

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

LONDON ASSEMBLY ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION



LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

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Foreword



Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly 2024-2025

The **Assembly's Annual Report** provides **Assembly Members** with an important opportunity to reflect on the work undertaken over the course of the Assembly year; and to consider how and where we can continue to make an impact on behalf of Londoners.

As the Assembly embarks on its **25th anniversary year**, and as the Government takes forward work to **extend the regional Government model across the country**, this Report has also provided **an opportunity to look back at the Assembly's achievements since its creation in 2000**, to consider **how the Assembly's work has evolved** over that period. At a time of significant change to the terms of devolved Government – including in London – it has also provided **a welcome moment to reflect on the value and importance of effective scrutiny**.

The Assembly plays a key role in London's government. We scrutinise the Mayor and the functional bodies of the Greater London Authority (GLA), independently holding them to account on behalf of Londoners, and providing a vital link between strategic decision-makers and our communities.

The existence of an Assembly means that **Londoners have direct representation**, and that **robust scrutiny can take place**, without slowing down key decisions. The Assembly model was designed to reflect **the need for democratic accountability for London's 8.9m population** (and it is worth recalling that London's population is larger than that of Scotland and Wales, which each have their own parliament).

Every part of our city directly elects a representative to be part of the GLA and our proportional electoral system also helps guarantee that there is broad representation of the views of Londoners on the Assembly.

Our model is unique in the UK in placing the scrutiny function at the heart of the organisation it is tasked with holding to account. This ensures **the Assembly can make a full contribution to the policy development and delivery cycle**, whilst operating independently.

The Assembly is not just **a crucial check and balance for the country's most powerful elected politician and a budget of over £22bn**. It is also an **important enabler of good Government in London**.

As this report shows, **the work of the Assembly is broad and varied** – substantive in-depth **investigations into key issues** highlighting areas of emerging concern or where action has not been taken, **technical recommendations** drawing on external expert input to support policy development and value for money, providing **a platform for voices or issues that would otherwise not be heard** and working directly with our constituents to resolve casework and champion local issues.

The vast majority of this work takes place in public, supporting greater transparency around the work of the Mayor and the GLA. The breadth of issues covered in this year alone – from the costs facing leaseholders to the challenge of making London a carbon net-zero city, and from public order policing to the future of the capital's high streets – reflect the priorities of Londoners and are a reminder of challenge involved in running a city of this scale and complexity.

London benefited immensely from the great wave of devolution that began in 1999, and the institutions created then have stood the test of our time. Building on this success and continuing to evolve our practice is a priority for Assembly Members.

The Assembly's work this year with the London Youth Assembly (LYA), and our continued focus on ensuring youth voice is at the heart of our scrutiny, reflects our **own focus on looking forward and ensuring our own work and approach keep pace with the changing needs of our city**.

The Assembly welcomes moves to increase devolved powers at the regional level across the country – and the vital parallel commitment from Government to strengthen scrutiny functions to ensure powers are used appropriately; that local leaders and institutions are transparent and accountable, and delivering the best value for taxpayer's money.

Whilst the Assembly model already delivers against much of the ambition set out by the Government for effective scrutiny, **we look forward to working with both the Mayor and the Government in the months ahead to ensure effective scrutiny remains at the heart of London's evolving devolved landscape**.



LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

What the London Assembly Does

For 25 years, the London Assembly has been standing up for Londoners, as well as being a **crucial check on the Mayor of London's powers**. As the most powerful directly elected politician in the UK, **the Mayor must be held publicly and democratically accountable**.

Over the past 25 years, Assembly Members have worked alongside three Mayors of London: **Ken Livingstone; Boris Johnson; and Sir Sadiq Khan**, who was elected for a third term in office in May 2024.

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



"So many memories over 16 years ... which to recount?! In a speech of welcome to the new Assembly, the Mayor Ken Livingstone started with:

"As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted, 14 years ago ...", referencing the abolition of the Greater London Council by Margaret Thatcher in 1986, of which he was the Leader."

Baroness Jenny Jones, Former City Hall Greens AM 2000-2016

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

The **25 London Assembly Members are elected every four years**, at the same time as the Mayor of London. The most recent GLA elections were held on **2 May 2024**.

The Assembly **holds the Mayor and mayoral advisers to account** by **publicly examining policies and programmes** through **committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations**; and by **responding to constituents**.

The Assembly can **reject the Mayor's strategies and amend the draft budget**, if a majority of two-thirds agrees to do so. Assembly meetings are open to the public, and broadcast live on our website and YouTube channel, so Londoners can stay informed about the activities of the Mayor and the Assembly.

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

25 Years of the London Assembly



Year in Review

In 2024-25 Assembly Committees held...



22 investigations



8 site visits



86 Committee meetings



408 guests giving oral evidence



16 Calls for Evidence

5 surveys

We published...



18 reports



31 letters



307 recommendations



LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

The Voice of London 25 years of the Assembly

You may hear the London Assembly sometimes called the Voice of London. Its role is to allow London's voice to be heard by those in power, ensuring that the experiences and insights of Londoners inform policy making and spending.

It reflects the broad array of political beliefs in London, with **five political parties represented across its 25 seats**.

Despite those diverse political beliefs, the Assembly has always been able to come together with **one voice on the issues that matter most to London**.

That was demonstrated once again in **August 2024**, when Assembly Members issued a statement urging Londoners to reject the violent and racist disorder that followed the murder of three young girls in Southport.



And throughout its existence, the Assembly has been there to hold those in power to account and to get the answers that London needs, when it most needs them.

Londoners' voices have been heard loud and clear following some of the worst moments in the past 25 years – such as **in the aftermath of the 7/7 terror attacks**, when Members questioned the Mayor, the then-Metropolitan Police Commissioner and others on their response to the bombings.

That scrutiny led to the publication of the specially created **7 July Review Committee** report, which found an overarching pattern of plans and procedures focusing **“too much on incidents, rather than on individuals, and on processes rather than people”**.

Recent years have seen Assembly Members standing in solidarity with Ukraine; rejecting the growth in antisemitism and Islamophobia following the increasing conflict in the Middle East; and condemning the homophobic beliefs that led to an attack in Clapham in 2023.

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

But it is not only in London's darkest moments that the London Assembly is there to make its residents' voices heard.

The LYA has gone from strength to strength this year, and Members' contributions to the **London Youth Achievement Awards** demonstrated their commitment to ensuring **young people's voices are heard** and their impact celebrated.

In the past year, the Assembly unanimously approved motions calling for a Disability Equality Champion, and for the Mayor to take more action to make London an age-friendly City.

And Members of the Transport Committee welcomed 11 disabled Londoners into the Chamber, to discuss their experiences of accessibility and inclusion-related matters.



The Assembly has also been there to support and mark the contribution of **London's diverse communities in moments of celebration and commemoration.**

This year, Assembly Members co-hosted and attended events including ceremonies to mark **Holocaust Memorial Day; Armed Forces Day; London Pride; the UNESCO Day for, Remembering the Slave Trade and its Abolition,** and more.



The London Assembly has been standing up for London for 25 years.

It will continue to amplify your voice to those in power for many more years to come.

Plenary

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

The Assembly uses its monthly Plenary sessions to hold different bodies to account. After these sessions, Assembly Members debate and vote on motions put forward by different groups or Members. These motions could relate to something topical in the news, or issues that matter to Londoners.

Motions unanimously approved by the Assembly this year included calls for the Mayor to appoint a **Disability Equality Champion**; demands for **regulation and devolution of powers to tackle the problems caused by dockless e-bikes**; and **a motion asking the Mayor to start a commonhold pilot in London as an alternative to leasehold**.



Mayor's Question Time

The **Assembly questions the Mayor**, in public, **ten times a year** as part of its role of holding him to account. **Questions put to the Mayor by the Assembly Members cover the full range of the GLA's duties**, including **police**, the **fire service**, **regeneration**, and **transport**, but can also cover almost any issue of concern to Londoners – such as major news events.

Questions from Assembly Members that are not answered at the meeting are given written answers. These are published on the London Assembly website within a week of the meeting.

In total, **4,147 Mayor's questions were submitted in 2024-25**, covering a wide range of priority issues including **theft hotspots**, advertising on the **Transport for London (TfL) network**, support for **London's high streets**, and **graffiti on the capital's transport network**.

People's Question Time

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



The first ever PQT was held in October 2000. Hosted by Channel 4 newsreader and presenter **Krishnan Guru-Murthy**, the **public put questions to then-Mayor Ken Livingstone and elected Assembly Members at Westminster Central Hall**. Since then, Assembly Members have taken part in **50 PQT events**, ensuring thousands of Londoners have the opportunity to have their voices heard.



The Assembly is committed to ensuring the model for PQT continues to evolve – and that **we continue to look for new ways to engage the public in these important debates**.

The first PQT of 2024-25 was held in November at Battersea Arts Centre in Wandsworth. Léonie Cooper AM chaired the event.



In March 2024, **the 50th PQT was held at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium** and, for the first time since 2001, was adjudicated by an independent Chair. **ITV News presenter and Loose Women host, Charlene White**, oversaw proceedings in Haringey.

A range of other changes have been introduced to ensure these events are accessible, engaging and safe – and **these arrangements will be kept under review during the 2024-28 Mayoral and Assembly term**.

Elections Review Working Group



Chair
Len Duvall OBE AM
Labour

The London Assembly **Elections Review Working Group** – made up of each of the four political Group Leaders on the Assembly – was set up to **review the planning, conduct and costs of the 2024 GLA Elections**.

As part of its work, the Group held three meetings – hearing from guests including the **Electoral Commission, political agents who worked on the election, London Elects staff who helped deliver the elections, and academics** – to learn about the successes of the elections and areas for improvement in future years.

The Committee also heard directly from Londoners through a call for evidence – asking for views on a range of issues including the significant changes introduced before the 2024 vote, such as a new **Mayoral voting system** and the requirement for voters to present a **valid photo ID**.



The Working Group's report, '[London's elections in 2024](#)', said that the **elections were run effectively and successfully**.

It also made a number of recommendations to Government and the GLA to help deliver further improvements for the next GLA elections, which will be held in 2028. The Group's report found that **work is needed to tackle abuse and intimidation of candidates**; suggested how the Government could **consider expanding the types of acceptable voter ID**; and highlighted the **importance of consulting Londoners before any changes to voting systems** are made in future.

Your Health: Health Committee



Chair
Krupesh Hirani AM
Labour

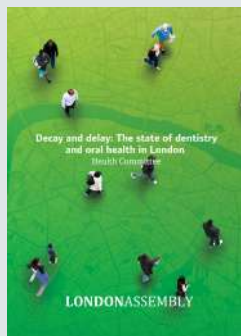


Deputy Chairman
Emma Best AM
Conservative

The Health Committee reviews health and wellbeing issues for Londoners.

The Health Committee focused on three topics of huge importance to Londoners this year:

- The ability of Londoners to **access dentistry services**;
- the effort needed to ensure there are **no new HIV transmissions in the capital by 2030**;
- and the state of **end-of-life care**.



Its first report, '[**Decay and delay: The state of dentistry and oral health in London**](#)', set out how Londoners are accessing dentistry services at rates below the national average. It also looked at the **"severely flawed" NHS dental contract, which is in need of "fundamental reform"**.



The Committee also saw first-hand some of the ways that these challenges can be met.

At a visit to **Brentfield Primary School in October**, Committee Members saw how **supervised toothbrushing** was helping young Londoners with their oral health.

In November, the Committee held the first of two meetings scrutinising what progress has been made on the Mayor's and the Government's commitments to reach the **targets of zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related stigma and zero HIV-related deaths by 2030.**

In November, **Ash Kotak** – founder of **AIDS Memory UK**, which has led the campaign to create the **London AIDS Memorial** – joined **Committee Chair, Krupesh Hirani**, to discuss the importance of tackling stigma and getting tested, and the different ways that HIV affects communities living in London.



The result of the Committee's work, '[Getting to zero by 2030: HIV in London](#)', was published in April. It **recommended "concerted action" to tackle stigma**, creating programmes that **are targeted at the needs of different communities**, and **reversing funding cuts for sexual health services** to achieve the "formidable challenge" of meeting the Mayor's targets. It also urged the Government to set **clear targets for a year-on-year increase in levels of HIV testing**, including in London.

The report launch event was held at the proposed site of the **London AIDS Memorial in Fitzrovia**, with Committee Members joined by charities, campaigners, and others living with HIV. A '**Stop the Stigma**' campaign, featuring messages from Members and campaigners, was launched on social media to encourage the public to play their part in tackling the stigma around HIV infections.

In March, the Committee took **evidence from experts in palliative care from the NHS, charities and academia** on the state of end-of-life care in London.

The Committee's resulting report, '[End of Life Care in London: a review](#)', called for the Mayor to use his convening powers to **bring about a joined-up approach to end-of-life services.**



LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

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Your Money: Cost of Living Working Group

The **London Assembly Cost of Living Working Group** – made up of Assembly Members from different political parties – **operated between 2022 and 2024 to investigate the impact of rising living costs on Londoners**, and to try to find ways to support those most in need.



As part of its work, the **Group carried out visits to meet Londoners affected by the rising cost of living and those working to support their communities.**

Among those to speak to the Group were:

- **Highams Park Food Aid** in north London, to hear how the cost of living had affected volunteers and service users
- **Debt Free Advice** in east London, whose staff told Assembly Members how they were coping with an increase in the number of people asking for their support – and about the practical measures being taken to support people with debts.
- **Sacred Heart RC Primary School** in south London.

Assembly Members learned more about the **Mayor's Universal Free School Meals (UFSM)** programme, and what difference it had made.

The Working Group held a **Cost-of-Living Conference at City Hall**, inviting over **80 guests** – those with lived experience, and support organisations – to discuss the cost of living in London.

It produced a report with key recommendations for the Mayor and Government on steps to ease pressure on Londoners, including **mapping cost of living services across Londoners**, and removing the two-child benefit cap.

Your Money:

Economy, Culture and Skills Committee



Chair
Marina Ahmad AM
Labour



Deputy Chairman
Alessandro Georgiou AM
Conservative

The Economy, Culture and Skills Committee investigates economic issues that matter to Londoners.

The Economy, Culture and Skills Committee held three multi-part investigations. These covered the challenges and opportunities for **London's night-time economy**; ways to help **high streets** contribute to growth and cultural value; and **how to support care-experienced Londoners to access employment, education or training**.

Key recommendations in the Committee's report, '[London's Night-Time Economy](#)', included asks for the **live music industry to introduce a voluntary levy** on arena and stadium tickets to **support grassroots music venues in London**; requiring the **Ask for Angela scheme to be included in licensing conditions**; and **calling on the Mayor to instruct TfL to carry out an impact assessment and review of the night tube provision** in place since 2016.



The Committee's high streets investigation included a **visit to Haringey in October**, to learn about various projects on **Wood Green High Road**, including those that have received Mayoral funding. **Members also heard from business owners, experts, academics, and representatives from London boroughs at a formal meeting in November.**

The report, '[At a crossroads: London's high streets](#)', was launched in **Wood Green in April** and explored how **art, creativity and heritage can also play transformative roles in high street revitalisation**. The report recommended that **the Mayor should develop an Art on the High Street programme that commissions public art installations, murals and interactive artworks on high streets in London**.

The report also emphasised the importance of putting communities at the heart of high street regeneration, recommending that the Mayor should support local community groups to take over the leases of vacant units.



In December, the Committee started its investigation into **the challenges facing care-experienced people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)** by inviting a broad range of experts to discuss the issues **causing over a third of London's care leavers aged 17-21 to be NEET**. The Committee then heard from three employers who offer schemes aimed at giving more care leavers employment opportunities; and from care-experienced young people about their experiences and thoughts about what support is needed.

In May, the Committee published its report, '[Careers after care: helping care-experienced young Londoners fulfil their potential](#)', calling for a **more joined-up approach to help care-experienced young people find employment, training or education opportunities** in the capital.



The Committee also held a **meeting on the benefits that major sporting events bring to London's economy**. In a letter to the Mayor, the Committee recognised that efforts to increase the number of events held in London can boost tourism at times when visitor numbers are lower, but warned of the risk that hosting an ever-growing number of major sports events may leave London's transport system unable to keep up with demand.

In March, the Committee heard from London borough representatives and other experts about **London's broadband connectivity**. The Committee wrote to the Mayor, calling for the Government to work with the GLA to identify internet connectivity gaps in London and provide adequate funding to make London a gigabit-capable city.

Your Money:

Budget and Performance Committee



Chairman
Neil Garratt AM
Conservative



Deputy Chair
Krupesh Hirani AM
Labour

The **Budget and Performance Committee examines the Mayor's draft budget** before it is voted on by Assembly Members. The Mayor's budget totals **over £21 billion**, so the Assembly's work is crucial in ensuring that the best spending decisions are made for the city.

The **Budget and Performance Committee leads the London Assembly's Scrutiny of the Mayor's upcoming yearly budget**. The Committee provides feedback to the Mayor throughout the process of drafting and refining the budget, through public meetings and through letters to the Mayor's Office to challenge and clarify any issues they uncover.

The Mayor's budget is then voted on at a whole-Assembly session. The Assembly has the power **to compel the Mayor to make changes to his budget if more than two-thirds of Members approve a budget amendment.**

This year, **the Budget and Performance Committee investigated the 2025-26 budget plans for the whole GLA Group**, which encompasses the core GLA; TfL; the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC); London Fire Brigade (LFB); the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC); and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

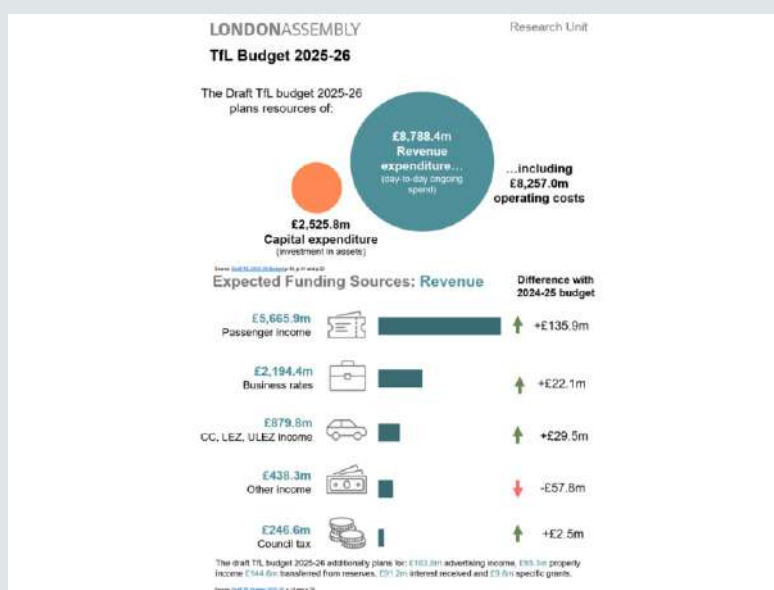


In October, the Committee wrote to the Mayor calling for action to **increase collections of fines issued under road user charging schemes – after a meeting at which it was revealed that TfL was owed £376 million in unpaid Penalty Charge Notices for the ULEZ.**



The Committee also published **a series of letters in January**, with a number of recommendations for the Mayor – including a **request for greater clarity on the number of Metropolitan Police officer reductions; detail on the costs associated with the Free School Meals pledge; and more information on the costs associated with the redevelopment of the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.**

The Mayor published his **Final Draft Consolidated Budget in February**. The Mayor's amendments to the budget were considered at a final Budget and Performance Committee meeting with the Mayor, before the budget was approved without amendment at an all-Assembly session later that month.



Following the budget being approved, **the Committee made nine recommendations to the Mayor to improve the budget setting process in future years**, including **calling on TfL to present its projected operating surplus in its budget submissions from 2026-27 onwards.**

Your Safety

Domestic Abusers Register

Over several years, the Assembly pushed for increased protections for the survivors of Domestic Abuse, through its campaign for the creation of a Domestic Abusers Register.

In September 2017, the **Assembly approved a motion urging the Government to launch such a register.** It would force domestic abusers to ensure local police officers were aware of them, and would increase monitoring of their behaviour and activities.

In November 2017, **the motion received the backing of the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.**

In January 2019, **the Assembly published a report reiterating the importance of a Domestic Abusers Register.** It submitted evidence to the Government as part of a consultation on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

While a Register has not been created, thanks to the tireless efforts of campaigners and bodies including the Assembly, stronger protections for those at risk of being subject to domestic abuse are now in place – with a disclosure scheme, known as Clare’s Law, now in force.

The Assembly’s efforts to fight gender-based and domestic abuse are ongoing. In the past year, the Police and Crime Committee investigated the worrying increase in misogyny towards, and violence against, young women and girls. The Committee made recommendations to the Mayor of London, calling for additional support for parents to help tackle the harmful attitudes that young men are exposed to – and that are contributing to an epidemic of misogynist violence and abuse.



Recommendation 1

The Government should introduce a Domestic Abusers Register as part of its forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill. If it is unable to do so at this time, it should give a firm commitment that this is the direction of travel in which it is moving.

Recommendation 2

The National Police Chiefs’ Council should commission an updated study into the costs and benefits of a Domestic Abusers Register.

Recommendation 3

The Mayor and MOPAC should continue to lobby the Government, and seek support from decision-makers beyond the capital, for legislative change to force serial offenders of domestic abuse related crimes to be kept on a Domestic Abusers Register.

Your Safety:

Police and Crime Committee



Chairman
Susan Hall AM
Conservative

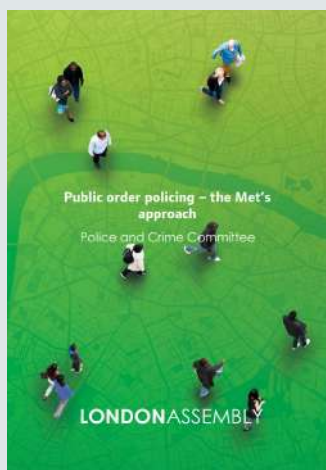


Deputy Chair
Gareth Roberts AM
Liberal Democrats

The Police and Crime Committee raises policing concerns from around the capital with the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and the Metropolitan Police Service (the Met).

The Police and Crime Committee's investigations focused on **public order policing**; and **violence against women and girls (VAWG)** and **how it affects young people**.

In light of the Met's statement that an increasing need for public order policing had led to the "**greatest period of sustained pressure since the Olympics in 2012**", the Committee heard from a wide range of experts about how the Met was coping with the demands of policing protests and other public order events across the capital.



The Committee's report, '[**Public order policing – the Met's approach**](#)', called on Notting Hill Carnival organisers to review pinch points with **crowd density**, with the Met raising concerns about the possibility for a mass casualty event.

It also recommended that grant funding given to the Met must be updated in line with **operational pressures and inflation** and warned that officers trained to manage public order are increasingly stepping away from those duties due to the pressures they face.

With recorded instances of domestic abuse offences and sexual offences both increasing in the year to November 2024, the Committee shone a light on how **VAWG is affecting young people in London**.

The Committee's investigation uncovered an **"epidemic" of violence affecting young women and girls**, and resulted in a report calling on the Mayor to tackle the misogynistic attitudes which are causing the crisis. Recommendations included asking the Mayor to commission a **Parent's Toolkit** to support adults in teaching their children about healthy relationships from a young age, and calling for a campaign to **promote positive male role models** to tackle the pernicious influence of misogynist figures who young men and boys are increasingly exposed to online.

The Police and Crime Committee also performs a vital scrutiny role on topical issues of importance to Londoners – holding **regular Q&A sessions to find out how the Met, MOPAC** and others are keeping London safe, and raising awareness of areas for improvement.



Q&A sessions this year covered issues including the extent to which London has a problem with **grooming gangs** and how the Met tackles this type of crime; how the Met planned to make the "tough choices" required by the **Met's budget**; and the **Mayor's Police and Crime Plan for 2025-29**.

The Committee also **wrote to the Mayor** with **recommendations on the updated Police and Crime Plan** – including the need to **clearly identify areas that are at risk** due to budgetary challenges, and to ensure that mitigating actions are identified.

In March, the Police and Crime Committee investigated MOPAC and the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) commissioning work, which is mainly concentrated on victim's services, crime prevention, and violence reduction services for young people. Recommendations focused on the ways that MOPAC and the VRU could increase transparency and demonstrate that money is being used effectively and delivering for Londoners.

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

Your Safety: 7/7



On 7 July 2005, 52 Londoners lost their lives when terrorists detonated bombs on three underground trains and a bus. Twenty years on from the appalling tragedy, the Assembly marks the anniversary of the attacks each year by laying a wreath at a memorial to the victims. The Assembly will never forget the victims and survivors of the attack and continues to stand against hatred and terror.

Following the attacks, the Assembly formed a dedicated Committee to examine emergency services' response to the attacks. The Committee's report found that despite an "astounding" humanitarian response by members of the public and individual emergency service workers, there were significant delays in getting emergency assistance to the sites of the bombings.

It also made recommendations for a significant shift in how emergency services planned for major incidents – urging plans to prioritise the needs of those affected by the incidents, where previously they had been designed around the needs of responding services.

The report also addressed communications failures that had hindered the effectiveness of the response – while acknowledging that the incredible efforts of emergency workers and London's public had prevented any additional loss of life arising from issues with the overall emergency response plans.

The findings and recommendations of the report have had a lasting impact on how emergency services respond to terrorist incidents.



"With the transport system closed down, I remained at home watching the full horror of the 7/7 attacks unfold and trying to stay updated. Our London Underground staff and the Emergency Services performed heroically that day in unbelievably awful conditions.

The London Assembly would convene a special investigation and take evidence from the victims and first responders in the coming months. There was much to learn over that period and we saw how our city remained resolute and swiftly recovered after the worst terrorist attack in our history."

Roger Evans, Former City Hall Conservative AM 2000-2016

Fire Committee



Chair
Hina Bokhari AM
Liberal Democrats



Deputy Chairman
Susan Hall AM
Conservative

The Fire Committee reviews the London Fire Commissioner's priorities and objectives.

It examines the effectiveness of the LFB and investigates whether the service is doing everything it can to keep Londoners safe.

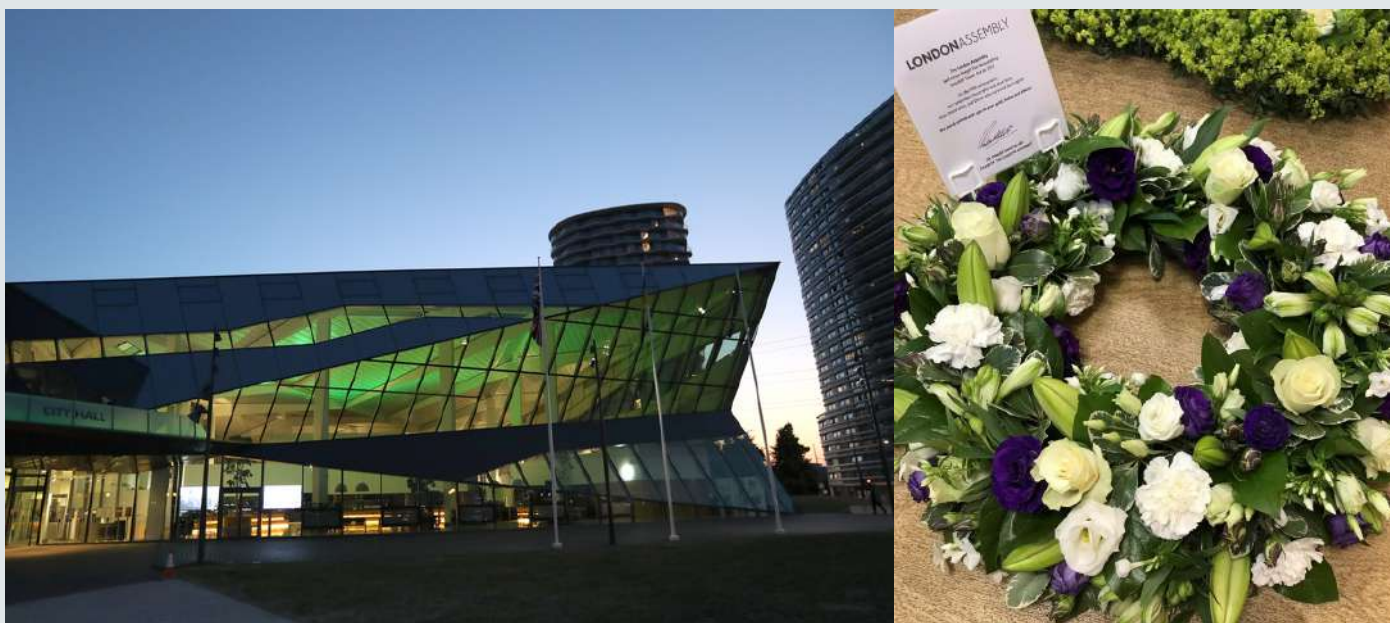
In **2022**, an Independent Review of the **LFB's** culture found that LFB was **institutionally racist, homophobic and misogynist**. In the past Assembly year, the **Fire Committee investigated the progress made since that review**, with an examination of the **LFB's new conduct and grievance procedures**, including the new **Professional Standards Unit (PSU)**, the first such unit in fire and rescue services in the UK.



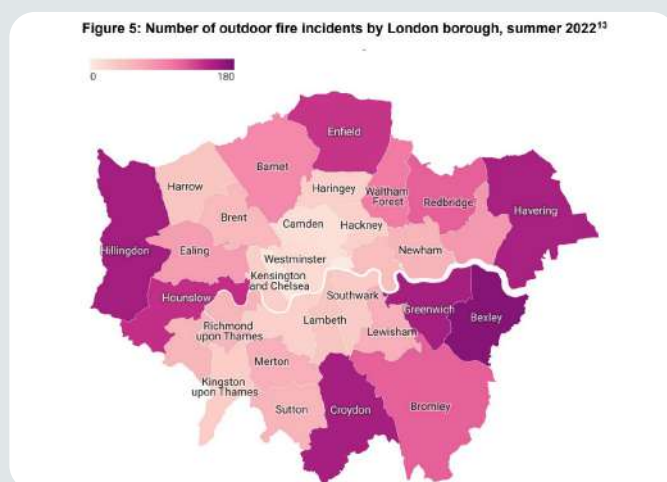
The Committee report found that **significant effort has been made to improve the culture** of the organisation – but that **greater action and ambition is still needed** to make its PSU as effective and independent as possible.

[The report](#) also highlighted the **costly delays in concluding investigations into misconduct allegations**. This is in part caused by the **number of cases** being handled, which demonstrates both **how much work is being done** and **how much still needs to be done**.

The Committee continued its focus on the legacy of the **Grenfell Tower fire** by considering the **Grenfell Tower Inquiry's Phase 2 report** published in September 2024. The Committee made recommendations to **speed up building safety remediation work** and examined the **Government and LFB's response** to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.



The Committee held a meeting with **HM Inspector Lee Freeman, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services**. This meeting examined the latest full inspection report on LFB, published in November 2024, which found significant improvements have been made.



The Committee also looked at **LFB's preparedness for summer fires**. This drew on **new work by the London Assembly Research Unit** showing which London boroughs have been most affected by outdoor fires and examining the link to **extreme heat in the capital**.

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

Your Safety: Grenfell Tower

Eight years on from the Grenfell Tower fire, in which 72 Londoners lost their lives, the London Assembly continues to push for the changes needed to ensure a similar tragedy could never happen in future.



In 2018, a year after the fire, **Assembly Member Navin Shah released a report on behalf of the Planning Committee considering Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (AFSS)** such as sprinklers. The report called on the Government to **amend Building Regulations, making it mandatory to install AFSS in all new-build residential developments above 18 metres in tall.**

In the years following the report, even stricter regulations, covering buildings above 11 metres, were put in place for new builds.

But the Assembly's work on this issue continues.

In 2024, the Fire Committee welcomed the publication of the final phase of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and urged the government to adopt all of its recommendations.

The Committee also last year looked at whether new building safety regulations are operating as effectively as they should – and what more can be done to ensure that work to remove unsafe cladding on buildings is finally completed. Its report supported creating new powers to issue fines and seize buildings from owners who do not carry out fire safety work.

Your Travel: Transport Committee



Chair
Elly Baker AM
Labour



Deputy Chair
Caroline Russell AM
Green

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



The Transport Committee focused on the issues of **accessibility and inclusivity** for Londoners – examining the **barriers that different transport users face** in getting around the capital; the **processes and engagement that take place before transport planning decisions** are made; and the **solutions that would help lead to a transport network that works for all Londoners**.



Working with **Inclusion London**, a group that works to **support changes benefiting Deaf and Disabled Londoners**, Committee Members welcomed 11 disabled guests to the Chamber at City Hall for **a series of roundtable discussions** in November.



The Committee also carried out an investigation into the **use and distribution of car clubs** in London – looking at how they can contribute to the Mayor’s Transport Strategy targets. The report, **‘London’s Stalling Car Clubs’**, found that **TfL is preventing the sector from growing in the capital**; stopping those who can’t afford or don’t want a car from being able to make use of car clubs; and failing to unlock the benefits they can provide.

In October, the Committee wrote to the Government and the Mayor of London reiterating its support for the **further devolution of rail services**, to help London benefit as fully as possible from changes to bring rail services back under public ownership.

Committee Chair, Elly Baker AM, later met **Local Transport Minister**, Simon Lightwood MP, to discuss this issue and to highlight the Committee’s wider recommendations.



Additional work undertaken by the Committee included meetings examining the Mayor’s manifesto commitments, and examining London TravelWatch’s updated business plan.

It also responded to TfL’s consultation on pedicab regulations, and the Government’s consultation on creating a railway fit for Britain’s future.

The Committee also visited Old Oak Common in March to see the progress of the construction of HS2, and to hear more about plans for the area.

London TravelWatch

Officially known as the London Transport Users' Committee, **London TravelWatch is the capital's independent transport watchdog**. It uses evidence to **campaign for improved journeys, and to advocate for all people travelling in London**. Like the Assembly, it celebrates its 25th year of standing up for Londoners this year.

London TravelWatch is sponsored and funded by the London Assembly and is independent from the transport operators.

The logo for London TravelWatch, featuring the word "LONDON" in a green sans-serif font above the word "TRAVELWATCH" in a bold, green sans-serif font.

London TravelWatch is interested in the passenger experience of **all the services operated and licensed by TfL**. However, it does not take appeals from individual passengers for taxis, private hire, private car hire or river boat services. The services it focuses on are:

London Underground

London buses

London Overground

Elizabeth line

Docklands Light Railway (DLR)

Croydon Tramlink

Dial-a-Ride services

London River Services

Woolwich Free Ferry

taxis

private hire cars

most of the major roads in Greater London.



Its updated business plan for 2025-26 was considered by the Transport Committee at a meeting in December. You can find out more about London TravelWatch's work in 2024-25, including its successful campaign for improvements at Euston station, by reading its Annual Review, available on londontravelwatch.org.

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

Your Travel: Garden Bridge

Ensuring Londoners get value for money from the decisions and actions of their Mayors is one of the most important parts of the London Assembly's role in the capital's democracy.

Many Londoners will remember the proposal for a 'Garden Bridge' across the River Thames, an idea first publicly backed by the then-Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, in 2013.

The Assembly carried out a number of investigations into the project starting in 2016 – initially through the work of the GLA Oversight Committee. The first of these investigations looked into the circumstances and procedures surrounding procurement at the early stages of the project. A further investigation, six months later, looked at wider questions around conduct and procedures, and at the spiralling costs associated.

In the end, nearly £43m of public money was spent on the project, with no bridge to show for it. Sadiq Khan announced his decision to cancel work on the scheme in 2017.

The Assembly's final report on the Garden Bridge, 'Up the Garden Path', found that "key decision-makers" continually "passed the buck" on failures throughout the project, with all of them collectively responsible for its failure.

The report made a series of recommendations aimed at tightening up procurement procedures and increasing oversight, to prevent such significant waste of public money in future.



"With a strong Mayoral model, with a budget of £22 billion, it is essential there is a check on their plans and expenditure, and a check which doesn't have vested interests - such as Borough Leaders. I uncovered how the procurement of the Garden Bridge under the former Mayor Boris Johnson, had not been carried out using the normal procurement rules and processes, and our scrutiny work in this area not only helped with the decision to eventually scrap the project, but also led to the tightening up of systems and rules to prevent such a project being developed in this way again and such a waste of millions of public money."

**Baroness Caroline Pidgeon, Former City Hall Liberal Democrat AM
2008-2024**



LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

Your Travel: Crossrail



"I was fortunate enough to be on the Assembly during the construction of Crossrail – now the Elizabeth line - and the Transport Committee could be seen hiking up and down temporary stairs and examining the cutting and tunnelling machines, then gradually each year seeing the progress..."

When I use the Elizabeth line now, I can remember those early days and smile as I look around at what we all achieved."

Victoria Borwick
Former City Hall Conservatives AM 2008-15

The London Assembly backed the Crossrail project from its early stages – and throughout its construction, recognised the significant benefits that it would bring to London and the wider UK economy. Crossrail, now known as the Elizabeth line, has become the busiest rail service in the UK – with its 500 millionth journey taken in January this year.

Yet the Assembly also led scrutiny of the significant delays and cost overruns that came with construction of the new line. In 2010, the Transport Committee's 'Light at the End of the Tunnel' report criticised Crossrail for how it had dealt with businesses and individuals who had been displaced to make way for construction.

In 2018, the Transport Committee criticised the Mayor of London, TfL and the Government for a lack of transparency about what they knew about delays to construction. The Committee criticised efforts "to hide from the public the growing concerns about the Crossrail delivery schedule."

And a year later, the Committee produced a further report asking the then-TfL Commissioner to consider his continuing suitability for the role.

The Assembly's continued scrutiny – including its requests for monthly updates on progress – meant issues with the delivery of the project were made clear to Londoners and ensured that those responsible were seen to be accountable. Yet throughout the process, the Assembly ensured that its focus was not on criticism for criticism's sake – but on ensuring that a much-needed project was delivered as well as possible for Londoners.

In its 2019 report, the Assembly made a number of recommendations to guide the delivery of future large-scale projects – calling for steps to ensure greater transparency, simplicity in project design, and to allow for greater oversight of decisions and progress, with independent reviewers built into governance structures.

Your Environment:

Environment Committee



Chair
Zack Polanski AM
Green



Deputy Chair
Leonie Cooper AM
Labour

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

The Environment Committee carried out three investigations over the past year, looking at **food growing within London**; scrutinising **the Mayor's progress against his net-Zero targets**; and **the Mayor's efforts to make suitable areas of London's rivers swimmable within 10 years**.



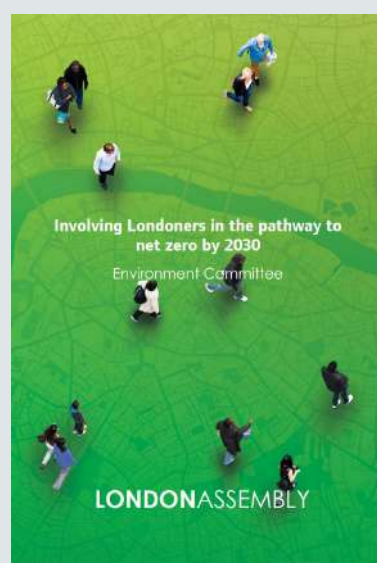
With 99 per cent of the food consumed in London produced outside of the capital, the Committee looked into the support the Mayor provides to enable **local and community food growing** – and the barriers to local food-growing schemes in London. The investigation took in a visit to **OrganicLea**, a workers' cooperative in Lea Valley that produces organic fruit and vegetables.

The Committee also published a call for evidence to hear from experts about the challenges and opportunities in this area.

In April, the Committee published its report, '[London: A Growing City?](#)', which called for a London-wide review of food growing sites, including work to identify opportunities to make more land available for Londoners to grow food. The report also **called on the Mayor to work with stakeholders to reduce barriers for 'Black, Brown, and minority-led' food growing projects, and to support the 'Right to Grow' campaign**, which would give the public the right to grow food on underused public spaces.



In May, the Committee published its report on net-Zero, '[Involving Londoners in the pathway to Net Zero by 2030](#)'. This found that London is not achieving the rates of change needed to meet the Mayor's 2030 net-Zero target. Actions recommended by the Committee for the Mayor to get London back on track included **publishing a net zero dashboard, updated at least annually; and reporting progress on a set of key indicators and milestone actions to track progress.**



Further work undertaken by the Committee included **responding to the water regulator Ofwat's consultation on its 2024 price review draft determinations.**

The Committee urged the regulator to play its part in limiting price increases to Londoners' water bills, and to show more ambition in its targets for reducing water leakage.

The Committee also wrote to **Heathrow Airport** asking it to follow through on its commitment to provide the Assembly with an assessment of **the environmental impact of operating a third runway.**

Your Homes and Communities: Housing Committee



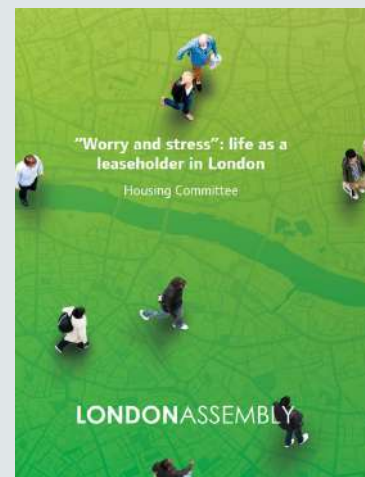
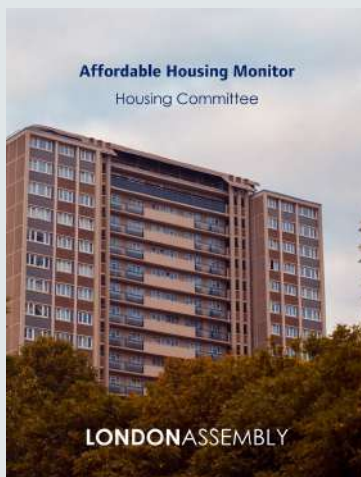
Chair
Sem Moema AM
Labour



Deputy Chair
Zoë Garbett AM
Green

The Housing Committee examines matters relating to housing in London and leads on the scrutiny of the Mayor's housing responsibilities, including the Mayor's delivery of affordable housing.

Since 2018, the London Assembly has published an **annual report scrutinising the Mayor of London's progress against his affordable housing targets**. In September, the Housing Committee published the latest edition of the '[Affordable Housing Monitor](#)'. This found that **the speed of delivery will need to increase** if the Mayor is to hit his targets and acknowledged the **uniquely challenging circumstances facing the housing sector in London**.



The Housing Committee conducted **a detailed investigation of a nationwide issue causing particularly severe challenges for London**, as it examined **the costs associated with leasehold**. With **London having a higher proportion of leasehold properties than the rest of the UK**, and higher average costs, the Committee investigated **how much leasehold is costing Londoners**. The Committee heard from **campaigners, government officials, GLA officials, freeholders and academics** on what has driven the increasing costs and what can be done; and also heard from 1,000 people in a public survey about their experiences. The report, '[Worry and stress: life as a leaseholder in London](#)', was published in June and recommended a cap on service charges for all new shared ownership homes.



In April, the Committee published a **report on community land trusts and co-operative housing**. This showed how **community-led housing projects can help deliver a small but meaningful increase in affordable housing delivery**, while empowering the communities that build and live in them.



The Housing Committee at **Housing for Women's Reconnect+ programme**, 13 March 2025

In May, the Committee report, '[Breaking the Cycle: Housing Needs for Women Leaving Prison](#)', detailed how the housing crisis affects women leaving prison and returning to London.

The report showed how **a chronic shortage of safe and affordable accommodation** suitable for women prison leavers, who often have complex needs, is **preventing women from rebuilding their lives** and **making it more likely they will reoffend and be forced to return to prison**.

The report recommended that **councils and housing associations should ringfence a proportion of their supported housing units for women released from prison**, and that **the Mayor should work with London boroughs** to ensure that best practice is followed across the city.

The Committee also held a discussion with experts to explore the different options for **financing social housing in the capital**.

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

Your Homes and Communities: Blue Plaques

In 2018, London celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first voting rights being given to women. To mark this, the London Assembly launched its #backtheplaque campaign to redress the gender balance of London's Blue Plaques.



When the Assembly launched its campaign, **just 14 percent of blue plaques in London** – 132 out of 944 – recognised the achievements of women.

The Assembly called on Londoners to suggest the names of 100 women who deserved recognition. Princess Diana's work to campaign against landmines and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS made her one of the most popular nominations. Other names recommended for recognition included equal rights campaigner Claudia Jones and suffragette Emily Davison.



The campaign gathered national media coverage – with the Guardian, BBC News and the Independent among those to report on the campaign – and significantly increased awareness of the gender imbalance in the capital's blue plaques.

In 2021, following the campaign, Princess Diana was announced as one of six women to be honoured with a blue plaque by English Heritage. Claudia Jones and Emily Davison were recognised with plaques two years later, in 2023.

Planning and Regeneration Committee



Deputy Chair
(May 2024 - October 2024)
Sem Moema AM
Labour



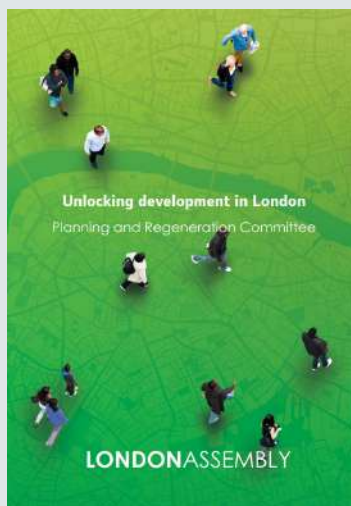
Chair
Andrew Boff AM
Conservative



Deputy Chair
(October 2024 - May 2025)
James Small-Edwards AM
Labour

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

The Planning and Regeneration Committee investigates **how the planning system helps, or hinders, the development and regeneration of London** into a modern city that meets Londoners' needs.



This year, the Committee began its work with an **in-depth look into the barriers to delivering housing in London**, and at **solutions that could help more homes be built.** The report, '**Unlocking Development in London**', recommended providing **more support be provided to small and medium-sized enterprises; and simplifying the London Plan.** It also recommended that the **GLA should do more to support the building of affordable homes on brownfield land.**



The Committee also considered the issue of tall buildings in London. Its report, '[Do Tall Buildings Work in London?](#)', recommended creating design standards for tall residential buildings in London, to ensure that new buildings meet the needs of the Londoners that live in them. The report also drew attention to **the lack of evidence about the sustainability and suitability of tall buildings and urged the GLA to gather more information about the issue.**



In April, the Committee considered the **Mayor's consultation on the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street.**

Committee Members visited Oxford Street and the surrounding area to hear from **residents' groups about the proposals. They also heard from groups representing businesses, Disabled Londoners, and others who will be affected by the proposals.**

In a **letter to the Mayor**, the Committee made clear that much **more detail on the Mayor's proposals for Oxford Street is still needed** to allow proper scrutiny of his plans.

The Committee also investigated how **social value is taken into account in planning and redevelopment – particularly in relation to markets and arches.**

The Committee report found that despite some pioneering work done by the Mayor, **social value is too often being lost when markets and arches are redeveloped.**

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

Your Homes and Communities: The 2012 Olympics

In 2003, the **Assembly Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee published a report setting out its support for the Government to bid for London to host the 2012 Olympic Games.**

In the run up to the Games, the Assembly investigated some of the challenges and benefits that hosting the Games would pose – making recommendations in a range of areas, including on how to ensure that the city's transport network could cope with the huge number of visitors to East London.



Nine years on from its report backing the bid, London delivered one of the greatest Olympic Games of the modern era.

But the Assembly's work on the Olympic Games' legacy has continued ever since. **In 2012, the Assembly approved the creation of a Mayoral Development Corporation to take control of the land around the Olympic Park to help with the regeneration of the area.**

Since then, the Assembly has investigated the work of the **LDDC** – looking at whether the redevelopment of the area has delivered the housing and services that London needs, while presenting good value for money to Londoners.



"I spent half of 25 years of the existence of the London Assembly at the Assembly over the terms of the first two Mayors of London, and **the proudest moment would have to be when London won the nomination to host the Olympics for 2012**, beating the favourite Paris, with the majority support of the Assembly. For a sporting City like London, it was important that we went one up on Paris - London 1, Paris 0 and hosting the Olympics for the third time."

Murad Qureshi, Former City Hall Labour AM 2004-2016

GLA Oversight Committee



Deputy Chair
Len Duvall OBE AM
Labour
(May 2024 - October 2024)



Chairman
Emma Best AM
Conservative



Deputy Chair
Bassam Mahfouz AM
Labour
(October 2024 - May 2025)

The **GLA Oversight Committee** considers a range of matters relating to the **effective operation of the GLA, scrutinises Mayoral Decisions; and leads the Assembly's scrutiny of issues not covered by the other committees.**

It also **sets and monitors the Assembly's budget and oversees the programming of Assembly business.**



The GLA Oversight Committee undertook an investigation on **cybersecurity. This was in light of a rising trend of cybersecurity incidents affecting public bodies; and the 2024 cyber incident affecting both TfL and the GLA.**

The Committee set out to understand where the weaknesses of public-sector organisations against cyber incidents are; and to identify emerging threats and potential solutions. It looked closely at **the effectiveness of the GLA Group's cyber security processes and how these measured up against industry good practice.**



The Committee also investigated the **Mayor of London's annual New Year's Eve firework display**. It found that **criminals have increasingly tried to dupe Londoners and tourists into purchasing fake tickets** for the event and **wrote to the Mayor**, urging him to conduct a public information campaign to warn about the risks of fake ticket selling websites and ticket touts.





Emma Best AM
Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee

"Last year, **fake tickets led to crowding at barriers and delays for legitimate ticket holders**, when people discovered that their tickets were not genuine and wouldn't allow them access. If someone has travelled from another city or country, this would completely ruin their New Year's Eve celebrations! **These fake tickets must be stamped out – and people should be warned** to not be fooled. [...]"



LONDONASSEMBLY



The Committee looked in detail at changes to **London's Resilience arrangements**, as well as a number of Mayoral Decisions taken over the previous year, including **Clean Air Night 2025; LFB's new headquarters**; and the **legal costs related to matters arising out of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry**.

Audit Panel



Deputy Chair
(May 2024 - January 2025)
Bassam Mahfouz AM
Labour



Chairman
Neil Garratt AM
Conservative



Deputy Chair
(January 2025 - May 2025)
Krupesh Hirani AM
Labour

The Audit Panel was established in line with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), recommending the establishment of audit committees.

CIPFA stresses that audit committees have a key role in corporate governance and should be clearly integrated into an authority's governance framework. An audit committee should be able to improve corporate focus on the issues arising from risk management, internal control and reporting.

The Audit Panel ensures that there is an anti-fraud culture at the GLA and promotes probity and good practice within the core GLA. It liaises with the external auditors over their annual programme and with the Mayor, as appropriate, to approve the annual internal audit programme.

It deals with matters arising from external and internal audit reports and letters and reviews the GLA's Risk Management Policy. It also considers reports on expenses incurred by elected Members and senior officers and gifts and hospitality received by elected Members and senior officers.

The Audit Panel will also consider the GLA's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, Policy and Response Plan.

During 2024-25 the Audit Panel consisted of four Assembly Members and met four times. It focused on internal audit reports; external audit updates; the corporate risk register; and monitoring expenses and taxable benefits. The Audit Panel also considered the register of gifts and hospitality for the Mayor, Members and staff; the Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer on Complaints about Elected Members; and the Draft Annual Governance Statement.

During the year the Audit Panel identified a series of inaccuracies in how the receipt of tickets for a Taylor Swift concert was declared by the Mayor and GLA officers.

Confirmation Hearings Committee

The Assembly may hold Confirmation Hearings when the Mayor proposes to make an appointment to certain offices.

The Mayor must notify the Assembly when he wishes to make an appointment to one of these offices. The Assembly has three weeks to respond to him with a recommendation as to whether the appointment should be confirmed.

The Assembly may request that a candidate attends a Confirmation Hearing to answer questions relating to the appointment before making a recommendation.

The Mayor may choose to accept or reject the Assembly recommendation and must notify the Assembly of his decision. The appointment cannot be made until the end of the confirmation process.



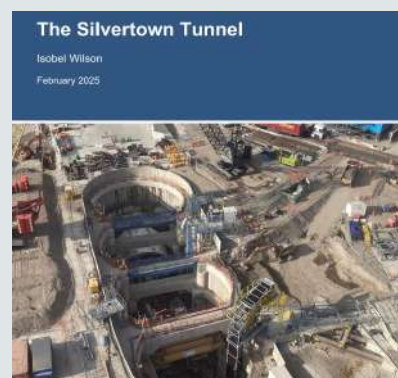
This year, the **Confirmation Hearings Committee** considered the appointments of:

- **Mete Coban MBE**
Chair of ReLondon.
- **Amanda Parker and Tom Sleigh**
Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board.
- **Dame Karen Buck**
Chair of the OPDC.
- **Suki Kalirai**
Chair of the LLDC.
- **Seb Dance**
Deputy Chair for TfL.

The London Assembly Research Unit

The **London Assembly Research Unit** provides an **impartial research and information service to Assembly Members**.

It undertakes **research and analysis on key issues in London** to inform the **Assembly's work**.



In 2024-25, the **Research Unit began to publish research briefings online**, for the benefit of both Assembly Members and the public.

It produced **29 pieces of work**.

These included:

- **Greater London Authority: powers and functions.**
Detailing the range of powers available to the GLA and the other major areas of its work, including on housing, the environment, planning, skills, resilience, culture, health and economic development.
- **Mayoral strategies in London.**
An overview of the existing Mayoral strategies, consultation requirements and the role of the London Assembly.
- **Devolution of power to the Mayor of London and Greater London Authority.**
A paper setting out the powers that have been devolved to date and discussing the calls that have been made for further devolution.
- **Mayoral decision-making processes in London.**
An overview of processes for making Mayoral decisions, including the role of the London Assembly.
- **Extreme heat and outdoor fires.**
An analysis to understand how many outdoor fires the LFB has been required to attend in recent years, where in London these incidents occurred, and the relationship to weather in the city – particularly high temperatures.
- **The electoral system for the London Mayor and Assembly.**
An explanation of how the GLA elections work, including legislation, current and previous voting systems, comparison with other parliaments, voter turnout and key issues for the 2024 elections.
- **Understanding the revised National Planning Policy Framework (2024).**
A topical post explaining revisions to the NPPF and how they could affect Londoners.
- **Monitoring the GLA's affordable housing delivery.**
Visualisations showing delivery of the Mayor's Affordable Homes Programme.
- **London's housing stock.**
A paper presenting analysis of London's housing stock, including the number, type, size, condition, tenure, cost and sustainability of homes.

Your Voice

The Assembly works with a range of organisations to understand the views, needs and concerns of Londoners. This year, this has included:



One way in which your voice can be heard at the Assembly is through petitions.

The London Assembly **welcomes the public to submit petitions relating to the work of the Mayor, the Assembly or any of the GLA's functional bodies.**

Members of the public can write to an Assembly Member, asking them to present their petition on their behalf at a meeting of the full Assembly.

Last year, petitions presented by Members on behalf of Londoners covered areas such as the proposed East London Waterworks Park; the planned closure of Coldharbour Police Base – a decision that has since been reversed; and concerns around the Silvertown Tunnel.

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

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The London Youth Assembly



"We discuss the issues that matter to young people, and – more than ever before – we make sure that young voices are heard at City Hall."

Ashan Khehra, Chair of the London Youth Assembly 2024-25

The LYA brings together representatives from different youth forums across London to create positive change for young people.

Getting young Londoners engaged and involved in the running of their city is an important objective for the London Assembly. These young Londoners are enthusiastic about bringing issues that matter to them to the forefront of local politics.

The LYA holds quarterly meetings in the Chamber at City Hall, allowing LYA members to showcase matters of importance to young Londoners.

The LYA's representatives also take part in four sub-regional groups.

The Chair of the LYA for 2024-25 was Ashan Khehra, and the Deputy Chair was Jemima- Helen Tshondo.

In September, the LYA formed a shadow Cabinet with LYA Members. This mirrors the Assembly's own Committees, and ensures that young voices are increasingly at the heart of Assembly scrutiny activity.

The LYA provided evidence and input into a range of London Assembly investigations including the Transport Committee's accessibility and inclusion in transport planning; the Environment Committee's swimmable river investigation; and the Economy, Skills and Culture Committee's investigation into Care Leavers not in Employment, Education or Training.



The London Youth Achievement Awards



In May, the inaugural London Youth Achievement Awards were held to honour the impact that young people make in London.

The **Youth Assembly** worked in close collaboration with the **London Assembly** to deliver a ceremony at **City Hall**, at which **awards** were given to **eight inspiring young Londoners**.

The Award Winners, chosen by Committees formed of Youth Assembly and London Assembly Members, were:



Best Initiative Award: Big-Chill Out, Lamar Big Jackson

Lamar's Big-Chill Out initiative gives boys experiencing isolation and boredom – and who may be at risk of exposure to crime – a space to express themselves and have meaningful conversations in a supportive environment.



Greener London Award: Gabriella Kathrine Brown

Croydon Youth Assembly chair Gabriella has organised regular litter picks and collaborated with organisations including Stanley Arts and Kew Gardens to raise awareness of environmental issues.



Community Safety Award: Isabella Tanner Co-chair of Merton Youth Parliament

Isabella worked to try to create trust and break down barriers between the Met and young people in Merton. Isabella worked with the Met on a workshop to show young people the challenges officers face and coordinated an event at AFC Wimbledon where young people acted as Superintendent for a day.



Inclusion and Diversity Award: Strength in Difference, J Grange

J's Strength in Difference initiative raises awareness of neurodiversity in the Borough of Waltham Forest.

He works with schools, businesses, charities and others to enhance their understanding of neurodiversity.



Young Carer Award: Anton Oduneye

Anton offers his time as a volunteer to support new Year 7 students at his former school – mentoring, providing support with attendance, and carrying out more “invaluable” work, in the words of his former teacher.

Anton continues to work in the Borough of Barking and Dagenham and will be helping to organise events including the Young People's Safety Summit.



Outstanding Achievement Award: Maryjane Jenkin

Following a family tragedy, Maryjane set out to raise money for Cancer Research through a sponsored walk – despite the additional challenges of a mobility impairment, and with exams to revise for. Maryjane's perseverance helped her to complete her fundraising walk and successfully complete her exams.



Young Leader Award: Mohammed Asraf

Mohammed organised a pop-up food bank at Featherstone Sports Centre in Southall to give away food, household necessities and toys just before Christmas. Mohammed is already busy planning further pop-up events, learning lessons from his Christmas event to provide even greater support to his community in future.



Young Media Champion Award: Nandini Patel

Nandini built an online space where young girls could learn henna techniques and explore media as a means of self-expression. She also actively participated in local community events, offering free henna sessions while teaching girls how to share their talents online.

Committee Memberships

Assembly Committees were re-formed for 2025-26 at the Assembly's Annual Meeting on 6 May.

Audit Panel

Neil Garratt AM (Chairman)
Krupesh Hirani AM (Deputy Chair)
James Small-Edwards AM
Alex Wilson AM

Economy, Culture and Skills Committee

Hina Bokhari OBE AM (Chair)
Anne Clarke AM (Deputy Chair)
Marina Ahmad AM
Unmesh Desai AM
Neil Garratt AM
Alessandro Georgiou AM
Zack Polanski AM

Budget and Performance Committee

Neil Garratt AM (Chairman)
Krupesh Hirani AM (Deputy Chair)
Anne Clarke AM
Unmesh Desai AM
Bassam Mahfouz AM
Zack Polanski AM
Gareth Roberts AM
Alessandro Georgiou AM
Susan Hall AM

Environment Committee

Léonie Cooper AM (Chair)
Thomas Turrell AM (Deputy Chairman)
Bassam Mahfouz AM
Joanne McCartney AM
Zack Polanski AM
Keith Prince AM
Gareth Roberts AM

Confirmation Hearings Committee

Elly Baker AM
Susan Hall AM
Caroline Russell AM
James Small-Edwards AM
Alex Wilson AM

Fire Committee

Zack Polanski AM (Chair)
Anne Clarke AM (Deputy Chair)
Léonie Cooper AM
Susan Hall AM
Hina Bokhari OBE AM
Thomas Turrell AM

Devolution Working Group

Bassam Mahfouz AM (Chair)
Emma Best AM (Deputy Chairman)
Hina Bokhari OBE AM
Caroline Russell AM

GLA Oversight Committee

Bassam Mahfouz AM (Chair)
Emma Best AM (Deputy Chairman)
Caroline Russell AM
Elly Baker AM
Hina Bokhari OBE AM
Len Duvall OBE AM
Alessandro Georgiou AM
Joanne McCartney AM
Keith Prince AM

Police and Crime Committee

Marina Ahmad AM (Chair)
Susan Hall AM (Deputy Chairman)
Emma Best AM
The Lord Bailey of Paddington AM
Léonie Cooper AM
Len Duvall OBE AM
Zoë Garbett AM
Gareth Roberts AM
James Small-Edwards AM

Health Committee

Emma Best AM (Chairman)
Krupesh Hirani AM (Deputy Chair)
Marina Ahmad AM
Andrew Boff AM
Alex Wilson AM

Transport Committee

Elly Baker AM (Chair)
Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman)
Hina Bokhari OBE AM
Unmesh Desai AM
Neil Garratt AM
Joanne McCartney AM
Sem Moema AM
Caroline Russell AM
Thomas Turrell AM

Housing Committee

Zoë Garbett AM (Chair)
Sem Moema AM (Deputy Chair)
The Lord Bailey of Paddington AM
Andrew Boff AM
Leonié Cooper AM
James Small-Edwards AM

Planning and Regeneration Committee

James Small-Edwards AM (Chair)
Andrew Boff AM (Deputy Chair)
Elly Baker AM
The Lord Bailey of Paddington AM
Zoë Garbett AM
Sem Moema AM

Secretariat Budget

Assembly Secretariat	Budget £000's	Actuals £000's	Variance to Budget £000's
Assembly Communications	469	525	56
Committee Services	819	758	(61)
Executive Director	379	397	18
Member Services	2,126	2,216	89
Member Services (Con)	886	706	(180)
Member Services (Green)	326	296	(30)
Member Services (Lab)	1,211	1,007	(204)
Member Services (Lib)	218	173	(45)
Member Services (Reform)	93	56	(36)
Scrutiny	1,898	1,793	(105)
London Travel Watch	1,182	1,182	-
Total	9,607	9,108	(499)

Summary

The year end position for Assembly and Secretariat is £499,000 underspent against full year budgets.

This comprises the following:

- A large proportion of this underspend is driven by post-election in-year changes to Group budgets, the preceding recruitment freeze and the subsequent need to complete restructures and recruitment.
- Underspends in the Committee Service and Scrutiny lines relate to delays to a GLA led project on the accessibility of GLA formal meetings and staffing underspend respectively.
- These figures are offset by a notional overspend showing against the Member Services budget line and which relates to resettlement grant payments (these payments are in fact met from the Assembly reserve as standalone costs). The overspend against the Assembly Communications team budget relates to staffing matters. The overspend against the Executive Director land reflects a miscoding of costs relating to the use of the Caseworker correspondence system.

LONDON ASSEMBLY 25

25 years of standing up for Londoners

Keep in touch

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