for school engagement, educational materials, monitoring the impact of the programme and maintenance of the filters.

Bold measures we've introduced have already helped cut the number of educational establishments with illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) pollution by 94 per cent – from 793 schools in 2016 to 50 in 2019 (the most recent year for which data is available).

Due to our ambitious air quality action, all educational establishments are estimated to be legally compliant with the NO2 annual mean UK limit by 2025. However, most schools in London still exceed the World Health Organization interim guideline for particulate matter pollution (PM2.5).

### **Adult skills programmes reach one million funded learners**

On 8 February, I announced that more than one million learners have participated in my adult skills programmes since 2019, an important milestone that reflects the success of skills devolution to London. I'm proud that participation has increased by a fifth over that period, compared to just eight per cent in for non-devolved areas administered by central government. Through adult education, City Hall is helping Londoners gain the skills they need for life and work and ensuring that London's businesses can address skills shortages and attract the talent they need to thrive.

### **Record mentoring investment**

On 23 February, I announced that our record £34 million mentoring programme has expanded to reach more than 70,000 young Londoners and is on track to reach its 100,000 target before the end of 2024. I joined by Lib Peck, Director of my Violence Reduction Unit and co-Chair of the New Deal for Young People, in a visit to Switchback in Tower Hamlets to see first-hand the impact of our groundbreaking investment.

As part of my commitment to provide positive opportunities for young Londoners and to be tough on the causes of crime, City Hall and the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit are funding 150 organisations to provide dedicated mentoring support to young Londoners most in need of support. This includes children and young people who are not in mainstream education, those who have been excluded from school or college, as well as young people impacted by exploitation, domestic violence, living in poverty, and those in the care system. It also involves working with young people who have gone through the criminal justice system and helping them to develop the personal skills and practical training they need to build a more positive future.

### **UEFA Champions League Final 2024 – 100 Days To Go**

On 22 February, I was pleased to officially start the 100 days to go countdown to the UEFA Champions League Final. Hosting major sporting events like this is not only a tremendous honour but also a testament to London's status as the sporting capital of the world. In my message recorded at City Hall, I announced that London would be putting on a free 'Champions Festival' across some of the city's most famous locations, which presents an opportunity for communities to come together and join in the celebrations. I am looking forward to seeing the plans develop for the Champions Festival, and making sure the GLA is working with all the relevant authorities to ensure that the public, and ticket holders for the final, have an enjoyable, safe and secure experience in London.

### **Lunar New Year - Sunday 11 February 2024**

I was honoured to join thousands to celebrate Lunar New Year on Trafalgar Square, organised by the London Chinatown Chinese Association (LCCA). This year, the event marked the year of the Wooden Dragon in one of the biggest Lunar New Year events to take place outside of Asia. The event in central London attracted over 150,000 Londoners, Chinese and Asian community members and visitors.

Celebrations took place across five different sites, with up to 8,000 people attending at Trafalgar Square. The day was packed with entertainment, displaying the very best of South-east Asian and

East-Asian culture, tradition and cuisine, right here on our doorstep. I was delighted to join the community for the opening ceremony and watch the powerful and inspiring lion dance, a joyous tradition to mark 2024 as a year of prosperity for all.

I'm very grateful to London's South-east and East Asian communities who created the incredible event, and their cultural and economic contribution to our capital. At a time of growing disparity across the country, Lunar New Year highlighted once again why London is one of the greatest cities in the world, with diversity at its core.

### **People's Question Time**

On Thursday 29 February Londoners were given the opportunity to put live questions to London Assembly Members and me at People's Question Time. The online event was chaired by Assembly Member for Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames and Richmond upon Thames, Nicholas Rogers AM.

Over 400 registered audience members joined remotely to participate in the event and were able to put their questions to the panel via live video and dedicated live chat forum on the night. A range of topics were discussed, including; transport, policing and safety, air quality and the environment, housing and wider topics of discussion. Non-registered viewers were able to watch the livestream of the broadcast on London.gov website, which attracted a further 100 views during the event.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **Significant improvements in Met call handling**

On 16 February I was pleased to join Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Sophie Linden on a visit to the Met's Command and Control Centre in Lambeth, to meet and thank staff and officers for their hard work which has helped the Met to beat national targets for call handling performance.

The centre handles over 6 million telephone calls and online contacts per year. Latest figures show that the Met answered 91 per cent of 999 calls within 10 seconds in January, with an average wait time of seven seconds. This is above the national target of 90 per cent and a dramatic improvement after falling to 57.3 per cent in June 2022.

Waiting times for callers to the 101 non-emergency number have also plummeted with the Met taking steps to quickly assess the needs of the caller and redirect the more than 25 per cent of calls that do not have a policing purpose. This has seen the wait time down from nearly eight minutes in June 2022 to one minute 50 seconds in January this year.

These significant improvements are the result of intensive work from the Commissioner and the hundreds of police staff and police officers who work to answer calls for assistance from the public. I am deeply grateful to them for their efforts and have been pleased to be able to support their work with a £2.5m investment from City Hall last year to improve the training and resilience of the Command and Control Centre.

### **Disgraced former officer's pension forfeited**

On 18 February I announced the outcome of the process undertaken to forfeit the employer contributions to the pension of disgraced former Met officer David Carrick.

Under case law and in line with Home Office Guidance, only the police contributions to an officer's pension can be forfeited, not the officer's contributions. Carrick blatantly abused his position of trust as a police officer to carry out his appalling crimes, and I have been very clear that steps should be taken to remove those employer contributions of his Met Police pension.

After completing the extensive forfeiture process, we have finalised the decision to forfeit the maximum amount permissible – 65% - from Carrick's pension.

## Transport

### **Bidders shortlisted in the process to find the next operator of the Elizabeth line**

On 16 February, TfL confirmed that four bidders have been shortlisted as part of the procurement process to operate the Elizabeth line from May 2025, when the current contract with MTR Elizabeth line expires.

The Elizabeth line is the most significant addition to London's transport network in a generation and it has been transforming life and travel in London and the South East, providing new journey options, reducing journey times, creating additional capacity and transforming accessibility.

The Elizabeth line opened in May 2022 and provides services to Reading, Heathrow, Shenfield and Abbey Wood, running through central London with up to 24 trains per hour at peak time. Since May 2022 there have been more than 300 million journeys on the railway.

The shortlisted bidders are:

- Arriva UK Trains
- First Keolis Elizabeth line (a joint venture between First Group PLC and Keolis SA)
- GTS Rail Operations Limited (A joint venture between Go Ahead Holdings Limited, Sumitomo Corporation and Tokyo Metro Co. Ltd)
- MTR Corporation (UK) Limited

The Elizabeth line has had a transformational impact, providing new, more direct journey options for customers, including at ten new central London stations.

The new Elizabeth line operator will play a major role in supporting us to continue that growth and success, providing high levels of customer service and satisfaction.

### **New TfL care leavers concession opens**

Care leavers aged between 18 and 25 and who live in London can now apply for half price bus and tram travel, after a new travel concession opened for applications today.

Announced by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan in October 2023, the new concession will support between 15,000 - 16,000 care leavers across London aged between 18 to 25 who are now eligible to apply for the travel concession, and will directly support those who have left care once they turn 18 by allowing them to be able to travel more affordably while they transition into independent living.

The new concession is part of the Pan London Care Leavers' Compact, a common core offer of support designed with care-experienced young people and agreed by the Mayor, TfL, London boroughs and London's health services.

Leaving care can be extremely challenging or daunting for young adults who can feel unprepared for the transition to independent living. Many care leavers lack the resources needed to continue training or gain meaningful employment once leaving care, which can, in turn, lead to both financial and emotional hardship.

That's why I'm pleased to announce that my new care leavers travel concession has opened for applications, meaning care leavers aged between 18 and 25 who live in London can apply for half-



price bus and tram travel. This will give these young people a helping hand to thrive in this next stage of their lives as we continue to build a better, fairer London for everyone.

### **TfL action on fare evaders and staff abuse**

On 9 February, TfL announced tough new action on fare evasion and staff abuse, making body worn video part of its essential kit and increasing the penalty fare from £80 to £100 to act as a further deterrent to fare evasion. TfL also published new data which shows that it prosecuted 19,614 people for fare evasion in 2023, an increase of 56 per cent on 2022.

TfL is committed to tackling fare evasion as revenue from fares is vital for investment in safe, clean and reliable public transport. Fare evasion is a criminal offence and estimated to cost TfL around £150m a year, and TfL strives to ensure that wherever possible fare evaders themselves, not fare or tax payers, pay the cost of fare evasion. Revenue disputes are also a precursor to approximately half of all reported work-related violence and aggression incidents towards frontline colleagues across the network. TfL does not tolerate any violence, aggression or threatening behaviour towards staff or customers and always seeks the strongest possible action against offenders.

I have approved an increase to the penalty fare on all TfL services from £80 to £100, reduced to £50 if paid within 21 days. This follows the Department for Transport's decision to increase the penalty fare to £100 across National Rail. This will ensure that there are clear and consistent rules and penalties across the different transport networks in London, and that the penalty fare remains an effective deterrent and that the costs of fare evasion are more effectively absorbed by those who deliberately fail to pay.

TfL relies on revenue from fares to be able to deliver the safe, clean and reliable public transport that Londoners deserve. Fare evasion deprives us of much needed revenue and so I welcome this tough new action from TfL to increase enforcement and ensure more fare evaders are brought to justice.

### **Young people set to shape the future of London's transport network**

Young Londoners will help shape the capital's transport network as TfL has become one of the first UK transport organisations to have representation of people under the age of 25 at senior meetings.

Since 21 February, a member of the TfL Youth Panel is actively representing the views of young Londoners at TfL's quarterly Safety, Sustainability and Human Resources Panel (SSHRP) and Customer Service and Operational Performance Panel (CSOPP) meetings.

The young representatives will work with all 30 TfL Youth Panel members to review papers in advance of the meetings and formulate questions and suggestions they wish to put to TfL leaders and panel members.

It's great to see that TfL will be ensuring young people's voices are represented at senior meetings from now on. With more than a third of the capital's population under the age of 25, it is vital that TfL seeks the views of young people to ensure the transport network is safe, accessible and inclusive for all Londoners.

## **Places for London and Construction Youth Trust educational engagement programme**

Places for London (Transport for London's wholly owned commercial property company) has announced that it has teamed up with Construction Youth Trust on its educational engagement programme.

The programme is a collaboration between Places for London and its partners, including Barratt London, The Earls Court Development Company, Grainger plc and Helical plc, and aims to inspire the next generation of young people into the built environment sector, which encompasses both the construction and real estate sectors. Working with its partners, Places for London will be starting on 20,000 homes over the next ten years, making it one of the largest developers in London.

Places for London is keen to use the scale of its programme to encourage new people into the industry. This is vital because research has shown that an additional 22,800 workers are expected to be required to meet construction demand in Greater London by 2027.

Through the partnership, Places for London and its partners will be directly supporting 250 young people to progress into an education, training or employment outcome related to the built environment.

## **TfL collaborates with Google Arts and Culture to launch online collection of historical and contemporary content about London's transport past**

On 26 February, TfL announced that it has joined more than 200 UK cultural institutions who have collaborated with Google Arts & Culture to share their collection and stories online.

TfL's collaboration with Google Arts and Culture, whose mission is to preserve the world's art and culture and to make it accessible to anyone, anywhere for free, will result in the online availability of more than 2,000 documents and images from its Corporate Archive collections.

The collection, covering the first London Underground line opening in 1863 to the modern day, includes more than 400 maps that have been digitised by Google Arts & Culture. Many of these documents are available online for the first time, which TfL hopes will provide interest to Londoners, academics and casual historians of all ages.

London's world-renowned transport network is one of our most treasured institutions and this collaboration with Google Arts and Culture is a fantastic way to see its incredible history in a new light. By digitally preserving its archive collections and making them accessible, we are opening up the fascinating history of London's transport system and its ongoing impact on our city to a much broader audience, as we help to build a better London for all.

## **First TfL busking auditions since the pandemic**

From 28 March, stations across the Transport for London (TfL) network came alive with the sounds of music as auditions for a new cohort of buskers were underway after applications opened in late 2023 for the first time after the pandemic.

Around 280 talented musicians were performing to a panel of judges at Bank, Blackfriars, Canary Wharf, Farringdon and Southwark stations over the next fortnight, shortlisted from more than 450 applicants. Musicians from all genres were encouraged to apply in the autumn to reflect the cultural diversity of London. Each prospective busker had a 10-minute slot to convince a panel,

which includes a professional musician and station staff. The audition assess each musician's repertoire, musical ability, and performance styles.

### **TfL changes to boost the bus network in the Croydon and Sutton area**

On 29 February, TfL confirmed improvements to the bus network in the Croydon and Sutton area, as work continues to grow outer London's bus network, making it bigger, simpler and more efficient, while improving access to places where people need to travel.

The bus network across London plays a vital role in enabling people to travel affordably and sustainably, with more than 95 per cent of Londoners now living within 400 metres of a bus stop. By focusing on the local bus network, TfL is continuing to support current and expected demand in the areas, providing connections Londoners need, while ensuring resources are fully invested where customer demand is highest.

The key changes set to be introduced from 2 March include:

- Bus route 312 will be extended, providing customers with new direct links between Norwood Junction and Purley
- Bus route 434 will be extended from Whyteleafe South to Caterham Station, providing new connections to the town centre and train station. Bus route 434 will follow a temporary routeing via Godstone Road pending road modifications to allow it to use its final new routeing along Higher Drive in Kenley
- A new route 439 will be introduced linking Waddon Marsh, Sainsburys to Whyteleafe South, to make it easier for people to travel between key destinations in the area including schools, stations, hospitals and town centres
- Another new bus route, the S2, will be introduced in Sutton connecting St Helier Station to Epsom, Clock Tower via Sutton Town Centre
- Bus routes 470, S3, S4 and 166 will be re-routed to complement other changes to the network and to enable buses to serve people more effectively, with route 455 being replaced by the new bus changes

These enhancements are part of my commitment to improve outer London's bus network and follow a comprehensive review of the local bus network. The changes complement other work that TfL is doing to improve and grow outer London's bus network, which includes the Superloop, a network of express routes in outer London connecting town centres, hospitals, schools and transport hubs.

### **TfL launches the Green Link Walk walking and wheeling route**

On 1 March, TfL, the City of London, Southwark, Islington, Hackney and Waltham Forest launched a new 15-mile walking and wheeling route, the Green Link Walk. The new route will link more communities with green spaces and help to build on increases in leisure walking seen since the pandemic and to fulfil a mayoral manifesto commitment. TfL and the Mayor aim to make London the most walkable city in the world, and the Green Link Walk was conceived in partnership with a range of different walking and wheeling groups, including Ramblers, London Living Streets, Sustrans and CPRE.

Green Link Walk is the eighth route in the Walk London Network and runs from Epping Forest to Peckham town. It links almost 40 areas of green space, including Walthamstow Marshes, London Fields and Burgess Park, and five other Walk London routes. The new route has been created to increase leisure walking in London, improve Londoners' health and wellbeing, and enhance community access to green space and nature.

The route has been designed with accessibility in mind and TfL has removed barriers such as bollards to ensure that everyone can access the route. The route also avoids streets without dropped kerbs and bridges with steep ramps and steps. Green Link Walk signs will guide people along streets and paths to green spaces and waterways.

## Environment

### **GRSF Westfield Avenue project**

On 12 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, joined representatives from Newham Council, LLDC and TfL to celebrate the start of construction works for Westfield Avenue Public Realm Improvement scheme. My Green and Resilient Spaces Fund is supporting the planting of trees and rain gardens to make the area cleaner, safer, and more climate resilient.

### **London Fuel Poverty Workshop**

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, addressed a London Fuel Poverty workshop. This is part of my work to tackle fuel poverty via my Fuel Poverty Action Plan and the Fuel Poverty Partnership. A range of organisations and local authorities gathered at City Hall to share the harsh realities of fuel poverty for thousands of Londoners, and to discuss ideas for enhanced coordination.

### **Meeting with Simon Harding-Roots, The Crown Estate**

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Simon Harding-Roots, Managing Director for the Crown Estate's London portfolio. They discussed the Crown Estate's plans for nature recovery, adaptation and decarbonisation, and their central London urban greening and tree planting work.

### **London Climate Resilience Review**

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with the Chair of the London Climate Resilience Review, Emma Howard Boyd, to discuss the progress of the Review's full report. I commissioned the independent Review to take stock, identify the gaps in London's climate resilience and adaptation, and make recommendations to guide London's preparations for more extreme weather. The interim report was published in January 2024, and the Review's full report will be published later this year.

### **Climate Reality expert panel**

On 14 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues joined representatives from the Climate APPG, Green Alliance, the Tony Blair Institute, and Camden Council at the University College London to discuss the role of cities in making change. The session focused on the role of policymakers in driving the Green Transition, London's achievements in

tackling the climate emergency and inspiring the next generation of climate pioneers. Further details can be found at: [Love Your Planet | Sustainable UCL - UCL – University College London](#)

### **Meeting with Addison Lee**

On 14 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, met with Liam Griffin, CEO of Addison Lee. They discussed Addison Lee's continued efforts to switch their fleet to zero emission vehicles, and Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) considerations relating to the different charging schemes operated by Transport for London.

### **Meeting with Elizabeth Rapoport, new chair of the London Surface Water Strategic Group**

On 19 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Elizabeth Rapoport, the new chair of the London Surface Water Strategic Group of which Shirley is a member. This was an introductory meeting where they discussed the establishment and work of the group to date and priorities and objectives of the group going forward.

### **Meeting with WRWA Board members and ReLondon**

On 20 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Western Riverside Waste Authority, Cllr Rezina Chowdhury, Cllr Wesley Harcourt, and ReLondon CEO Wayne Hubbard, to discuss the role of the authority in supporting the delivery of the Mayor's waste targets and impact of national reforms.

### **Meeting with A More Natural Capital Coalition**

On 21 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with a range of environmental NGOs to hear of their recently published [A More Nature Capital election manifesto](#) developed by a coalition of 19 environmental charities.

### **London Surface Water Strategic Group**

On 22 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues joined the quarterly London Surface Water Strategic Group. The group consists of key authorities with a responsibility for managing surface water flooding in London. A key area of their focus was to discuss progress on the first London wide surface water flooding strategy, which will both improve how this risk is managed in London, and help the city adapt to the increasing risk posed by climate change. This meeting focused on agreeing key principles for the strategy outputs and agreeing the business plan actions that the group aim to take forward.

### **City of London Corporation Clean City Award Ceremony**

On 22 February, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy Shirley Rodrigues provided pre-recorded opening remarks at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Clean City Awards ceremony held at the Guildhall. The event celebrated the positive work of companies in the Square Mile to drive more sustainable business in areas such as air quality and climate action, communications around sustainability, resource efficiency, plastics reduction and embracing circular economy practices. In addition to congratulating award nominees, the remarks touched on progress made in key areas of the London Environment Strategy in the wider context of the climate crisis, incoming national collection and packaging reforms, and the need for businesses to go further in their ambitions around net zero going forwards.

## **Towards London's net zero carbon future event**

On 27 February my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues delivered a keynote speech at this event, which was held to bring together public sector organisations, housing associations and educational establishments playing a role in the decarbonisation of London's buildings over the coming years.

The event was an opportunity for a collaborative approach to decarbonisation, and gave attendees an opportunity to share best practice and lessons learned. It also informed attendees on updates to the Mayor's Low Carbon Accelerator programmes, outlined future Mayoral support and upcoming developments towards net zero carbon buildings.

## **Fire and Resilience**

### **Food Resilience for National Preparedness Commission**

On 9 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with the National Preparedness Commission to discuss London's food resilience.

### **Soho Fire Station**

On 11 February I visited Soho Fire Station to celebrate Lunar New Year and met with LFB and MPS staff as well as the local community.

### **London Chamber of Commerce**

On 20 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with the London Chamber of Commerce to discuss the work of the London Resilience Forum.

### **Data Sharing for Resilience**

On 20 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with IOTICS and PA Consulting to discuss data sharing for resilience in London.

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

On 22 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a regular meeting of her Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board.

### **His Majesty's Inspector Lee Freeman**

On 28 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with HM Inspector Lee Freeman to discuss His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) inspection of London Fire Brigade, in February 2024.

## Growth and Skills

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund: multi-million pound commitment to People and Skills investment priority**

£38 million has been awarded to organisations in London as part of our UKSPF London Investment Plan. Using part of this funding, I have signed four grant agreements totalling £25 million with the four London sub-regional partnerships (SRPs) who are offering a range of tailored employment support to economically inactive and unemployed Londoners, with complex needs and multiple barriers to employment. Collectively, the SRPs will support around 7,000 adult Londoners, until March 2025.

In September 2023 I invited organisations to bid for £11.75 million of the total funding under the UKSPF Support for Young Londoners programme, which will support around 5,000 young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and provide quality work experience for students at risk of NEET. GLA officers received 141 applications for funding across three programme strands and have selected 23 projects for funding. Providers will begin delivery by 1 April 2024 and delivery will run through to March 2025, when UKSPF ends.

In addition, I have ring-fenced £1.4 million of the UKSPF funding to co-fund the London Careers Hubs in 2024-25 as required by the GLA's grant agreement with the Careers Enterprise Company (CEC). Currently, the Careers Hubs are delivered by Local London Partnership, the South London Partnership, Education Development Trust and Reed in Partnership and will be extended for a year.

### **Skills for Londoners Board**

My Skills for Londoners Board met on Tuesday 13 February 2024 with Westminster Adult Education Services hosting the meeting.

The Board provided feedback on the approach to Round Three of the Skills for Londoners Capital Fund ahead of the grant awards being finalised. Members were invited to discuss the strategic fit and deliverability of the programme and endorse the proposed allocations.

Under the standing Adult Education Budget (AEB) update on programme delivery, there were presentations on the latest AEB data publication and proposed 2024-25 Adult Skills Fund allocations.

The Board next received an overview on the GLA and London Councils co-development of a shared position on skills & employment policy devolution in London.

Finally, members fed back on proposal to introduce a youth board to ensure young people had representation in the development of my skills and employment programmes and policies.

### **London Multiply Roadshow**

I launched my London Multiply Roadshow, which is being delivered in partnership with community organisations and adult learning providers. The Roadshow is delivering a series of fun, numeracy family-friendly events and activities in local areas across the city. These events will help Londoners build their confidence with numbers and connect them with local learning opportunities, including through my London Multiply Programme.

Roadshow events are free to all and are being run by community organisations and providers. They will run until March 2024 and then again in the summer. All roadshow events will look slightly

different and events may vary in size, but all will bring lots of fun through activities, games, talks, workshops, crafts, advice and refreshments. The flagship event will take place on 2 March, at Tobacco Dock which my Deputy Mayor, for Planning, Regeneration and Skills will be attending.

An awareness raising campaign is running alongside event activity to help drive footfall to events and further highlight the London Multiply programme, this is being supported by videos showcasing the impact of numeracy learning.

## **Housing**

### **London properties linked to Putin**

On 23 February, I sent a letter to Housing Secretary, Michael Gove, reiterating proposals to fight back against the capital's housing market being used as a playground for international oligarchs, whilst also raising funds to help tackle the country's housing crisis, which is most acute here in London. I urged the Government to seize property assets held by allies of Putin, as well as setting up an effective register of overseas property beneficial ownership.

New City Hall analysis revealed that if the £1.1bn of property identified by Transparency International in 2022 as being bought by Russians accused of corruption or links to the Kremlin could be realised, this would provide sufficient funding for over 4,000 low-cost homes.

### **Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme funding**

On 28 February, I announced that I have secured £38 million from the Government's Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) to tackle rough sleeping in the capital.

City Hall will allocate this funding to London councils and housing associations to deliver new and improved affordable homes for people sleeping rough in the capital, in addition to boosting specialist mental health and substance misuse services.

### **Innovative new scheme to deliver safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse across London**

On 28 February, I launched a new pan-London Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Homes Programme (DASAHP) to help more people in the capital escape domestic abuse. In a country-leading move, my team will be taking the innovative step of combining our Affordable Homes Programme funding and revenue funding, totalling nearly £10m, to deliver new and improved affordable accommodation, alongside specialist support for survivors of domestic abuse.

Thousands of Londoners experience domestic abuse every year, and this programme will provide additional accommodation options for those who have nowhere else to stay and who need specialist support to rebuild their lives following abuse.

### **New Funding for the Charity Safer Renting to expand services supporting London's private renters facing harassment and illegal eviction**

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, I announced new funding for the charity Safer Renting to expand their vital services supporting London's private renters facing harassment and illegal eviction. This work has never been more urgent, as the cost of living continues to impact on so many Londoners, and the protections promised to renters by the Government - including an end to Section 21 'no fault' evictions - remain stuck in the long grass. I am dismayed by the prolonged delays to reform, as



well as the latest reports that the government will water down the Renters (Reform) Bill, and I urge the Government to pass the legislation as it was intended before the end of this Parliament. To support renters in the meantime I have also provided financial support for my landmark Better Renting programme, which will train borough housing officers to tackle common problems in the private rental sector including mould and damp, harassment by landlords and threats of illegal eviction. Nearly 400 housing and environmental health officers have been trained under the Better Renting programme since it launched in November 2019.

### **New domestic abuse housing programme launched**

On 28 February, I launched a new programme, the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Homes Programme (DASAHP), to help more people in the capital escape from domestic abuse.

The pan-London programme combines capital and revenue funding for domestic abuse survivors and their children for the first time in London. £8.5m of funding from my Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026 and £1.1m of revenue funding from my Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA) programme has been combined to deliver new and improved safe and affordable accommodation for survivors, as well as better access to specialist support.

Thousands of Londoners, sadly, continue to experience domestic abuse every year. I am committed to improving the range of support available to survivors of domestic abuse in London and to minimising the barriers they often face when seeking refuge from abusive situations.

The programme, therefore, will build on my work to increase the provision of accommodation for survivors, as well as helping to increase specialist support for underserved Londoners in particular.

DASAHP is just one of the ways I'm delivering on my commitments in my Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy. It also delivers on my London Housing Strategy, helping to support the delivery of further specialist and supported housing and putting the sector on more secure footing.

This new and unique programme provides an opportunity to go even further in my work supporting survivors, so that Londoners experiencing domestic abuse can access a home that's safe, secure and affordable, as they begin to rebuild their lives.

## **The Economy, Business and Enterprise**

### **No Wrong Door Open Innovation Challenge**

On 27 February, I announced the No Wrong Door Challenge to help Londoners into good work. This £450,000 competition, part of my Challenge LDN programme, will support up to 15 ideas to help disabled Londoners, women, refugees, young and older Londoners access skills and employment support. Innovators and creators who come up with the most impactful solutions will be awarded up to £50,000 to get their plans up and running. Applications open on 7 March 2024.

### **British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (BVCA) Roundtable**

On 27 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, and I participated in a roundtable with senior members of the UK venture capital community hosted by Michael Moore, Chief Executive of BVCA at MMC Ventures. We discussed London's investment and economic landscape, and how the city can continue to be an attractive place to grow a business. We heard from the venture capital community and their portfolio businesses on their insights on investing in London, and the opportunities and challenges they faced.

### **Meeting with London Stansted Airport**

On 9 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, met with Gareth Powell, Managing Director of London Stansted Airport, to discuss the airport's priorities, including contactless travel, its role in London tourism and in supporting trade and investment in the health and life science sectors, and its plans for decarbonisation.

### **Meeting with Confederation of British Industry (CBI)**

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, met with Peter Hogg, London Council Chair and Anneka Hendrick, Regional Director for London at CBI and discussed opportunities for economic growth and collaboration.

### **Meeting regarding the APPG report on London as a Global City**

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber and Night Czar Amy Lamé met with James Watkins, Head of Policy and Public Impact, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to discuss the recent APPG report on 'London as a Global City', regarding the arts and exhibitions sector in London.

### **Meeting with Walpole**

On 15 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, met with Helen Brocklebank, Chief Executive of Walpole, the official sector body for British luxury to discuss the role of luxury businesses in London and their activities for the reinstatement of tax-free shopping.

### **Meeting with Uber Boats**

On 15 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, met with Geoff Symonds, COO of Uber Boats by Thames Clippers, to discuss Uber Boats activities in London and Thames Clippers plans to roll out hybrid boats and electric ferries.

### **Level 39 at Canary Wharf Group**

On 15 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, met with Amy French, Director of Level 39. Level 39 are working with some of the city's most innovative AI, cyber, MedTech and life science businesses.

### **Meeting with Chair of the London Sustainable Development Commission**

On 20 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, met with Dr Ashok Sinha, Chair of the London Sustainable Development Commission to discuss the work and the priorities of the LSDC.

### **BusinessLDN and WeWork UK 'Future London' session for disruptor businesses**

On 21 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, attended 'Future London' roundtable with disruptor businesses organised by BusinessLDN and hosted by WeWork UK and discussed opportunities and challenges they face and how London can continue to be the place to invest.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Amplify Venture**

On 21 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, spoke at the FutureProof Accelerator Demo event of the Amplify Ventures Programme, a UKSPF project managed by Foundervine, Capital Enterprise, Start up Discovery School and OneTech.

### **London & Partners Board meeting**

On 22 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, chaired his first meeting of the L&P Board; which discussed and agreed their business plan for 2024-25.

### **Dinner with Primera Business Improvement Districts**

On 22 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, attended a dinner with over 30 Chairs and Chief Executives of the Primera central London Business Improvement Districts, to discuss my priorities for London's business community and how this part of the business community can help me deliver Good Growth.

### **UK Mayors Meeting with Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE**

On 26 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, attended the UK Mayors meeting with Lord Johnson, Minister for Investment and Minister for Regulatory Reform, to discuss trade, investment and transport infrastructure.

### **London Higher Report launch**

On 26 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, attended and spoke at the London Higher report launch, to celebrate the contribution that London's universities and businesses make to London and the rest of the country.

### **Visit to Earls Court Development Site**

On 27 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, met with Rob Heasman, Chief Executive of Earls Court Development Company, to view the progress at the site and hear about their plans, including their ambitions for Earls Court to become the home for London's Clean and Climate tech industry.

### **Visit to Croydon**

On 28 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, visited Croydon and met with Jason Perry, Mayor of Croydon, and Executive member for London's Future: Business, Economy and Culture of London Councils, to discuss the borough's business activities and investments, and met with small businesses at the London South Bank University Croydon Campus launch of the Research & Development Centre, the REACT Institute.

### **Visit to Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) area**

On 29 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, visited the Old Oak and Park Royal area, accompanied by David Lunts, Chief Executive Officer of OPDC. The visit focused on providing an overview of the area's latest regeneration and development plans, including the economic opportunities brought about by the future HS2 site at Old Oak Common. Howard met with business owners and entrepreneurs in innovative and creative industries at Park Royal, the UK's largest industrial estate and home to one of my Creative Enterprise Zones.

## Communities and Social Policy

### Hong Kong Empowerment Fund

On 27 February, I launched the Hong Kong Empowerment Fund, which is established to support Hong Kong Civil Society in London to deliver integration support to the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) community in London. This Fund targets equity-led non-established or newly established groups and organisations run by and/or for Hongkongers. We welcome applications that deliver integration support and activities for BN(O)s, with a focus on embedding BN(O)s into the local community and building sustainable support networks. It also aims to empower Hong Kong Civil Society by encouraging newly established and/or smaller grassroots groups and organisations to work in collaboration, either with each other or with more established organisations, to provide support to BN(O)s in London and create a legacy for their work.

There are two types of grants available:

- Growth grants: up to £15,000 – open to non-established and newly established groups or organisations run by and/or for Hongkongers and their partners.
- Collaboration grants: up to £50,000 – open to two or more non-established, newly established and/or smaller grassroots groups and organisations working in collaboration and partnership. A lead partner must be identified in the application, and this must be a legally constituted group.

## Children and Young Londoners

### Dersingham Primary School Visit, Universal Free School Meals

On 9 February, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, visited Dersingham Primary School in Newham, following my announcement in January that I would be providing £140m to continue to provide universal free school meals for state primary school children in London until July 2025.

The programme is currently helping to deliver meals to up to 287,000 children each day and is funding more than 1.4 million meals per week. The policy will save families up to £1,000 over two years per child. In 24/25 boroughs will be offered £3 per meal. This is 18.5% higher than the amount they receive from Government at £2.53 per meal.

The Deputy Mayor spoke to staff, pupils and families about the detrimental impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on them and how the extension of universal free school meals is making a difference.

### Free Holiday Meals visit during the February half-term

On 13 February, Joanne McCartney, Deputy Mayor for Children and Families and Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, visited Manorfield Primary School in Tower Hamlets to see the work being done to support families during half-term as part of my free holiday meals programmes.

The school hosted a 'Community Distribution' event for nearly 200 families. These events are funded through the free holiday meals programme, which is delivered in partnership by The Felix Project and Mayor's Fund for London.

At the event, Debbie and Joanne met staff from the school, The Felix Project and the Mayor's Fund for London and helped volunteers distribute food supplies and recipe boxes.

### **Mayors Advisory Group on Child Healthy Weight (MAGCHW)**

On 14 February I joined the Mayor's Health Advisor, Dr Tom Coffey, and my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney at the third meeting of my child healthy weight advisory group. The meeting provided an opportunity to share reflections on emerging themes, concerns or opportunities to support child health and provide updates on wider GLA work including UFSM roll out and support to families during the cost of living crisis.

My ambition has always been to address health inequalities by tackling unfair differences in health to make London a healthier, fairer city. I strongly believe that no Londoners health should suffer nobody's health suffers because of who they are or where they live.

### **Deputy Mayor for Children and Families visited New Deal for Young People project, Big House Theatre Company**

My Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, visited The Big House Theatre which provides support for care experienced young people through my £34m New Deal for Young People. The Big House Theatre project combines 1:1 and group mentoring with theatre and access to creative industry experts which supports young people to secure education, employment and training opportunities. Over 160 young people have had access to mentoring through the project so far with hundreds more to be reached over the next year. Joanne met with young people and staff who are part of the programme, took part in a drama workshop and heard about the life-changing impact that mentoring has on their lives.

### **Haringey Council's Young People at Risk Conference at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club**

On 27 February, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, attended an event to celebrate four years of Haringey Council's Young People at Risk Strategy. At the event, she heard about the relaunch of the new action plan, took part in discussions and learnt about the initiatives and organisations that support children, young people and their families across Haringey.

### **TfL Project Guardian Violence Against Women and Girls event at St Anne's Catholic High School in Enfield**

Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, attended a 'Project Guardian' school session at a school in Enfield on 29 February. The sessions are delivered to Year 9 pupils across London to promote awareness and recognition of sexual harassment on public transport; reinforce the meaning of consent; empower students to respond appropriately and safely; encourage the reporting of incidents; and increase confidence that reports will be acted on.

### **Good Food Local: The London Report Launch Event at City Hall**

On 29 February, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, spoke at the launch of the 'Good Food Local: The London Report', presenting awards to councils and celebrating their progress on providing good food across the capital. I am proud of the work and support London boroughs offer to local communities, particularly during the cost-of-living crisis. The report, published by Sustain (the alliance for better food and farming), includes a foreword signed by my Health Advisers, Dr Tom Coffey OBE and Professor Kevin Fenton. This report is an

important benchmarking tool which tracks council progress on food, celebrates success and highlights the important work to support the health and nutrition of families.

## **Culture**

### **Fourth Plinth**

On 19 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the Press Preview for the Fourth Plinth Shortlist exhibition at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square. Seven artist proposals for the fourth plinth were unveiled, and a public vote on the shortlist opened on the London.gov website for the public to have their say. The exhibition closes on 17 March.

### **Rewire – Thriving through Culture**

On 26 February, 80 policy makers and practitioners from culture and health sectors convened to discuss the transformative power of arts and creative practice for young people’s mental health. Topics discussed included early intervention, the dynamics of lived experience, demand for mental health services for children and young people in South London and scaling up creative health provision across London. This two-day event at Stanley Arts Centre was delivered by Boundless Theatre and part of London Borough of Culture Croydon. Funded by The Baring Foundation it involved young Londoners as co-designers and co-producers. Thriving through Culture is a partnership with Thrive LDN and engaged over 600 young Londoners, including launching A Manifesto for 2.8 Million Minds at the Houses of Parliament, May 2022.

### **Fashion Residency at Studio Smithfield launch**

On 29 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, launched our new Fashion Residency at Studio Smithfield. This is being delivered with workspace provider Projekt, Paul Smith’s Foundation and British GQ, enabled through support from the City of London Corporation. Over the next three years, the residency will provide a cohort of six fashion designers with a free 400-500sqft studio space each year, as well as mentoring from industry leaders and business planning training to support them in growing their business.

### **24 Hour London**

#### **Light Up Kilburn Festival**

On 12 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, attended a special tour of Camden Council’s free Light Up Kilburn Festival, featuring a trail of illuminated artworks along Kilburn High Road and the surrounding area. Involving the community and local businesses, the festival aims to illuminate darker evenings along with celebrating the rich diversity of Kilburn.

Amy met with one of the curators of the festival who gave further insight into how they have worked with the local community and schools to bring this project to life, and also met a local artist to see her workshop and the wonderful things she has been creating for the closing parade.

#### **London Overground Visit**

On 13 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, visited stations on London Overground to mark the anniversary of the extension of the night service from Dalston Junction to Highbury and Islington.

Amy met with staff who work on the night service to find out about their experiences of working on the transport network at night. With 1.3 million people regularly working at night in the capital, it's hugely important that we tackle some of the inequalities they face compared to those that work in the day. This is something I'm committed to through my Good Work Standard and through my commitment to the London Living Wage.

### **Belfast Summit**

On 15 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, visited Belfast to speak at the first ever Belfast Summit.

The event continues the work by the city's leadership to look at how Belfast can become one of the best small cities in Europe. Amy shared examples of the work we're doing in London to create a safe, inclusive and sustainable 24 hour city, including our Night Time Enterprise Zones.

Belfast is taking inspiration from our work in London as it moves to create opportunities for businesses, residents and visitors at night. This comes alongside the work being done by Hospitality Ulster to roll out London's model for the Women's Night Safety Charter across Northern Ireland.

### **Night Time Enterprise Zones**

On 27 February, I published a new report detailing the findings from my Night Time Enterprise Zone programme.

Since announcing Bromley, Vauxhall and Woolwich as my new Night Time Enterprise Zones in November 2022, each borough has hosted a wide variety of events to attract people to their high streets after 6pm, helped businesses to extend opening hours and supported better conditions for night workers.

56 events took place across the programme, attracting 60,000 visitors into town centres after 6pm. Footfall between 6pm and 9pm during the events was up by more than 6,000 people on average compared to the same day in 2022, across the three boroughs. Bromley enjoyed more than 100 per cent increase between 6-9pm and 198 per cent increase between 9pm and midnight.

### **Night Time Policy Forum**

On 27 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, chaired the Night Time Policy Forum – a biannual meeting for council officers, Business Improvement Districts and other night time stakeholders.

The event featured presentations on the latest night time policy initiatives from across London, including work being done as part of my Night Time Enterprise Zone programme and Business Friendly Licensing Fund.

### **London Heritage Quarter After Dark**

On Tuesday 27 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, spoke at an event for night time businesses, organised by London Heritage Quarter Business Improvement Districts.

The event brought together operations teams from hospitality, hotels and entertainment venues in the area to hear the results and recommendations of a recent night time safety report, which will feed into a wider evening and night time strategy for the area.

## **Women's Night Safety Summit**

On 29 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, hosted the latest Women's Night Safety Summit, bringing together signatories of my Women's Night Safety Charter to share ideas and best practice of how to tackle violence against women and girls.

Following my announcement last year that all of London's Premier League football clubs had signed up to my Charter, there was a special panel that highlighted some of the work being done by individual clubs and collectively. Claire Waxman, Victims' Commissioner for London, also spoke at the event.

## **AVA Festival**

On 1 March, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, joined a panel discussion at the AVA Festival called 'The Future of International Nightlife'. Amy was joined on the panel by international colleagues from the Berlin Club Commission and Primavera Sound festival, as well as fabric nightclub.

## **Civil Society and Sport**

### **Youth social action Super Summit**

On 23 February, City Hall welcomed young people from across London for a youth Super Summit, part of my *My London*, the positive mental health focused youth social action programme in Lewisham and Greenwich. Over 100 young people took part in activities focusing on important social issues such as trans rights and climate justice, including a panel discussion, live podcast and creative workshops. To date, *My London* partners have supported over 360 young people to take part in positive community action.

### **HeadStart Action Celebration Event**

On 26 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business welcomed young people from across London to celebrate youth-led community action, as part of HeadStart Action, my employability focused youth social action programme. Over 100 young people were celebrated and awarded certificates for the positive impact made on their local communities, supporting social issues such as climate justice, food poverty and safe spaces. The event included performances and presentations from young people. Since 2022 HeadStart Action has supported over 720 young people to take part in positive community action and employability pathways, providing them with personal growth, skills development, and education and employment opportunities.

### **Simply Volunteer London**

On 27 February I was pleased to announce the launch of Simply Volunteer London ([Home | Simply Connect Volunteering London \(simplyvolunteerlondon.uk\)](https://www.simplyvolunteerlondon.uk)) - a new website connecting volunteers and volunteering opportunities across London.

This new website will replace my Team London Volunteering website, building on its success, supporting and promoting the great work of London's volunteering sector. The Simply Volunteer London website will reach further across our capital connecting more volunteers with communities to build a stronger London.



## **Go! London Young Entrepreneurs grants**

My Go! London fund, developed in partnership with London Marathon Foundation and Sport England, with support from London Sport and London Marathon Events, celebrates one year of success on 28 February 2024. At £19.5m, it is the biggest community youth sport fund in the capital. Go! London has invested over £4.4m into London's community sport sector over the past year. More than £2.2m has recently been awarded in principle to 71 organisations through two of Go! London's funding pillars – the Foundation pillar and the Running, Walking and Cycling grant pillar. Foundation grants support resilience and sustainability of community sport and physical activity groups. 10 Running, Walking and Cycling grants have been awarded to increase the accessibility, diversity and range of running, walking and cycling provision on offer in the capital, supporting young Londoners to access walking, running or cycling as a first entry point into physical activity.

A total of over 60,000 under-served young Londoners aged 4-24 are expected to be supported into physical activity through a wide range of available activities including swimming, basketball and mentoring, Afro-beat dance-based sessions and more.

As part of the Go! London Young Entrepreneurs programme, 10 entrepreneurial ideas developed by young Londoners aged 16-24 have been selected by a panel of industry judges and will receive a year of development support. Young entrepreneurs will receive up to £15,000 each, alongside a year of mentoring and business development support to grow ventures aiming to support low-income families, diverse communities, and disabled Londoners to access sport and physical activity across the capital.

Up to £250,000 will be awarded across up to 5 educational settings as part of the Go! London Access pillar pilot - this funding will develop improved community access to schools facilities outside of school hours.

## **Health**

### **Air quality alerts to health professionals**

On 28 February, I was joined by partners in UKHSA, OHID, the NHS in London, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine to launch the UK's first targeted air quality alerts for health professionals in London. This delivers on the commitment partners and I made at the 2022 Air Quality and Health Summit, to tackle the triple dangers of toxic air pollution, the climate crisis and congestion. The summit followed the inquest into the death of 9-year-old Londoner Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah - who was the first person to have air pollution listed as a cause of death.

Developed in partnership with the [London Air Quality and Health Programme Office](#) the alert system will deliver an air quality alert directly to General Practices and Emergency Departments the day before an episode of high or very high air pollution is forecast. It builds upon my existing air quality alert system which currently delivers alerts to schools and other London stakeholders.

The World Health Organization has declared air pollution as the single biggest environmental threat to human health. That's why I have called on London health and care professionals to work with us to help prioritise action on air pollution. The new alert will not only help to raise awareness of air pollution and the associated health effects among health professionals, it will also help equip them with the information they need to advise and support their patients and carers - helping reduce the burden of preventable harm.

# Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

## Outline Business Case

OPDC's Outline Business Case (OBC) for Old Oak has been approved by DfT's Tier 2 Board. This approval establishes OPDC as lead delivery body for all public sector land and associated comprehensive development in Old Oak around the new Old Oak Common HS2 interchange, delivering 9,000 new homes (50% affordable), 2.5m sq. ft. of commercial space, parks, shops and amenities.

This is a very significant milestone for the project, and a clear vote of confidence for OPDC that cements the agreement with DfT and DLUHC for comprehensive regeneration at Old Oak West and confirms OPDC as the public sector delivery agent.

## Old Oak West Supplementary Planning Document

On 28 February, OPDC's board approved the Old Oak West Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It provides detailed planning guidance to shape future regeneration at Old Oak and was informed by extensive co-design and consultation with the local community. The adopted SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

## Small Grants Programme

On 18 February, applications closed for the next round of Small Grants. OPDC received an overwhelming response, with 80 applications from a diverse range of local groups and charities to deliver community-led projects in the area.

The Small Grants programme will provide funding of up to £7,000 per project, with a particular focus this year on celebrating unsung heroes; supporting people through the cost-of-living crisis; engaging with young people; and improving health and wellbeing.

OPDC is now evaluating all applications and will announce the successful awardees in March.

# London Legacy Development Corporation

## Copper Box Arena

The Copper Box Arena will continue to be operated by GLL after LLDC awarded a new contract which will run for 10 years from 1 March 2024. The Copper Box has built a reputation as the UK's home of esports as well as being the base for the London Lions basketball teams and London Pulse netball team. You can read more about the new contract [here](#).

## Westfield Avenue

On 13 February, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, joined LLDC Chief Executive, Lyn Garner, the Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, and Deputy Mayor of Newham, Councillor James Asser, to celebrate the start of construction works for Westfield Avenue Public Realm Improvement scheme.

The project will improve the public realm and transport infrastructure to support walking and cycling, including wider pavements, a segregated cycle track, extra cycle stands, improvements to crossings, and the planting of 60 tree and 15 planting beds, and installation of 31 rain gardens.

The £12 million grant-funded project is an initiative between Newham Council, LLDC, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London (TfL).

### **Walking and cycling**

LLDC and Newham Council are also working together in upgrading the key walking and cycling routes within the East Village area. On 26 February, a consultation on new cycling routes and other measures to reduce motor vehicle traffic and speeds, increase physical activity levels and improve air quality was launched. The consultation runs until 17 March and can be viewed [here](#).

## **Planning and Regeneration**

### **London Plan Review**

The expert panel appointed by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to undertake a review of the London Plan delivered its report on 12 February. The main recommendation is a proposal to introduce a presumption in favour of brownfield land which will be applied to England’s 20 largest urban areas if they fail to meet 95 per cent of their housing delivery test targets. My office is currently reviewing the report’s recommendations.

### **London Plan Guidance**

The consultation on the draft Industrial Land and Uses London Plan guidance closed on 28 February.

### **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)**

| <b>GLA Number</b> | <b>Development Name</b>   | <b>Local Planning Authority</b> | <b>Decision date</b> | <b>Decision</b>      | <b>Application Type</b> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2021/0601         | 363 Edgware Road          | Brent                           | 12/02/2024           | Allow LPA to approve | Stage 2                 |
| 2022/0065         | 6 St John's Road          | Brent                           | 12/02/2024           | Allow LPA to approve | Stage 2                 |
| 2023/0197         | Watkin Road               | Brent                           | 12/02/2024           | Allow LPA to approve | Stage 2                 |
| 2022/0455         | Montagu Industrial Estate | Enfield                         | 12/02/2024           | Allow LPA to approve | Stage 2                 |

#### **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 |
|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 2021/1216  | Land at Bridgewater Road              | Brent                    | 16/02/2024    | Withdrawn by LPA/Applicant | Stage 2          |
| 2022/0461  | Wembley Point / Wem Tower             | Brent                    | 15/02/2024    | Allow LPA to approve       | Stage 2          |
| 2023/0139  | JVC Business Park                     | Brent                    | 15/02/2024    | Allow LPA to approve       | Stage 2          |
| 2023/0795  | 390-400 and 402-408 Wembley High Road | Brent                    | 16/02/2024    | No Stage 2 required        | Stage 2          |
| 2023/0604  | 1 Museum Street (Selkirk House)       | Camden                   | 26/02/2024    | Allow LPA to approve       | Stage 2          |
| 2022/0920  | Citiscap                              | Croydon                  | 26/02/2024    | Allow LPA to approve       | Stage 2          |
| 2023/0147  | Garden House                          | Harrow                   | 26/02/2024    | Allow LPA to approve       | Stage 2          |
| 2022/0884  | Hyatt Place                           | Hillingdon               | 26/02/2024    | 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 Number | Development Name    | Local Planning Authority | Decision date | Decision                                   | Application Type |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--|------------------|
| 2024/0020  | Segro Plot 2        | Barking and Dagenham     | 26/02/2024    | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1          |
| 2023/0826  | Carlton Vale Mosque | Brent                    | 26/02/2024    | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1          |

|           |   |                |            |  |                     |
|-----------|---|----------------|------------|--|---------------------|
| 2024/0033 | 70 High Street                                | Bromley        | 23/02/2024 | No Strategic Issues                        | No Strategic Issues |
| 2024/0050 | 1 Basinghall Avenue                           | City of London | 23/02/2024 | No Strategic Issues                        | No Strategic Issues |
| 2024/0016 | Kidbrooke Village                             | Greenwich      | 15/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1             |
| 2024/0029 | Greenwich Quay                                | Greenwich      | 27/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1             |
| 2024/0006 | Land at Bridge Close                          | Havering       | 15/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1             |
| 2024/0035 | Former Sipson Garden Centre                   | Hillingdon     | 26/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1             |
| 2023/0694 | Riverside Health and Racquets Club            | Hounslow       | 15/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1             |
| 2024/0003 | Brentford FC Training Ground, 100 Jersey Road | Hounslow       | 12/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1             |
| 2024/0028 | 48 Chiswell Street                            | Islington      | 26/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the             | Stage 1             |

|           |                                |               |            |  |                     |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|--|---------------------|
|           |                                |               |            | London Plan                                |                     |
| 2024/0002 | 1 Selsdon Way, London, E14 9GL | Tower Hamlets | 12/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1             |
| 2024/0031 | Former Westferry Printworks    | Tower Hamlets | 26/02/2024 | Does not fully comply with the London Plan | Stage 1             |
| 2024/0069 | St John's Wood Barracks        | Westminster   | 23/02/2024 | No Strategic Issues                        | No Strategic Issues |

## Key engagements

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

- I attended Lunar New Year celebrations on 11 February
- I took part in a visit to see City Hall investment for victims of domestic violence on 12 February
- I held my regular planning meeting on 12 February
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 13 February
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 13 February
- I joined the Mayor's Advisory Group on Child Healthy Weight on 14 February
- I met with the Chair of the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Committee on 14 February
- I made an announcement on renaming of London Overground lines on 15 February
- I met with representatives of the British Palestinian Committee on 15 February
- I visited the Met Police Command and Control Centre on 15 February
- I met with the Council of Arab Ambassadors on 19 February
- I attended the London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee on 20 February
- I attended the London Assembly Final Budget Plenary on 22 February
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 22 February
- I visited Switchback, a beneficiary of my mentoring programme, on 23 February
- I met with Network Rail, MTR and Transport for London to discuss Elizabeth Line performance on 26 February
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 27 February
- I joined an Equity & Venture Capital roundtable on 27 February
- I met with Met Assistant Commissioner Jukes on 27 February
- I joined People's Question Time on 29 February