

LONDON ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26



LONDON ASSEMBLY

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Foreword

Lord Duvall of Woolwich OBE AM

Chair of the London Assembly 2025-26



The London Assembly is the voice of London. We are 25 Members, elected at the same time as the Mayor, with a job to hold him to account and to scrutinise the decisions he takes on behalf of Londoners.

This year was a milestone. It marked 25 years since Londoners voted to create the Greater London Authority (GLA), the London Mayoralty and the London Assembly. A quarter of a century on, our purpose remains the same as it was at the start of this millennium.

We are here to make sure that the Mayor spends his budget – public money – of over £20 billion wisely; that his promises to Londoners are kept; and that the issues that matter most to the people of this city are heard and acted upon.

It was also a year of change for London's governance. As the Government brought forward its devolution reforms – including the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill – the Assembly examined what they mean for London, and for the powers this city needs to deliver for its residents.

With the Mayor a third of the way through his current term, our Committees turned to the delivery of his commitments and to the challenges facing Londoners every day. Over the year they investigated:

- the cost and supply of housing
- confidence in policing and the reform of the Metropolitan Police (the Met)
- the health of Londoners and the inequalities between them
- the future of our transport network
- the path to a cleaner, greener and more resilient city.

Through our reports, letters and events, we made recommendations, and pressed for change from the Mayor, Government and other organisations.

Throughout, we kept Londoners at the heart of our work.

We heard directly from people across the capital, through our calls for evidence and surveys; site visits to communities, hospitals, fire stations, parks and high streets; and meetings that brought Londoners and the organisations that represent them into City Hall.

Their experiences shaped what we found and what we called for.

I would encourage every Londoner to take part in our work – to respond when we publish a call for evidence or survey, to join us at a meeting in person or online, and to put questions to the Mayor through us. This is your London government, and it works best when Londoners help us to hold it to account.



London Assembly Members

[Marina Ahmad AM](#)

[The Lord Bailey of Paddington AM](#)

[Elly Baker AM](#)

[Emma Best AM](#)

[Andrew Boff AM](#)

[Hina Bokhari OBE AM](#)

[Anne Clarke AM](#)

[Leonie Cooper AM](#)

[Unmesh Desai AM](#)

[Lord Duvall of Woolwich OBE AM](#)

[Zoë Garbett AM](#)

[Neil Garratt AM](#)

[Alessandro Georgiou AM](#)

[Susan Hall AM](#)

[Krupesh Hirani AM](#)

[Bassam Mahfouz AM](#)

[Joanne McCartney AM](#)

[Sem Moema AM](#)

[Zack Polanski AM](#)

[Keith Prince AM](#)

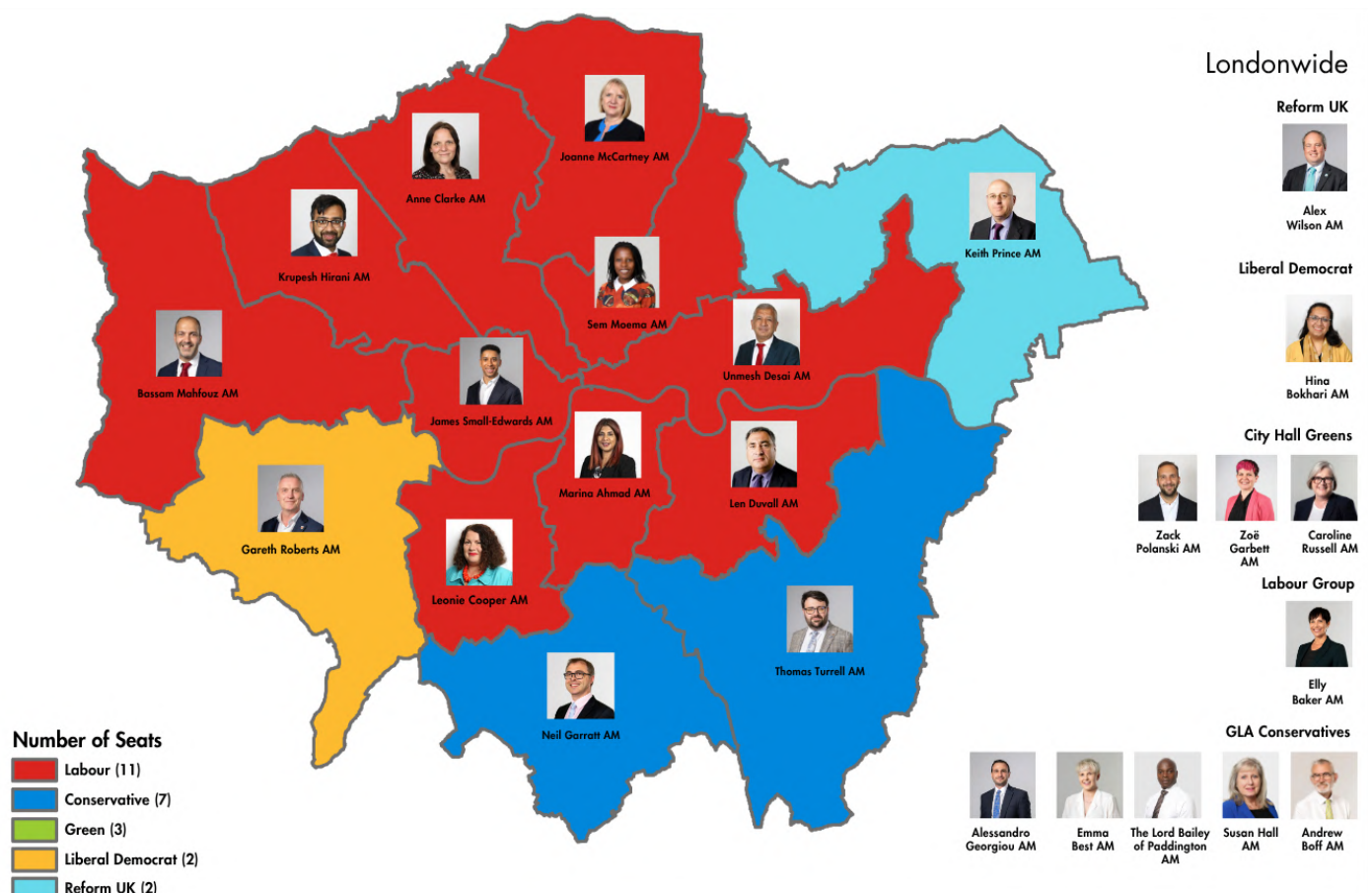
[Gareth Roberts AM](#)

[Caroline Russell AM](#)

[James Small-Edwards AM](#)

[Thomas Turrell AM](#)

[Alex Wilson AM](#)



WHAT THE LONDON ASSEMBLY DOES



The role of the London Assembly

The London Assembly is a crucial check on the Mayor of London's powers. As the most powerful directly elected politician in the UK, it is important that the Mayor is held publicly and democratically accountable.

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

That is the primary job for the 25 London Assembly Members, who are elected every four years at the same time as the Mayor.

Eleven Members represent the whole capital and 14 are elected by constituencies. **More information about the election process can be found [here](#).**

The Assembly appoints a Chair and Deputy Chair, from among its Members, for a one-year term. Each Committee also appoints a Chair and Deputy Chair, each year, to lead cross-party committees.

Holding the Mayor to account

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. The Mayor is expected to respond to Assembly motions and formal recommendations; and is questioned ten times a year at Mayor's Question Time.

The Mayor must also consult Assembly Members before producing statutory strategies and the multi-billion-pound budget for the GLA Group. The Assembly can reject the Mayor's strategies, and amend the draft budget, if a two-thirds majority agrees.

Assembly meetings are open to the public. This means that Londoners can stay informed about the activities of the Mayor and the Assembly; and that their performance can be publicly reviewed.

Investigating issues and influencing policy

As well as examining the Mayor's actions and decisions, Assembly Members act as champions for Londoners by investigating issues that are important to the capital. These range from improving the economy, and public and emergency services, to looking at emerging issues such as virus outbreaks. Investigations are carried out by cross-party committees covering areas such as transport, policing, housing and planning, the economy, health and the environment.

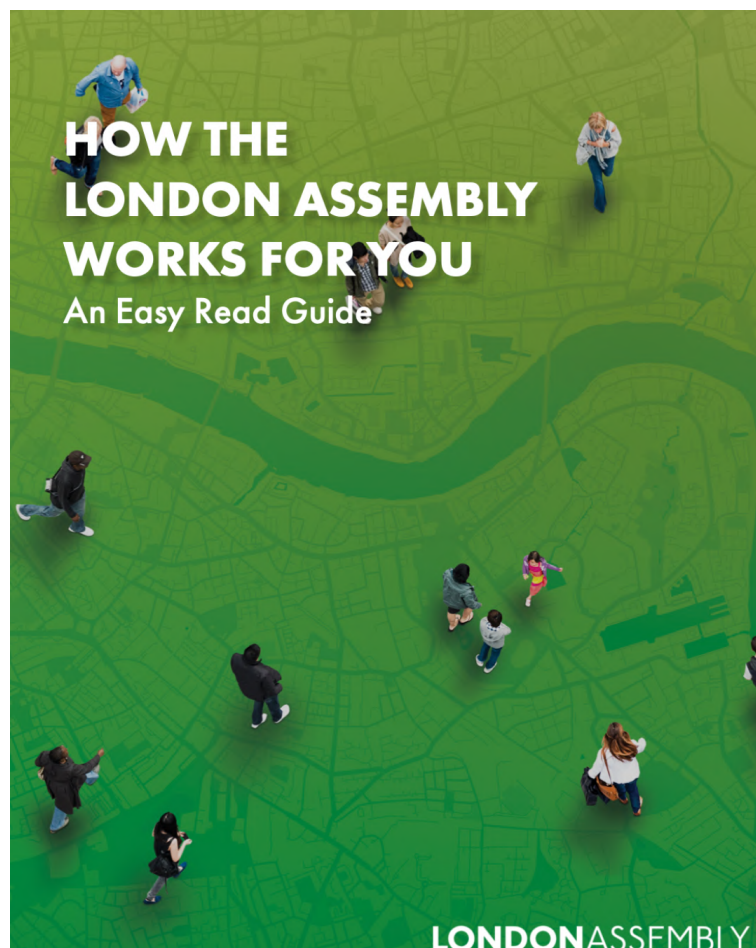
Through this work, the Assembly can press for changes to national, Mayoral or local policy.

Transparency and performance

The Assembly is committed to transparency and monitoring performance, providing regular updates on its work and spending. The Assembly largely conducts its formal business and takes decisions at public meetings. In some cases, individual Members may take decisions under delegated authority. These are formally recorded and reported back to the Assembly or relevant Committee as soon as practicable.

The Oversight Committee considers quarterly updates on Assembly scrutiny activity and budget reports, and the Assembly publishes an Annual Report to ensure its work remains open and accessible to Londoners.

For more information, see [How the London Assembly works for you: An Easy Read guide \(2025\)](#).



YOUR ASSEMBLY



Plenary – Meetings of the Whole Assembly

Plenary meetings bring the whole Assembly together to discuss critical issues facing the capital and to call for change on the issues that matter to Londoners. The Assembly uses its plenary sessions to hold key organisations to account, including Transport for London (TfL), the London Fire Brigade (LFB), the Metropolitan Police Service (Met).

Following these sessions, Assembly Members debate and vote on Motions put forward by different Groups or individual Members. These Motions may relate to topical issues in the news, or matters of importance to Londoners, often reflecting issues arising in Member's constituencies.

In **May 2025**, the London Assembly Annual Meeting focused largely on formal business for the new Assembly year. However, it also marked the Assembly's 25th anniversary with speeches from Florence Eshalomi MP and journalist Ross Lydall. This session provided an opportunity to look back on the Assembly's achievements, whilst emphasising the opportunities for future evolution.

In **June**, the Assembly's main focus was on scrutinising the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy. There was a detailed question-and-answer session with senior health and policy experts, exploring the key health challenges facing Londoners and how they are being addressed.

For the **July Plenary session**, the Assembly questioned the Mayor of London and the Commissioner of TfL on TfL's performance, priorities and challenges for 2025-26. It also scrutinised the Mayor's proposals to designate a Mayoral Development Area for Oxford Street. For this, it heard from GLA officials and considered the Planning and Regeneration Committee response to consultation on the plans.



In **August** the Assembly held an Extraordinary Plenary session. The Assembly questioned the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and senior Metropolitan Police leadership on proposals to cut some police station front counters across London, and reduce the opening hours for others. This scrutinised the potential impact on public access to policing services.

In **November**, the Assembly questioned the Mayor of London and the Commissioner of the Met on policing in London. This focused on efforts to keep Londoners safe, and to support ongoing reform of the Met.

In **December**, Assembly scrutiny focused on housing and planning in London. Members questioned senior GLA leaders on delivery, priorities and challenges across the capital's housing and planning agenda.

For the **January Plenary session**, the Assembly fulfilled one of its key statutory functions: considering the Mayor's draft Consolidated Budget for 2026-27. It questioned the Mayor and senior officials on spending priorities and considered proposed amendments as part of the budget-setting process.

In **February**, the Assembly spoke to representatives of fire and rescue services in London. It questioned the Deputy Mayor for Fire, and the London Fire Commissioner, on key fire- safety risks and the actions being taken to address them.

The **last Plenary session of the financial year** focused on London's economy, jobs and growth. The Assembly questioned the Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, and external stakeholders, on the Mayor's Growth Plan – including the key challenges and opportunities facing London's economy.



Mayor's Question Time (MQT)

The Assembly questions the Mayor in public ten times a year, as part of its role in holding him to account. Mayor's Question Time (MQT) covers the full range of the Mayor's responsibilities – including policing; the fire service; regeneration; transport, and wider issues of concern to Londoners.

In 2025-26, a total of 4,931 questions were submitted for answer.

Questions that are not answered during the meeting receive written responses; these are published on the London Assembly website. The questions asked, and the answers received, form an important part of the Assembly's scrutiny role; and are publicly accessible.

Members of the public can also submit questions for the Mayor, which Assembly Members may raise on their behalf.



[Search a question](#)



[Suggest a question](#)

Petitions

The London Assembly accepts petitions from Londoners on issues that are impacting them – as long as they relate to the work of the Mayor, or any of the GLA functional bodies; or are of importance to the people who visit, work or live in Greater London.

Any Assembly Members can then present the petition to a London Assembly Plenary meeting. The Assembly will decide who the petition should be sent to for formal response. That might be the Mayor, a Deputy Mayor, or the Chair of a Mayoral Development Corporation.

In 2025-26, 15 petitions were received by the Assembly – all of which were sent for response to either the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, or the Deputy Mayor for Transport.

Petitions received in 2025-26 focused on a variety of issues, including:

- provision of local bus services
- closure of Metropolitan Police Service front counters
- step-free access at London Underground stations
- use of Green Belt land for development.



[Past petitions](#)

People's Question Time (PQT)

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 is run twice each year, typically covering topics such as transport, policing and safety, housing, and the environment.

PQT is a free event, open to all Londoners. Each one takes place in a different part of London, to support wide participation. The event is structured around a series of core topics. Questions are taken live from both in-person and online audiences, alongside a final open section for issues outside the main themes.

The first PQT of 2025-26 was held in September 2025, in Hammersmith and Fulham. Chaired by broadcaster Charlene White, the event brought together the Mayor and Assembly Members to answer questions from Londoners – both in person and online.

In March 2026, PQT was held in Greenwich. Londoners could watch without registering, and submit questions to the panel as part of the live discussion.

You can watch the recorded events back at the pages for the [September 2025 PQT](#) and the [March 2026 PQT](#).

The next PQT will take place in early autumn 2026.



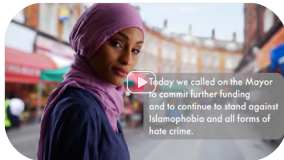
Motion highlights

Motions are formal proposals put forward by Assembly Members and Party Groups that – once debated and agreed – become official statements of the Assembly’s view on issues affecting Londoners.

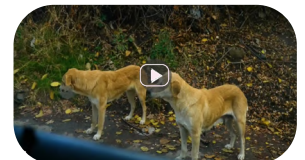
Selected topics may reflect live issues of note; or issues that have been raised with Assembly Members by constituents or community groups. They are discussed at Assembly meetings (typically Plenaries); if agreed by a vote, the Assembly can call on the Mayor, the Government or other organisations to take action or draw attention to key concerns.

The following motions were agreed unanimously in 2025-26:

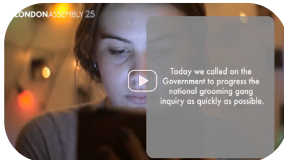
Standing Against Islamophobia



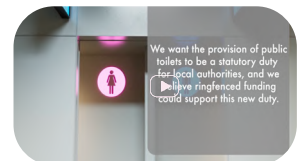
Raise awareness of microchipping to deter abandonment of dogs



Justice for Grooming Gang Victims



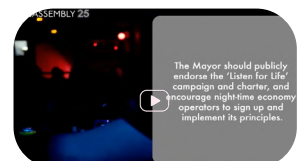
The Nighttime Economy and Public Toilet Provision



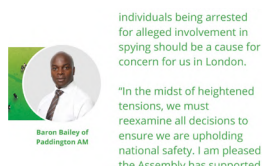
Heathrow Expansion



Protect the ears of London's night-time economy workers



Chinese Embassy



Urgent Motion: Bus Driver Mr Mark Hehir



London Youth Assembly

The **London Youth Assembly (LYA)** brings together representatives from different youth forums across London, and each of its boroughs, to create positive change for young people. Getting young Londoners engaged and involved in the running of their city – and being able to hear directly from them – is an important priority for the London Assembly.

This group of young Londoners are enthusiastic about bringing issues that matter to them to the forefront of local and regional politics. The LYA holds quarterly meetings in the Chamber at City Hall. This allows its members to showcase matters of importance to young Londoners; and build a range of new skills.

The Chair of the LYA for 2025-26 was Hugo Maxwell, and the Deputy Chair was Mia Mormah.

In September, the LYA expanded its shadow Cabinet to mirror the Assembly Committees, to ensure that young voices are increasingly at the heart of Assembly scrutiny activity.

The LYA's priorities for the year focused on building political awareness and education, mental health and supporting employability and skills for all.



In 2025-26, for the first time, the LYA proposed a motion to the London Assembly.

[Assembly calls for the rollout of bus bleed kits across London](#)



In March 2026, the LYA collaborated with the Assembly to deliver the Chair's event for 2026: **Hopes & Dreams**, a half-day of talks, networking and workshops. Young people came to hear from policy makers, industry professionals and peers on the LYA's priority issues.



25 Years of the Assembly

As part of the GLA's 25th anniversary, the Assembly held a series of events to reflect on a quarter of a century of holding the Mayor to account.

These events aimed to capture the lessons learned over this period; and to look ahead to the future of scrutiny in the capital. They had a particular focus on the impact of a changing devolved landscape; and the young Londoners who will shape the city's next 25 years.

In October 2025, the Assembly held a conference, at City Hall, on the future of Mayoral scrutiny.

This one-day event provided a forum to reflect on the experience of Mayoral and sub-national scrutiny; and on future challenges and opportunities, in the context of major devolution reform.



The conference was held with the **Centre for Governance and the Scrutiny team**; and brought together scrutiny practitioners (both elected members and officials) from across England, as well as colleagues from government, academia and civil society.

The conference was addressed by The Rt Hon the Lord Heseltine CH; and Nik Johnson, former Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Its panels and workshops aimed to support the sharing of good practice in mayoral scrutiny, across established and emerging regional authorities; and to inform further Government work in this area.



The Assembly held the inaugural **London Youth Achievement Awards Ceremony**. For this, it worked closely with the LYA to recognise the valuable impact of young people in the capital. The event showcased and celebrated the breadth of inspirational activities and achievements accomplished by young people across London.

It will now be part of the Assembly's annual calendar.



In collaboration with **Make Votes Matter**, the Assembly hosted **Beyond the Ballot: Building a Political Culture that Engages Young People**. This cross-party event brought together politicians from every major party to discuss how to tackle the barriers to youth participation, in the context of introducing votes at 16. Young people from a range of backgrounds were invited to City Hall to hear from and question the panellists on youth participation in politics; the voting system; political communications; and political culture.

The Assembly held a cross-party **Parliamentary reception at the Palace of Westminster**. This brought together current and former Assembly Members, and the prominent stakeholders who have contributed to its work over 25 years. The reception was co-sponsored by **Lord Duvall of Woolwich OBE AM, Lord Bailey of Paddington AM, Lord Harris of Haringey, Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb and Baroness Pidgeon MBE. Baroness Taylor of Stevenage** addressed the audience on the crucial role of scrutiny in a context of expanding Mayoral powers.

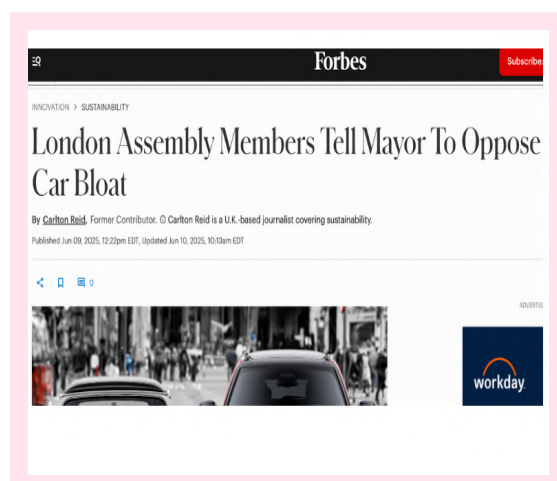


Assembly in the media

Media engagement remains an important way for the Assembly to use its platform, and raise awareness of issues affecting Londoners.

Apart from usual topical Committee meetings and investigations, the Assembly also promotes its all-Assembly meetings, cross-party motions and the LYA.

Examples of coverage secured during the year include the following:



The year in review



LONDON ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE WORK

Accessibility and Inclusion in Transport Planning

Transport Committee

February 2026



Neighbourhood Policing: the experience of young Londoners

Police and Crime Committee

February 2026



Gridlocked: how planning can ease London's electricity constraints

Planning and Regeneration Committee

December 2025



Assessing delivery, challenges and opportunities of the Mayor's Affordable Homes Programme

Housing Committee

January 2026



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Trusting London to deliver: our place in the Government's devolution reforms

GLA Oversight Committee

September 2025



Swimmable rivers: Towards clean and healthy waterways in London

Environment Committee

September 2025



Employment in London after prison

Economy, Culture and Skills Committee

January 2026



Euston we have a problem: Mind the funding gap

Budget and Performance Committee

November 2025



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YOUR MONEY



Economy, Culture and Skills Committee

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



Chair
Hina Bokhari OBE AM
London Assembly Liberal Democrats



Deputy Chair
Anne Clarke AM
The Labour Group

Care leavers and employment

In May, the Committee published its [Careers after care](#) report. This examined the barriers facing care-experienced young people; and recommended actions to support their education and employment. The report was informed by the experiences of young care leavers who spoke to the Committee. When published, it was highlighted in the [Standard](#); and drew supportive responses from the Drive Forward Foundation, and the National Network for the Education of Care Leavers.

Universal Basic Income

The Committee launched this investigation in June, with a site visit to the community group Grange Big Local in East Finchley. It also commissioned survey questions through the GLA's monthly poll of Londoners. Its report, [Universal Basic Income in London: a review](#), was published in September; this set out the range of views expressed in the Committee's survey, giving the pros and cons of a UBI in the capital.

Employment for prison leavers

The Committee launched a call for evidence; and held meetings with panels of expert guests, including employers who specialise in recruiting prison leavers. The Committee also visited the Dusty Knuckle bakery in Dalston (which employs prison leavers).

Its report, [Employment in London after prison](#), was published in January; this made recommendations to the Mayor, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Government. The report was praised by the organisation Switchback; and by Lord Timpson (at that time, the Justice Minister), who expressed support for the report's recommendation on spending the Adult Skills Fund on prisoners.

The declining number of children in London

The Committee's investigation responded to rising concern about the number of families leaving London, as seen in the growing number of school closures across the capital. It was informed by:

- a briefing from the City Intelligence Unit
- input from experts including the demographer Dr Bernice Kuang
- a public call for evidence
- Freedom of Information requests to boroughs.

The Committee looked at school closures, and the wider question of how to make London a more child-friendly city. The report, [A London for every child: reversing the city's declining child population](#), was launched at a school in Camden and was covered by ITV, MyLondon, the Architects' Journal and the Financial Times called for London to work towards becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City.

Unpaid carers

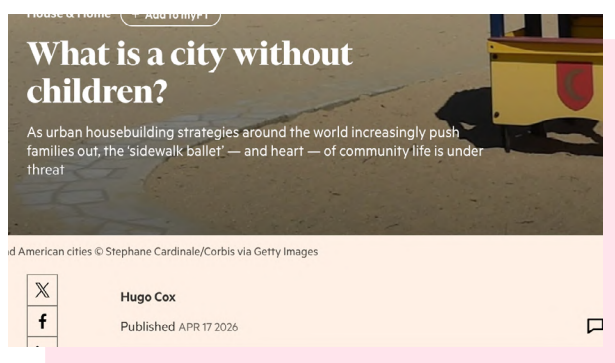
The Committee held a series of meetings on the issues facing unpaid carers this included a roundtable with carers. The Committee decided to focus on this issue following significant national interest and wanted to understand the current challenges facing [London's unpaid carers](#). Its report, London's unpaid carers, was endorsed by Carers UK. It recommended a review of Carer's Allowance a feasibility assessment for extending free TfL travel to carers and an extension of the Young Carers in Schools programme.

Wider economy, culture and skills work

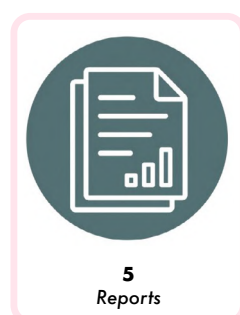
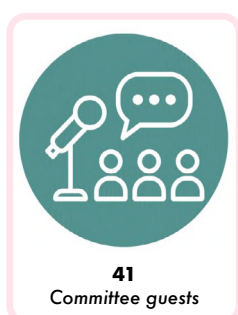
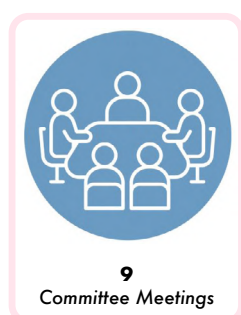
The Committee wrote to the Mayor on [the role of major sporting events in boosting London's economy](#) and on [broadband connectivity and digital exclusion](#) (the Mayor committed to continue making representations to the Government on Project Gigabit). In February, it held a meeting on [credit unions, or community banks, and wrote to the Mayor](#) recommending partnerships between GLA Group bodies and credit unions. In March it scrutinised the London Growth Plan, questioning the Deputy Mayor for Business on the GLA's inclusive talent and business-support elements.

[What is a city without children?](#) - Financial Times – Declining number of children in London

[Read the report in full.](#)



YEAR IN REVIEW



Budget and Performance Committee

The Budget and Performance Committee examines the Mayor's draft budget before it is voted on by Assembly Members, and scrutinises the performance of the GLA Group. The Mayor's budget totals over £20 billion annually.



Chairman
Neil Garratt AM
City Hall Conservatives Group



Deputy Chair
Krupesh Hirani AM
The Labour Group

Funding and building transport infrastructure

In July, the Committee launched an investigation into how to fund and deliver major transport infrastructure at low cost. It examined funding sources, including fares, government contributions and private investment and considered schemes such as the DLR extension to Thamesmead.

The Committee examined low-cost delivery, drawing on the case for the Bakerloo Line Extension examples from other European countries and themes of project planning, procurement and workforce development. Its report, [Euston, we have a problem: Mind the funding gap](#), recommended support for the DLR extension to Thamesmead. The Government subsequently announced a funding model reflecting the approach recommended by the Committee.

The climate budget

In May, the Committee wrote to the Mayor with suggestions for [improving the process behind the climate budget](#), with an emphasis on communicating climate-related investment more effectively to Londoners and building public understanding and support.

Mayor's 2024 Manifesto Commitments

In September, the Committee reviewed [progress on the Mayor's 2024 manifesto commitments](#) and wrote to the Mayor with recommendations on how the delivery of his manifesto could be clarified.

The Mayor's 2026-27 budget

In October, the Committee began its annual scrutiny of the Mayor's proposed budget. It started with expert panels on policing, housing and transport. It then examined the draft 2026-27 budgets for the GLA the Mayor, the London Fire Commissioner, MOPAC and the Met TfL; and Affordable Housing.

The Committee [published a series of letters making recommendations](#); this led to a set of actions from the Mayor, MOPAC, the Met and the London Fire Commissioner, including:

- committing to introduce headcount figures in future budget submissions
- the Mayor confirming a £51 million saving on free school meals in the January Consolidated Budget
- the Mayor agreeing to work with the London Fire Commissioner, and the Government, on long-term funding for the Modern Firefighting Training Programme.

In February, the Committee held a meeting with the Mayor on:

- the extra £143 million included in the Mayor's budget
- the GLA's proposed savings and efficiency programme.

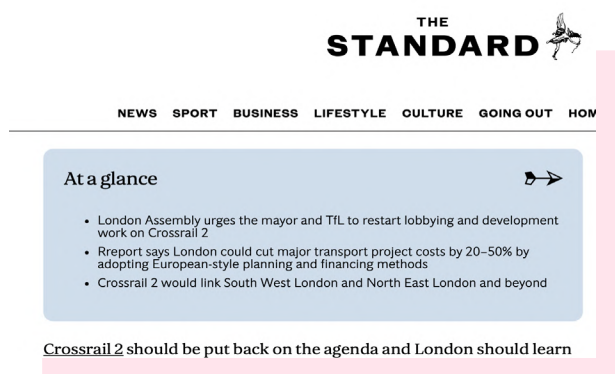
Across the annual budget scrutiny process, the Mayor and (on the Mayor's behalf) TfL have responded to 50 of the 52 recommendations on various aspects of the budget process. These include giving additional or clearer information on budget proposals and challenges. In his responses, the Mayor fully accepted 25 recommendations, and partially accepted 16.

In March, the Committee considered the Oxford Street Development Corporation budget. It examined the project's £144 million capital programme the repayment of borrowing; and accessibility along Oxford Street.

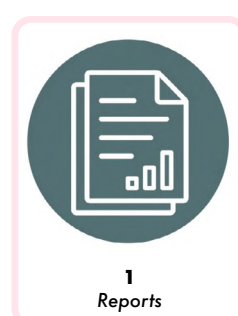
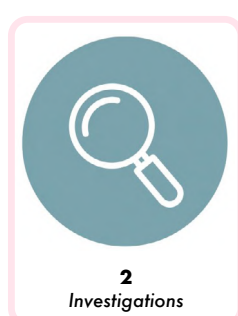
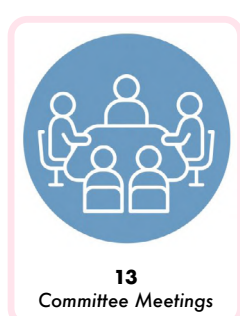
[Crossrail 2: Elizabeth line successor 'could be delivered if London learns lessons from Europe'](#)

– The Standard – Funding infrastructure projects

[Read the report in full.](#)



YEAR IN REVIEW



YOUR ENVIRONMENT



Environment Committee

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



Chair
Leonie Cooper AM
The Labour Group



Deputy Chairman
Thomas Turrell AM
City Hall Conservatives Group

Net zero

In May, the Committee published its report, [Involving Londoners in the pathway to net zero by 2030](#). The findings were presented during London Climate Action Week at a Centre for Cities roundtable with Minister Kerry McCarthy. The GLA has since begun developing a new climate action plan with the London Partnership Board and boroughs.

Trees in a changing climate

Also in May, the Committee examined [London's trees in a changing climate](#). It heard how new research is clarifying which trees can survive the more extreme climate expected in London in coming years. The Committee also visited Kew Gardens to hear briefings from their experts. It wrote to the Mayor, and to the Secretary of State for Environment, seeking stronger protections for London trees that are over 100 years old.

The London Plan and nature

In June, the Committee explored the London Plan, in the context of the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Committee [wrote a letter to the Mayor](#), highlighting the need for more focus on private gardens in the London Plan. This is a significant opportunity area that contributes to urban biodiversity and sustainable water management.

Parks for London

In July, the Committee examined Parks for London, looking at the Mayor's support for parks and their state across the capital. As part of this, the Committee visited three central London parks. Its report, [Parks: Under Pressure](#), set out practical steps to support the capital's green spaces – with an emphasis on equal access and climate adaptation.

The Environment Forum

In February, the Committee held an Environment Forum at City Hall. This brought together over 70 participants working on natural spaces such as parks, rivers and lakes, energy and climate and air quality. There were contributions from journalist Lucy Siegle and former Chair of the Environment Agency, Emma Howard Boyd. In March, the Committee used the outcomes, and a parallel call for evidence, to scrutinise the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban MBE, on his plans and priorities.

Swimmable rivers, healthy waterways

The Committee report, [Swimmable rivers: Towards clean and healthy waterways in London](#), called on the Mayor to set ambitious, transparent targets for cleaning up London's rivers and presented recommendations to make them healthier and more accessible. The report called for targets for improving specific sites – including designating four new sites as bathing waters by 2028, and another six by 2034. It recommended this action should come with a clear delivery plan, year by year. The Committee visited a site in Ham to launch its report it was later designated as London's first bathing-water spot, and opened in summer 2026.

The Committee also released statements on the ownership of Thames Water and on the Teddington water abstraction scheme.

Climate finance and Heathrow expansion

In September, the Committee examined how London can scale up climate finance to reach net zero. In October, following the Government's backing of a third Heathrow runway, it examined the environmental implications of expansion – looking at noise, air quality and compatibility with London's climate goals. It made site visits to Epping Forest and Biggin Hill Airport and [wrote to the Government on Heathrow expansion](#), and to the [Mayor on financing London's climate response](#).

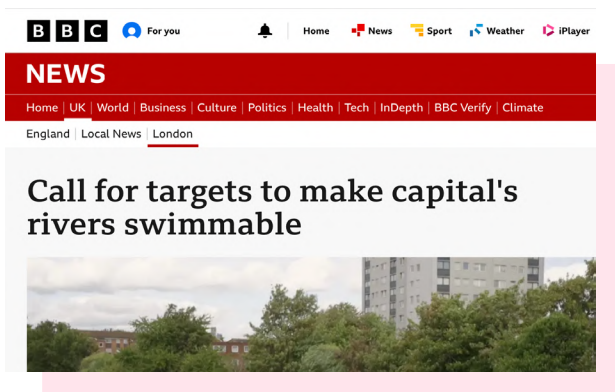
Heat networks

The Committee ran a major investigation into heat networks, in the context of the Government's Warm Homes Plan. It heard evidence on heat-network technology and zoning this came from waste-heat providers and, on the consumer side, Peabody and Citizens Advice. The Committee visited two heat network sites in London: the Bunhill network in Islington, and the Hemiko network on the Greenwich peninsula. In March, it [wrote to the Government urging price protection for Londoners on heat networks](#). This call covered in national media outlets including the Sun and the Telegraph it was followed by a full report, [Zoning: The Heat Networks Puzzle](#), in June 2026.

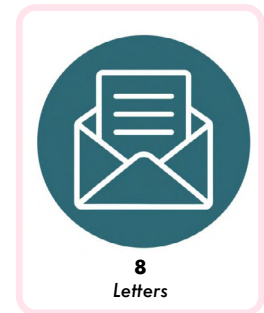
[Call for targets to make London's rivers swimmable](#)

- BBC News

[Read the report in full.](#)



YEAR IN REVIEW



YOUR HEALTH



Health Committee

The Health Committee reviews health and wellbeing issues for Londoners, particularly public health issues. It also scrutinises progress in implementing the Mayor's [Health Inequalities Strategy](#).



Chairman
Emma Best AM
City Hall Conservatives Group



Deputy Chair
Krupesh Hirani AM
The Labour Group

Men's mental health

The Committee opened the year with its investigation into men's mental health. It heard from charities and clinicians, and from a panel of men with lived experience, following an informal roundtable hosted by the charity Mind. The Mayor's Health Adviser invited the Committee to submit its provisional findings – these were included in to inform the GLA's submission to the Government's consultation on a strategy for men's health. The Committee published its report, [Men's mental health in London](#), on International Men's Day in November. Guests at the City Hall launch event included Mind in London and the NHS. The Mayor's response confirmed that the recommendations had been shared with and discussed by the London Mental Health Board.

Weight-loss medication

The Committee took evidence from clinicians, pharmacists and health providers on the benefits and risks of GLP-1 medications, including Ozempic and Mounjaro. Evidence also came from a panel of Londoners who had received treatment for obesity on the NHS. The resulting report, [Weight loss medicines in London](#), was published in March. It recommended accelerating the NHS rollout; and developing more comprehensive wraparound care. Coverage focused on unequal access and illicit versions of the drugs.

Breast cancer screening and public health messaging

In May the Committee [wrote to the Mayor and TfL](#) urging them to use advertising space across the network for public health messaging. In January it held a meeting on breast cancer screening, exploring why London has a lower uptake than other parts of the country.

This was followed by a panel on public health messaging on the TfL network. It then wrote to the NHS in London, on increasing screening uptake and to London's Directors of Public Health, on space for mobile screening units.

The measles outbreak

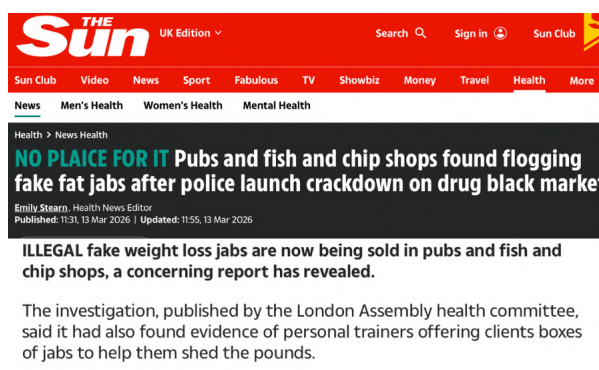
In March the Committee held an extraordinary meeting in response to a measles outbreak in North London, hearing from the NHS, the UK Health Security Agency, the GLA and Enfield Council. The Committee used the session and resulting coverage to promote the vaccination programme to Londoners – calling for better-targeted local engagement, and improved data-sharing between organisations.

Violence against healthcare workers

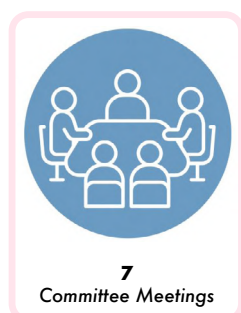
The Committee held a meeting on violence and abuse against healthcare workers. It heard accounts from those directly affected, with personal stories from the London Ambulance Service and the NHS. It then [wrote to the Health Secretary and the Met](#), calling for a review of the 'Right Care, Right Person' initiative.

[Weight-Loss Medication: Pubs and fish and chip shops found flogging fake fat jabs after police launch crackdown on drug black market](#)
– The Sun

[Read the report in full.](#)



YEAR IN REVIEW



YOUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES



Housing Committee

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



Chair
Zoë Garbett AM
City Hall Greens Group



Deputy Chair
Sem Moema AM
The Labour Group

Leasehold costs

In June, the Committee published its report, [“Worry and stress”: life as a leaseholder in London](#). This drew on guest evidence and a survey of London leaseholders; it was launched at a July event in Parliament. Its recommendations included:

- a call for the Mayor to improve transparency on leasehold charges in London and to investigate options to cap service charges in new-build, shared- ownership schemes
- a call on the Government to give social renters the same right to service- charge information as leaseholders.

The report was picked up by Property Reporter, the Standard, PropertyWire and Housing Today. The Committee also responded to the Government's consultation on leasehold later in the year.

Housing for women leaving prison

In May, the Committee published its report, [Breaking the Cycle: Housing Needs for Women Leaving Prison in London](#), on the chronic shortage of affordable and safe housing for women leaving prison. The Mayor later acknowledged at, Mayor's Question Time, that the Committee's work had led him to focus more on the issue of women leaving prison.

Accessible housing

In June, the Committee held its first meeting of the year on accessible housing. This brought together policy experts, campaigners and the GLA, to explore the barriers Deaf and Disabled Londoners face in finding suitable housing. The Committee also [wrote to the Mayor and the GLA](#) with recommendations to improve how the GLA assesses and monitors the amount of accessible housing being built in London. Recommendations included creating a target for the number of accessible homes in the Mayor's Affordable Housing programme.

The Mayor's affordable housing delivery

The Committee began scrutiny of affordable housing delivery in July and a call for evidence. This was followed by a September meeting scrutinising the GLA on its progress under the 2021-26 Affordable Homes Programme. The Committee's report, [Assessing delivery, challenges and opportunities of the Mayor's Affordable Homes Programme](#), set out how far there still is to go, in terms of starts under the programme and the shortage of family-sized and accessible homes. The report was widely covered in the media, including BBC News and the Standard. The Committee also responded to the 'Towards a new London Plan' consultation: it highlighted 12 relevant pieces of Committee work and drew attention to recommendations it had made on housing for women, key workers and young people, and on rough sleeping, among other elements.

The allocation of social housing

The Committee heard from stakeholders and considered the outcomes of a call for evidence, a survey, and Freedom of Information requests to boroughs. Its report, ["Barriers at every turn": Social housing allocation in London](#), published in March, argued that, while the main problem is an overall shortage of social housing, the allocation system in London is making things worse. It recommended:

- improvements to the medical assessment for disabled people
- more consideration of the financial barriers facing victims of domestic abuse
- a review of training for housing officers.

The Renters' Rights Act

The Committee began this investigation in January it heard from renters' and landlords' representatives, and from councils responsible for enforcement. It [wrote to the Mayor](#), calling on him to raise awareness of key measures before they take effect on 1 May 2026. A full report will be published later in the new Assembly year.

Rough sleeping

In March, with rough sleeping in London at a record high, the Committee scrutinised the StreetLink service and the Mayor's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol. The output of this scrutiny will be published later in the new Assembly year.

[London Assembly reveals 65% of renters have not heard of Renters' Rights Act](#)

– Inside Housing

[Read the letter in full.](#)

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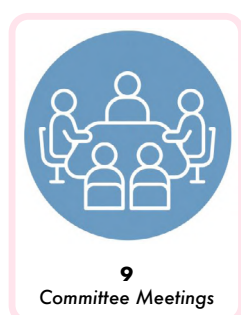
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London Assembly reveals 65% of renters have not heard of Renters' Rights Act

NEWS 25.03.26 3.30 PM BY STEPHEN DELAHUNTY

The London Assembly's Housing Committee has warned that 65% of renters in the capital have either not heard of the Renters' Rights Act, or do not understand what it means for them.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Planning and Regeneration Committee

The Planning and Regeneration Committee investigates the key issues for London around spatial development, planning and regeneration. It also leads on the scrutiny of the London Plan.



Chair
James Small-Edwards AM
The Labour Group



Deputy Chair
Andrew Boff AM
City Hall Conservatives

The new London Plan

The Committee began the year by starting its scrutiny of the new London Plan process, in line with its duty to lead the Assembly's work on scrutiny of the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy (The London Plan). Its first meeting therefore involved questioning councils, developers and the Deputy Mayor on the GLA's initial 'Towards a new London Plan' consultation in June. It then [published a consultation response](#).

Energy infrastructure and planning

The Committee heard from two panels on energy-capacity constraints in west London. It scrutinised the GLA, energy providers and local authorities and received a briefing on the Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator. Its report, [Gridlocked: how planning can ease London's electricity constraints](#), focused on the growth of data centres in west London, and the capacity constraints on the energy grid and housing delivery. It proved timely, the Government's National Planning Policy Framework consultation launched days later.

Later in the year, the GLA also confirmed it would include a data centre policy in the London Plan, as recommended.

Mid-rise development

The Committee held this investigation in October and November, conducting two meetings on the topic and a call for evidence. Its report, [Between skyscrapers and semis: London's missing mid-rise housing](#), sets out the role mid-rise development can play in well-designed neighbourhoods.

The Chair further explained this in an opinion piece for the [Architects' Journal](#).

Better design in London

In December, the Committee held a meeting on better design in London, drawing on public polling and visual preference survey expertise. [It wrote to the Mayor](#) about the disconnect between the design of new developments and the preferences of local communities; this was informed by a site visit to the Royal Docks, and led to the Committee calling for stronger leadership on high-quality, context-sensitive design. The Committee also [responded](#) to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on their timely Design and Placemaking Planning Practice Guidance consultation.

New Towns

The Committee launched its investigation into New Towns with a site visit to Thamesmead, a potential new town. The output of this scrutiny work will be published later in Assembly year 2026-27.

Overheating homes

In March, the Committee opened its investigation into overheating homes in London.

It heard evidence on the scale of the problem today; and the potential for future overheating as the climate warms. The output of this scrutiny work will be published later in Assembly year 2026-27.

[Data centre and energy infrastructure report: Keir Starmer's data centre blitz 'threatens Sadiq Khan's housing plan'](#)
– The Telegraph

[Read the report in full.](#)



YEAR IN REVIEW



YOUR SAFETY



Police and Crime Committee

The Committee examines the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which oversees the Metropolitan Police (the Met). It also investigates key issues and concerns to Londoners about the police service including serious violence, frontline policing, and counter-terrorism.

The Committee publicly questions senior representatives from the Met and MOPAC on topical issues – including the Met Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Kaya Comer-Schwartz.



Chair
Marina Ahmad AM
The Labour Group



Deputy Chairman
Susan Hall AM
City Hall Conservatives Group

Neighbourhood policing and young Londoners

The Committee's investigation included formal meetings, a survey of those who work closely with young people, and a roundtable, facilitated by Safer London, where the Committee heard directly from young Londoners. Its report, [Neighbourhood policing: the experience of young Londoners](#), called on MOPAC to commission and publish an annual, London-wide survey of children and young people on their sense of safety and their confidence in policing.

Hate crime and violence against women and girls (VAWG) on public transport

The Committee brought the Met, the City of London Police, the British Transport Police and TfL together in December. This was the first time the three policing bodies had appeared together since before the pandemic. It also visited Mulberry Academy to hear from young Londoners about their interactions with the police. Its report, [Hate crime and violence against women and girls on London's public transport](#), called on the Met, the British Transport Police and TfL to establish a dedicated rapid-response taskforce for handling cases of VAWG and hate crime on public transport. The report received strong coverage in the media.

The Territorial Support Group

In June, the Committee questioned the Met on the role of its Territorial Support Group; and [wrote to the Commissioner](#) calling for greater transparency and accountability in its operations. The Committee returned to the issue with a follow-up later in the year.

Oversight of the reform of the Met

At the start of the year opened, the Met and the Mayor responded to Committee reports on public order policing and VAWG affecting young people. This response took the form of a public order report, which was referenced by the Chair of Notting Hill Carnival in correspondence (national media coverage). The Committee launched an investigation into MOPAC's oversight of the Met's cultural reform; its report [called for MOPAC to publish a one-year review of the London Policing Board's work](#).

Holding the Met to account

The Committee held a Q&A with the Met Commissioner, following the BBC Panorama revelations about misconduct at Charing Cross police station. It put questions to the Deputy Mayor on the New Met for London Phase 2 plan; and the policing of the Notting Hill Carnival. It made recommendations on the [New Met for London Phase 2 consultation](#); [front counter closures](#); and [lost evidence](#). In December, the Committee used its statutory powers to summons the Mayor, to explain why the Committee had not received a copy of the Met's draft estate strategy.

Online fraud and disability hate crime

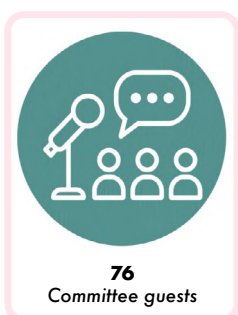
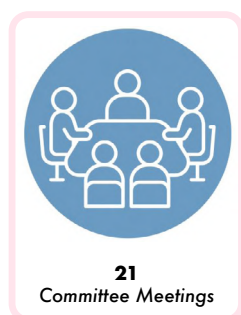
The Committee wrote to the Met in June, with recommendations on tackling the rise of artificial intelligence in online fraud. In March, the Committee held an informal briefing with Inclusion London, on the experiences of disabled victims of hate crime when dealing with the Met and other agencies.

[London police criticised over public transport crimes](#) - BBC News

[Read the report in full](#).



YEAR IN REVIEW



Fire Committee

The Fire Committee reviews the London Fire Commissioner's priorities and objectives, and scrutinises the work of London Fire Brigade.



Chair
Zack Polanski AM
City Hall Greens Group



Deputy Chair
Anne Clarke AM
The Labour Group

The new London Fire Commissioner

Following the retirement of Andy Roe KFSM after five years in post, the Committee held a Confirmation hearing and unanimously approved the appointment of Jonathan Smith, who took up the role in July. He appeared before the Committee on his first day to [discuss his priorities for keeping Londoners safe](#).

Arson in London

In June the Committee held a meeting on the rising number of arson attacks across London – noting that incidents were increasing in all but four boroughs in London. The Committee [wrote to the Mayor](#) urging him to establish an arson taskforce, and to back a London-wide, data-driven response.

Culture in the Brigade

The Committee received London Fire Brigade's response to its report on culture in the Brigade, which committed to keep recommended changes under review. The Brigade subsequently launched recruitment for an Independent Chair of Professional Standards, one of the Committee's key recommendations.

Fire contaminants

In September the Committee launched its investigation into firefighters' exposure to fire contaminants. It heard from researchers (including two involved in the World Health Organization's study into firefighting as an occupational carcinogen) and from the National Fire Chiefs Council. It visited Poplar and Old Kent Road fire stations to see how London Fire Brigade policies introduced in 2022 are shaping practice; and how the existing estate constrains them. Its report, [Exposure to fire contaminants in London: A hidden, growing risk?](#), found that, while more UK research is needed on the links to cancer, there are actions that can be taken now to protect firefighters.

Firefighters' mental health and wellbeing

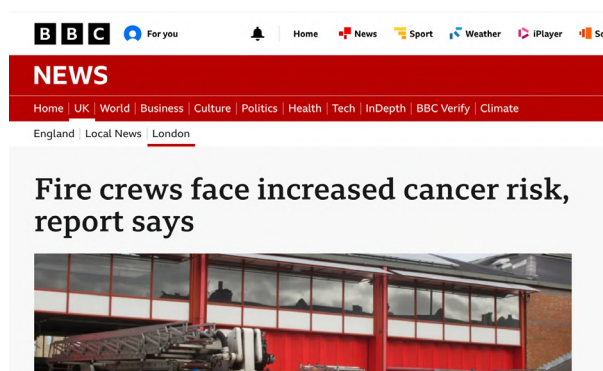
In January the Committee held a meeting on the mental health and wellbeing of firefighters, reflecting rising numbers reporting stress, anxiety and depression, and [wrote to the Commissioner](#) calling for stronger early intervention and better-targeted support.

It closed the year in March with a Q&A session with the Deputy Mayor and the London Fire Commissioner.

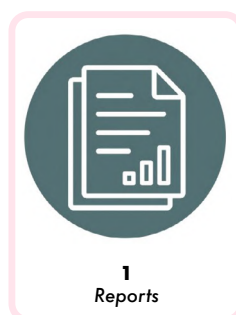
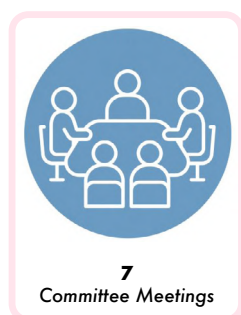
[London fire crews face increased cancer risk, report finds](#)

- BBC News

[Read the report in full.](#)



YEAR IN REVIEW



YOUR TRAVEL



Transport Committee

The Transport Committee examines all aspects of the capital's transport system in order to press for improvements for Londoners.

The Committee pays particular attention to how the Mayor's Transport Strategy is being implemented, and looks closely at the work of Transport for London and other transport operators.



Chair
Elly Baker AM
The Labour Group



Deputy Chairman
Thomas Turrell AM
City Hall Conservatives Group

Taxi and private hire

The Committee began the year with its investigation into taxi and private hire. It held meetings in May and June on TfL's Taxi and Private Hire Action Plan 2025; and heard from driver representatives on licensing delays, a private hire vehicle cap, cross-border hiring, safety and financial support.

It [wrote to TfL about delays](#) in processing licences; and secured fortnightly updates from TfL on the backlog, which it continues to monitor.

Fare evasion

In July the Committee held a meeting on fare evasion, where it heard from London TravelWatch, the RMT Union and TfL. [This culminated in a letter to TfL](#). It also [wrote to TfL and the British Transport Police](#) calling for Emergency Response Unit vehicles to have their blue-light status reinstated (it was withdrawn in 2025); this was covered by the BBC.

Walkability of London's pavements

In September the Committee examined the walkability of London's pavements. It heard from experts at Arup, Create Streets, the Centre for London and the University of Westminster; and visited Ilford with Living Streets. Its report, [Quality Streets: improving London's pavements](#), called on TfL to research the plateau in walking trips and the barriers to wheeling; and to publish a Walking and Wheeling Action Plan in 2026.

Road space, driving and congestion

The Committee's investigation looked at freight and bus journey times; and examined how London's roads are used and the pressures on road space. The output of this scrutiny work will be published later in Assembly 2026-27.

In December, following Zipcar's announcement that it would wind down its UK operations, the Committee convened an extraordinary session on the future of car clubs with the Deputy Mayor for Transport, TfL and Collaborative Mobility UK. It also [wrote to the Mayor and TfL](#) with recommendations to support the sector.

Violence against transport workers

In February the Committee held a meeting on violence against transport workers; at the meeting, it heard testimony from frontline staff about assaults and harassment. It [wrote to TfL](#) on reporting, organisational culture and post-incident support; and to the [Home Secretary](#) supporting calls for a specific offence of assaulting transport workers.

Accessibility and inclusion in transport

The Committee published its report, [Accessibility & Inclusion in Transport Planning](#) at City Hall with Inclusion London and Age UK. This set out how the needs of disabled and older Londoners can be built into transport decisions from the start.

Holding TfL to account

The Committee held its annual meeting with London TravelWatch on the latter's business plan. It also [wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport](#) on TfL's rail devolution plans and on the treatment of London TravelWatch in the Railways Bill. In March it questioned the TfL Commissioner on issues examined over the past two years, including car clubs, bus speeds, accessibility, and taxis and private hire.

[The two areas of London hailed as examples for rest of city around walking and cycling](#) - My London

[Read the report in full.](#)

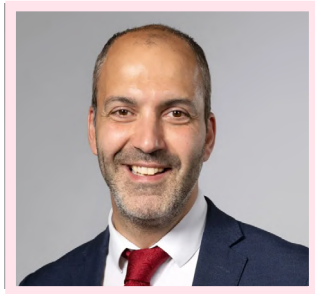


YEAR IN REVIEW



GLA Oversight Committee

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



Chair
Bassam Mahfouz AM
The Labour Group



Deputy Chairman
Emma Best AM
City Hall Conservatives Group

London's place in Government devolution reforms

The Committee spent the first quarter on its investigation into London's place in the Government's devolution reforms. It met three times to discuss the current settlement, looking at international perspectives from Milan and Toronto. It also investigated priority areas for London. Guests included Professor Tony Travers, Cllr Claire Holland of London Councils and the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff. It conducted a fact-finding visit to Paris to learn about mayoral and city powers there and about the development of fiscal devolution. Its report, [Trusting London to deliver: our place in the Government's devolution reforms](#), drew on survey data from over 1,000 Londoners and a call for evidence. It was launched at an event in the House of Commons to coincide with scrutiny of the legislation. In October it submitted written evidence to the Public Bill Committee on the Devolution Bill.

Assembly Plenary Ways of Working

In December the Committee launched its investigation into the Assembly's Plenary Ways of Working. It held public and private sessions with journalists who cover the Assembly; academics working on scrutiny governance; former and current Assembly Members; former plenary guests; and the GLA Secretariat. The output of this scrutiny work will be published later in Assembly 2026-27.

GLA cyber security

The Committee published its report, [Cyber security at the GLA](#), with recommendations to the Mayor, the GLA and TfL on how London can guard its institutions against cyber-attacks.

Wider oversight work

The Committee also scrutinised Mayoral mandates and delivery plans the annual workforce report and resilience and emergency preparedness. In November it considered the Oxford Street Mayoral Development Corporation, proposals for the 2028 GLA and Mayoral elections and London's New Year's Eve fireworks. It also approved the first Assembly rapporteurship of the term, on community use of school sports facilities; this was led by Krupesh Hirani AM.

It also held panels with London & Partners on its new strategy; and on the GLA savings and efficiency programme.

[London borough councils call for more devolutionary powers](#)

- BBC News

[Read the report in full.](#)



YEAR IN REVIEW



You can also view [former committees](#) and search [past agendas, reports and minutes](#).

London Assembly Research Unit

The London Assembly Research Unit provides an impartial research and information service. It undertakes research and analysis on key issues in London to inform Assembly work.

Alongside its work directly supporting Committee investigations, the Unit published a wide range of independent research throughout the year, exploring topics including housing, transport, environmental policy, and GLA finances.

Housing and Planning

Housing and planning were a significant focus of the Unit's work over the year. In July, it published the [Affordable Housing Monitor 2025](#), an annual report that examines the delivery of affordable housing in London and tracks progress against the Mayor's commitments. The Monitor informed Housing Committee scrutiny of the Affordable Homes Programme; and the Unit's analysis was used in subsequent media coverage. Alongside the Monitor, the Unit published a background paper on [affordable housing in London](#), setting out the wider context for the Mayor's affordable homes programmes.

The Unit also published research in response to recent policy developments. In January, it published a short explainer of the [emergency housebuilding measures](#) announced by the Government and the Mayor. In February, it published a paper on [London's Green Belt](#), examining the implications of policy developments for planning, housing and environmental protection in London.

This year, the Research Unit also examined Assembly scrutiny of the current London Plan to identify areas of good practice, ahead of scrutiny of the new London Plan in 2026-27.

Environment

The Unit published a range of research and analysis on London's environment and climate. This included analysis of London's [tree canopy cover](#), in light of new canopy cover estimates this informed the Environment Committee's work on trees in a changing climate.

In October, the Unit published a data pack on [London's airports](#), following the Government's announcement of plans to proceed with a third runway at Heathrow. In March, it published an analysis and explainer on [heat networks in London](#).

Transport

The Research Unit produced a data pack on [road usage and infrastructure in London](#). This covered the structure and management of the road network; vehicle and bicycle use congestion levels and journey purposes.

Looking to the future of London's roads, in January it published a paper on [driverless cars in London](#); these have the potential to transform how Londoners get around the city.

It also published a [private hire vehicle monitor](#), providing regular updates on applications awaiting processing by TfL, and an analysis of the performance and public perception of the [Elizabeth line](#) ahead of its third anniversary.

GLA Finances

In July, the Unit published a data analysis showing how the Mayor allocates resources to the [GLA's environment programmes and missions](#).

This was followed by the launch of its ongoing [monitor of GLA expenditure](#), published in September and updated quarterly; this provides an overview of where money is being spent in the GLA.

Fire

The Unit's fire-related work included a short analysis of recent data on the use of [simultaneous evacuation strategies](#) in buildings across London – a key indicator of fire risk.

In March, the Unit also published an assessment of [London Fire Brigade](#) performance ahead of the Fire Committee question-and-answer session with the Deputy Mayor.

YEAR IN REVIEW



London Assembly 2025-26 budget outturn

	Budget	Actuals	Variance against budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Assembly Communications	481	512	31
Committee Services	980	908	(72)
Executive Director	440	339	(101)
Member Services	2,078	2,087	9
Member Services (Con)	853	847	(6)
Member Services (Green)	344	318	(26)
Member Services (Lab)	1,282	1,128	(154)
Member Services (Lib)	230	216	(14)
Member Services (Reform)	170	145	(25)
Scrutiny	2,087	1,882	(205)
London TravelWatch	1,209	1,209	0
Assembly & Secretariat Total	10,154	9,599	(562)

Summary

The reported full year underspend reflects a mix of staffing underspend across teams as a result of vacancies, structural changes within teams and changes in Assembly Group membership.

The majority of posts are now either filled or at recruitment. Underspends against non-pay budgets reflect on-going work relating to subtitling as part of a wider GLA project.

Quarterly financial reports are considered by the GLA Oversight Committee and can be found [here](#).



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We welcome responses from members of the public when we publish a call for evidence; details on how to respond are on our website.

If you have a question for the Mayor, [let us know](#) and we can put it to him on your behalf.

You can also read the answers the Mayor and other key London officials have given to questions they have already been asked.

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