

34th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 12th September 2019

This is my Thirty-Fourth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 5th July – 29th August 2019.

Executive Summary

Cycleway 4 construction to start ahead of schedule

On 27 August, I announced that the next section of Cycleway 4 will start ahead of schedule. Once complete, Cycleway 4 will add 10km of segregated cycle route to London's network – enabling thousands more people to enjoy the benefits of this major new route between Tower Bridge and Greenwich sooner. New pedestrian crossings are set to make the area much easier for people walking to get around.

Notting Hill Carnival

On Sunday 25 August, I spent the afternoon enjoying the music, magnificent parade costumes and sunshine at Notting Hill Carnival. Currently in its 53rd year, it is a celebration of Caribbean culture, that attracted an estimated 1 million people across the weekend. The event would not have been the success it was without the hard work of Notting Hill Carnival Ltd, the public and the voluntary agencies involved, and I thank them for their dedication.

New figures show year of stability for London's pubs

On 24 August, new City Hall research shows the number of pubs in London remained stable between 2017 and 2018 after falling by more than a quarter since 2001

London pubs have been a key part of our capital's heritage for generations, helping to unite Londoners and acting as a vital hub in the community. Sadly, their numbers have been falling for decades, which is why I've been doing all I can to support the trade and turn this tide of closures.

One month to go until London's biggest ever Car Free Day celebrations

With one month to go until the capital's biggest ever Car Free Day celebrations, I've announced details of hundreds of free activities to help Londoners 'reclaim' their streets on Sunday 22 September.

A classic cycle ride and yoga and meditation sessions on Tower Bridge will be among the highlights at the Central London 'Reimagine' event, with something for people of all ages to enjoy. The programme will run between 10.30am and 5pm across 20km of traffic-free roads – the equivalent of nearly 200 football pitches in length - around Tower Bridge, London Bridge and the City of London. The Central London 'Reimagine' event has been designed to ensure it is inclusive for everyone. Taxi drop-off points and pedal-powered shuttles will help ensure it is accessible for all. British Sign Language interpreters will be signing at some activities and

performances and there will also be an opportunity to try out a range of custom-designed bicycles, provided by Bikeworks.

Air pollution is one of the biggest health emergencies of our generation, with more than two million Londoners living in areas that exceed legal limits for NO₂, including more than 400,000 children under the age of 18.

All Car Free Day events are free to attend and no tickets are required – people can just turn up on the day and take part.

New analysis shows private renters miss out at elections

On 21 August, I published new analysis showing private renters are less likely to register to vote. City Hall analysis of the electoral roll, and housing in London found boroughs with the highest numbers of private renters have some of the capital's lowest levels of voter registration.

Private renters desperately need a better deal, and although I have no powers over the private rented sector, I have successfully joined campaign groups in getting the Government to commit to scrapping 'no fault' evictions.

London's Violence Reduction Unit funds local community groups

On 20 August, I announced that London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) will invest £1.4 million for around 40 community projects. This investment will help deliver interventions and provide support and diversionary activities for nearly 25,000 young Londoners in high-crime areas.

It is vital that we continue to invest in our communities because they are in the best position to intervene at a critical moment in a young person's life and the VRU's funding can help provide positive opportunities and role models.

Westminster Council Holocaust Memorial Plans

On 15 August, I called on leaders of the Westminster Council to approve plans for a Holocaust Memorial. Westminster City Council must follow the proper consultation process for this planning application and show transparency by fully explaining how it reached its decision.

It will show our commitment to fighting extremism and intolerance in all forms and make a powerful national statement about our democracy and its values, reminding us what can happen when hatred is left unchecked.

City Hall, Metropolitan Police and Premier League partnership

On 13 August, I joined Tottenham Hotspur and England captain Harry Kane MBE at a Premier League Kicks session to launch a three-year partnership between City Hall, the Metropolitan Police and the Premier League. This partnership will enhance the delivery of the social inclusion programme in London. The best time to stop violent crime is before it starts. This means investing in our young people, investing in our communities and investing in our city so that we give the next generation the chance to thrive.

Up to 200 homes planned for rough sleepers and domestic abuse victims

On 8 August, I confirmed plans for up to 200 homes. The first of which will be available this autumn to help former rough sleepers and victims of domestic abuse, leave hostels and refuges and move on with their lives. It is now crucial the Government urgently funds longer-term accommodation for former rough sleepers and victims of domestic abuse.

Further investment in sport to tackle serious youth violence

On 30 July, at the inaugural meeting of my Serious Youth Violence Steering Group, I announced a further £1.1 million to help even more sports projects provide positive, meaningful activities to help young people make the right choices in life.

Government immigration plans risk inflicting damage

On 30 July, City Hall published new research which shows that employers could struggle to fill vacancies in occupations that account for around half of all jobs in the capital. Nurseries, cleaning firms, homebuilders and employers with roles regarded as 'lower-skilled' risk being unable to make long-term hires from abroad under the Government's plans.

I'm fearful for the impact the Government's proposed immigration changes will have on the fabric of our city. The new Prime Minister should instead fully recognise the positive impact immigration and Freedom of Movement has had in London and the UK and immediately take steps to reform the immigration system in a way that enables us to unlock the potential of Londoners. If he is unable to do this, then he should let Londoners take back control and give City Hall the devolved powers that he previously called for as Mayor.

Good Work Standard launched

Tackling poverty and inequality is one of the reasons I got into politics. London and the whole country are still simply too unequal, it is bad for our both our economy and our society. I want to make London a fairer city by ensuring that all Londoners get the opportunities that our city gave to me when I was growing up.

That is why on 29 July, I launched my Good Work Standard, which will play a key role in tackling poverty and inequality in London. I'm calling on employers across our city to play their part – to pay the London Living Wage, to pursue greater diversity at senior levels, to achieve the highest standards in wellbeing and training, and to ensure that their workers have a voice in the workplace.

London confirmed as the world's first National Park City

On 22 July, the National Park City Foundation confirmed London as the world's first National Park City at a summit at City Hall. The summit brought together representatives of international, national and London organisations who are supporting London becoming a National Park City. I co-signed the London National Park City Charter which sets out key actions to make London a city where people, places and nature are better connected.

Powers to bring rents down

On 19 July, I published a landmark report setting out how the private rented sector in London should be transformed to give renters open-ended tenancies and to create powers to bring rents down.

It is high time for private renting in London to be transformed, Londoners need fundamental change that is long overdue. Unlike other Mayors around the world, I have no powers over the private rented sector. That's why this landmark report sets out a detailed blueprint of what the Government must do to overhaul tenancy laws, and what powers City Hall needs from them to bring rents down.

Drinking fountains and London Refill

On 18 July, I announced the locations of 50 new public drinking fountains which are now being installed across busy areas of London to help people ditch single-use plastic bottles and reduce plastic waste.

These new drinking fountains will be installed as part of my partnership with Thames Water to provide over 100 free drinking fountains across London. The fountains will also expand the network of 28 public drinking fountains I have already installed through my initiative with the ZSL #OneLess campaign.

New 'Rapid Response Team' to boost help for rough sleepers

On 18 July, I launched a new 'rapid response team' dedicated to finding rough sleepers and getting them off the streets faster. In the last year, 3,875 people were helped by my frontline 'Life off the Streets' services – up from 3,123 the year before.

At City Hall we are doing all we can to help people who have been forced onto the streets as a result of the Government's policies, including their cuts to welfare and to support for vulnerable people. My new 'rapid response team' will mean we can now respond faster when Londoners let us know about people on the streets, helping to make sure they get the support they need as quickly as possible.

Links between poverty and violent crime

On 15 July, City Hall published new figures showing that three-quarters of the boroughs in London with the highest levels of violent offending are also in the top 10 most deprived, while the same boroughs also have higher proportions of children under 20 living in poverty than the London average.

The statistics, in the most detailed study of the causes of violent crime ever undertaken in London, show that more than a quarter of all young Londoners live in the most deprived areas of the capital. It also reveals that serious youth violence in the capital started rising in 2012.

Ahead of the summer holidays, I also announced the funding of 43 projects that will provide positive opportunities for 3,500 young people at risk of getting involved in crime. The £360k investment from my Young Londoners Fund will help young people during the holidays with half of the projects taking place in the wards in the top 10 per cent for rates of serious youth violence.

£600k pledged local projects crowdfunding

On 9 July, I pledged over £600k to 23 local projects as part of the sixth round of Crowdfund London. If all the projects hit their funding targets – including the City Hall’s contributions – this will equate to more than £2.2 million, the highest of any funding round so far.

Each year Crowdfund London goes from strength to strength. I am proud to back these 23 fantastic projects which have the potential to make a really positive impact on communities across our city. Through my crowdfunding programme, Londoners can get behind them too and I urge people to make a pledge for future rounds to help turn these brilliant ideas into reality.

7/7 Anniversary

On Sunday 7 July, I laid a wreath at the Hyde Park 7 July Memorial to honour the 52 innocent people killed and the 700 injured as a result of the 2005 terrorist attack. I was joined by senior representatives from the emergency and transport services who responded so bravely on the day. I also gave my support to the victim’s friends and families at their memorial service which is now in its 14th year.

Pride Celebrations

London is home to people of all backgrounds, faiths, abilities, nationalities, ethnicities and walk of life - and Pride in London is a shining example of what our city represents. I was proud to once again celebrate Pride month in London.

On Saturday 6 July, I joined thousands of Londoners to proudly march in solidarity with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community at London’s annual Pride celebration – one of the longest running Pride events in the country. This year, we recognised an important anniversary – 50 years since the Stonewall uprising.

I was also honoured to host the Price Reception at City Hall to say thank you to the organisers and over 200 people from the LGBTQ+ community, and to support UK Black Pride on Sunday 8 July.

Policing, Crime and Security

Tackling the causes of crime

Alongside a speech on the causes of crime at the Salmon Centre, Bermondsey on 15 July, I published new analysis confirming a strong link between serious youth violence and Londoners affected by deprivation, poor mental health and poverty. The new figures show that three-quarters of the boroughs in London with the highest levels of violent offending are also in the top 10 most deprived, while the same boroughs also have higher proportions of children under 20 living in poverty than the London average. The statistics, in the most detailed study of the causes of violent crime ever undertaken in London, show that more than a quarter of all young Londoners live in the most deprived areas of the capital. It also reveals that serious youth violence in the capital started rising in 2012.

Addressing an audience of families of victims of knife crime, charities, the police and those from the education, faith, health and community sectors, I set out my views on being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. Due to the complex causes of violence, and only a long-term public health approach, which tackles the deep-rooted and engrained social and economic problems facing society – and includes strong police enforcement – can truly address the problem of violent crime.

In the speech, I also announced funding for 43 projects providing positive opportunities for 3,500 young people at risk of getting involved in crime. The £360k investment from the Young Londoners Fund focused on supporting young people during the summer holidays. Half of the projects are targeted in the wards in the top 10 per cent for rates of serious youth violence.

Harnessing the power of sport to tackle youth violence

At the inaugural meeting of my Serious Youth Violence Steering Group on 30 July, I announced that bidding was now open for the £1.1 million Impact Partnership Fund, which will invest in projects that use sport to support young people at risk of getting involved in crime through creating employment and training opportunities. The steering group consists of representatives from 20 organisations previously funded through the £45 million Young Londoners Fund Sport Unites programme. Each of these organisations has also selected a young person involved in their prevention programme to join the group. The young people will have an equal seat at the table and will play a key role in coordinating the work of the group, as well as sharing their own insight and experiences of being at risk of getting involved in crime. The steering group is the first of its kind in the sport sector. It will bring together London community sports experts to help identify causes, share best practice, and propose solutions to serious youth violence.

On 13 August, I joined Tottenham Hotspur and England captain Harry Kane MBE at a Premier League Kicks session to launch a three-year partnership between City Hall, the Metropolitan Police and the Premier League which will enhance the delivery of the social inclusion programme in London. Premier League Kicks was launched 13 years ago with the aim of inspiring children and young people to achieve their potential and improve their well-being. Aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds, Kicks gives participants access to free football sessions and activities, as well as workshops that support and educate.

Fifteen Premier League and EFL (English Football League) club community organisations in London are eligible to apply for funding to deliver the project at local facilities and pitches, with

the project aiming to deliver at more than 150 locations across the capital and to engage more than 25,000 young people over the next three years.

This support to Premier League Kicks is in line with the public health approach to tackling violence and providing young Londoners with positive opportunities. This will include workshops and mentoring for those most in need, such as young people who attend Pupil Referral Units in London. The project will continue to help build positive relationships between young people and the police, with Met officers regularly attending the London sessions.

Ensuring London gets the policing investment it needs

As a result of Government cuts, the Metropolitan Police Service has had to save more than £850 million since 2013-14, resulting in officer numbers falling to a level not seen since 2003. I have done everything I can to support the Metropolitan Police Service, taking difficult decisions including increasing the police share of council tax by the maximum amount permissible in law and moving money from business rates into policing. Thanks to these decisions, we have been able to invest a further £234 million in policing, providing for 1,300 additional police officers. However, with the vast majority of police funding provided by the Government, I cannot close the funding gap caused by the Government's austerity programme alone. Throughout my time in office I have lobbied intensively for the Government to reverse their police cuts and properly fund the Metropolitan Police Service.

I therefore welcome the new Prime Minister's agreement that the Government's police cuts were a mistake and the announcement of plans to support the recruitment of 20,000 police officers to partially reverse these cuts. I have written to the new Home Secretary seeking clarification that the Met will receive the proportion of the 20,000 officers which should be due to them, and that these officers are in addition to the 1,300 officers being funded by City Hall. I have also sought urgent clarification that all 20,000 additional officers will be split between the territorial police forces. While the National Crime Agency (NCA), counter terror policing and other national agencies require investment, it's crucial that the full 20,000 go into communities. I welcome the support of Assembly Members in pressing London's case to the Government.

Violence Reduction Unit to support community groups in tackling violence

On 20 August, I announced that London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) will be investing £1.4 million in local community groups that specialise in early intervention to tackle knife crime. The VRU will provide funding for about 40 community projects that deliver interventions and provide support and diversionary activities for nearly 25,000 young Londoners in high-crime areas. The projects, which will be the first to be funded by the VRU, will provide mentoring, counselling, school-based education schemes and community diversionary activities over the course of the next year for young people aged 10-21.

Transport

TfL, the Metropolitan Police and Campaign Groups reach out to motorcyclists following five recent fatalities

On 6 July, TfL, the Metropolitan Police Service and campaign groups began reaching out to motorcyclists following the tragic deaths of five young men in collisions while on London's streets in June

These collisions brought the total number of people killed while riding a motorcycle (between 1 January to 6 July) to 16, compared to 11 over the same period in 2018. Three other people were also killed in collisions in one week alone, one car driver, another person cycling, and one killed while walking.

TfL has been offering a range of measures to improve the confidence and skills of the capital's motorcyclists, as well as raise standards within the motorcycle delivery industry.

Alongside the Metropolitan Police, TfL has been working with campaign groups to raise awareness of the work being done to enforce dangerous driving, lower speed limits and publicise the range of motorcycle training courses on offer.

Cabbies take up £30 million of new green grants to help switch to cleaner vehicles

London's taxi drivers had been embracing the city's bid to clean up its toxic air, following TfL's confirmation that all of the 1,250 top payments for taking the most polluting taxis off the road have been taken advantage of by cabbies.

Applications have now been received for around £30 million of the wider £42 million delicensing fund, supporting drivers wishing to delicense older, more polluting taxis early.

At the start of this year, TfL restructured a green fund that doubled the top grant to £10k for those wanting to swap their diesel car for a cleaner zero-emission capable model.

I increased the fund to £42 million, meaning that £10k payments were available to the first 1,250 taxi drivers to sign up. Payments to encourage the uptake of zero-emission capable cabs will continue on a sliding scale and are made on a first come, first served basis.

TfL announces £2.5 million funding boost to meet growing demand for cycle parking

To ensure that every potential cycle trip in the capital begins and ends with a place to park, TfL has announced a £2.5 million investment over the next year to boost the number of cycle parking spaces. The investment comes after half of Londoners said lack of cycle parking is one of the main factors that deter them from cycling and a quarter were put off cycling by a fear of cycle theft.

TfL research showed more than half of stations in London either do not have any cycle parking, or do not have enough spaces to cope with demand, despite cycling being at record levels.

This plan and new investment will help meet the growing demand for cycle parking. Together with investment in new high-quality routes, we are enabling more people to cycle as part of their everyday routine, making our streets cleaner and greener for everyone.

Andy Lord appointed new Managing Director of London Underground

TfL has announced that Andy Lord will join TfL from 4 November as its new Managing Director of London Underground and TfL Engineering.

Andy spent more than 25 years at British Airways. Having joined as a sponsored Engineering undergraduate, he progressed to a variety of senior roles across the airline finally serving as their Director of Operations from 2008 to 2015.

Andy was previously Executive Vice President for Menzies Aviation, covering the European, Middle East, Africa and India (EMEA) market, where he led on negotiating strategic contracts, improving safety and operational performance and profitably growing the business. He is also a Non-Executive Director for Defence Equipment and Support, Ministry of Defence.

The appointment of Andy Lord now means that Nigel Holness will be departing to take up his previously announced position of Chief Executive for Metro Trains Sydney. Mark Wild will stay on as the CEO of Crossrail Limited until the full opening of the Elizabeth Line.

4G on Jubilee line tunnel section from March 2020

On 19 July, TfL confirmed that the eastern half of the Jubilee line will get full 4G mobile connectivity within station platforms and tunnels for the first time from March 2020 - helping to remove one of the most high-profile mobile 'not-spots' in the UK

The trial section will cover the platforms and tunnels between Westminster and Canning Town, and will allow customers to check for the latest travel information, catch up on social media and read their emails or the latest news uninterrupted as part of their journey.

It will build on the existing free Wi-Fi service that TfL offers both within more than 260 Wi-Fi enabled London Underground stations and on TfL Rail services. The service will also cover ticket halls and corridors within stations along this section of the Jubilee line, with the exception of London Bridge and Waterloo stations which, subject to final approvals, will be added later during 2020.

Introducing 4G and, in the future, 5G more widely across the city will help Londoners and visitors keep in touch and get the latest travel information while on the go. London is the best place to live; visit and work - and projects like this will help make it even better

Victims speak out during Vision Zero Week

One year on from the launch of the Vision Zero Action Plan, victims of road collisions have spoken out about the devastation they have experienced, to coincide with Vision Zero Week which ran from 22 to 28 July.

In 2018, the number of people killed on London's roads fell to the lowest level on record, from 131 in 2017 to 111 in 2018. While this decrease is welcomed, a new campaign 'Know My Name', shared the stories of five victims of road trauma to communicate the impact it has on people's lives and our shared conviction that even one death or serious injury is one too many.

Since launching the Vision Zero Action Plan one year ago in London, TfL, the Met Police, City of London Police and many boroughs and organisations in London have been working towards helping to achieve this goal of eliminating death and serious injury on London's streets

Too many lives and communities in London are blighted by road trauma. We must see this for the issue it is and do everything we can to prevent this devastation from happening. So much work has gone into Vision Zero already this year, but we all have so much more to do and we won't stop until we achieve Vision Zero.'

Santander Cycles marks birthday with series of free led rides

On 29 July, TfL's record breaking cycle hire scheme marked its ninth anniversary by offering free guided Santander Cycles rides on Sundays throughout August and September as part of TfL's Summer of Cycleways campaign.

The free tours will give people a chance to see the sights of London, including the Houses of Parliament, Hyde Park and London Eye, while using TfL's segregated cycle lanes.

The series of led cycle rides follows the route of a new Santander Cycles map, which gives people step-by-step directions to cycle the sights of London. The map can be downloaded online or accessed via the Santander Cycles app, which allows customers to find and hire cycles easily. Santander Cycles is also offering people using the new map 20 per cent off their first ride.

TfL doubles funding for cycling and walking programmes

Applications are now open for more than £500k of grants for community and not-for-profit groups that encourage people to walk and cycle.

Walking and Cycling Grants London aims to address barriers to walking and cycling amongst traditionally underrepresented groups, helping to make London a more sustainable, inclusive and healthy city.

This year the programme has been expanded to include walking projects for the first time. Funding has been doubled to more than £500k, with the number of grants available also doubling from 30 to 60. This means more Londoners can benefit from the continuing success of the scheme, and TfL hopes to award funding to at least one project in every London borough.

Each community project can apply for funding of up to £10k over three years through the programme, which is delivered by Groundwork London. Current and previous initiatives include cycle training, guided rides and courses teaching basic cycle maintenance.

World's largest cycling database set to make cycling in the capital easier

On 1 August, TfL launched the Cycling Infrastructure Database, the world's largest database of cycling infrastructure which will help to make cycling in London easier and more tailored to people's needs.

The database contains the details of all 240,000 pieces of cycling infrastructure in London, such as cycle parking spaces and cycle lanes and has the potential to transform the way people think about cycling.

TfL research has shown that many people feel uncomfortable about setting off on a cycle journey without knowing what to expect, particularly when it comes to finding a place to park or a protected cycle lane.

In order to create the database, TfL surveyed every street in every London borough to collect data on all 146,000 cycle parking spaces across London, as well as gathering information on 2,000km of cycle lanes, 960 traffic filters and 58,000 wayfinding signs. The database also contains 480,000 photographs of cycling infrastructure, allowing users to see exactly what can be found on street and where.

Second on-demand bus trial launched in the London Borough of Ealing

Between 19 July and 16 August, TfL ran a consultation on plans to trial an on-demand bus service in Ealing. The new service will follow the start of a similar year-long trial in Sutton in May.

Customers travelling on the new buses will be able to book a seat in real-time using an app or over the phone. The vehicles provide real-time journey information on-board and will not follow a fixed route, with users instead able to board a bus at flexible stops within a certain area. The buses will be fully accessible and green - meeting the tough environmental standards used for the ULEZ and will be available between 06:00 and 01:00, seven days a week.

Ealing was chosen for the second trial, which will last a year, because there are relatively high numbers of private vehicles in the borough. Figures show that 40 per cent of residents use cars - be they private or for hire - to get to work in the area, and TfL believes the service could encourage people to switch to a more sustainable way of travelling.

TfL will use the lessons learnt from the two trials and different operating environments in Sutton and Ealing to understand the benefits and viability of introducing an on-demand service in the long term.

TfL announces new walking and cycling improvements in west London

On 29 July, TfL set out the next steps for walking and cycling improvements in West London following mini consultations on proposed improvements to Cycleway 9 at two locations at Kew Bridge and Chiswick.

The 7km cycle route includes new pedestrian crossings and will transform safety for people walking and cycling and enable thousands more people to make every day journeys on foot and by bike.

Cycleway 9 will see neighbourhoods between Brentford and Kensington Olympia connected by a safer walking and cycling route and the proposals were supported by a majority of people responding to the original consultation.

Free travel on London Overground's Gospel Oak to Barking line

London Overground's Gospel Oak to Barking line is operating exclusively with new four-car electric air-conditioned trains, doubling capacity, restoring a 15-minute frequency and bringing greater reliability to the service.

I had requested that there be a month of free travel for those using the Gospel Oak to Barking line, to thank customers for their patience during the delay bringing the new trains into service.

On 6 August, TfL announced it was offering customers a month of free travel on the line, it will be funded by the manufacturer, Bombardier Transportation, and be in place from Saturday 31 August to Tuesday 1 October inclusive.

The new state-of-the-art trains can carry nearly 700 people and feature free Wi-Fi, real-time information screens, air-conditioning, USB charging points and more wheelchair spaces. The first of the new trains began carrying passengers in late May, and over the summer more units have been tested and brought into service to bring the Gospel Oak to Barking line, which is used by 30,000 people daily, back up to its full four trains per hour frequency. The new electric trains, which have replaced older diesel trains, are also much better for air quality and the environment.

New Santander Cycles docking station opens at Victoria Park

TfL and Tower Hamlets Council have unveiled a new Santander Cycles docking station in Victoria Park. The station is at the Bonner Gate entrance and has space for 21 cycles - allowing even more people to enjoy Victoria Park on two wheels. Victoria Park is one of the most visited parks in London, with around 9 million visits per year.

This is the first time that Santander Cycles will be available at the gates to the park and we are hoping that this new docking station will encourage people to explore the area by bike, in line with their ambition to increase the number of people cycling across London.

The new docking station was opened on 1 August and was already one of the top performing Santander Cycles locations over the following weekend.

From Victoria Park, Santander Cycles customers can easily access the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which has nine docking stations, as well as the surrounding areas of Hackney, Hoxton, Haggerston, Shoreditch and Whitechapel.

Winners of TfL's first Best Cargo Bike competition

On 8 August, TfL announced the winners of its inaugural competition to find the best cargo bikes for sustainable business deliveries and family trips. The competition aims to raise the profile of cargo bikes, highlighting their benefits as a sustainable option for deliveries and an alternative to car journeys for families with young children.

TfL worked in partnership with manufacturers, distributors and stockists to host the competition, with awards handed out in two categories. Sixteen cargo bikes were put forward for judging by 10 manufacturers.

Eight judges, including London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner Will Norman and representatives from Mothercare, Sustrans, community cycling groups and family cycling bloggers - assessed each bike. Affordability, comfort, security, style, capacity and manoeuvrability were among the areas considered. Parents and children also assessed the bikes on a course at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Douze's G4e bike won the Best Cargo Bike - Business category. The Bakfiets Long was awarded the prize for Best Cargo Bike - Families.

TfL announces new programme to help transform London's boroughs into safer, greener, healthier places

On 19 August, TfL announced a new borough-level programme to help reduce road danger, encourage safe travel by public transport and increase the number of people walking and cycling across the capital.

A new team of 16 Healthy Streets Officers will work across London's boroughs to reduce school-run traffic, discourage engine idling and encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport more often. They will tackle road danger by responding to local road safety concerns and will support boroughs with local initiatives to raise awareness of new Cycleways. In addition, they will promote training to improve cycle safety, as well as encouraging people to use public transport.

The programme, managed by the charity Sustrans, will also support boroughs with London-wide events including World Car Free Day, Walk to Work Week and Road Safety Week. It comes as part of TfL's wider programme, working with boroughs to reduce road danger and improve air quality by creating greener, cleaner and healthier places. The programme is being funded through TfL's Healthy Streets budget and is on top of the Liveable Neighbourhoods grants of between £1 million and £10 million for boroughs to transform local neighbourhoods.

Fire and Resilience

London Fire Brigade's Pride Breakfast

On 6 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Dr Fiona Twycross AM, accompanied me on a visit to Soho Fire Station ahead of this year's Pride Parade to celebrate Pride with Commissioner Dany Cotton and the brave firefighters and staff of London's Fire Brigade.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

On 8 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, met with HM Inspector of Constabulary and HM Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services Matt Parr, CB as part of the HMICFRS inspection of the London Fire Brigade due to publish in winter 2019.

Urban Resilience Summit

From 9 July to 11 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Dr Fiona Twycross AM, in her role as Chief Resilience Officer, attended the Urban Resilience Summit in Rotterdam. The Summit brought together a network of urban resilience professionals from cities around the world to share best practice and innovation from the resilience sector.

Fire Brigades Union Meeting

On 15 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Dr Fiona Twycross AM and I met with the General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, Matt Wrack, to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade firefighters.

Shurgard meeting

On 22 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Fiona Twycross AM met with Steve Reed MP to discuss the latest developments in response to the fire at the Shurgard self-storage facility at Purley Way, Croydon on 31 December 2018 and receive updates on activity to encourage a Government review of the self-storage sector.

Walthamstow Mall fire

On 22 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Dr Fiona Twycross AM went to the site of the Walthamstow Mall fire in support of nearly 150 firefighters who were bravely fighting to save the Mall.

Brexit Contingency Planning Group

On 1 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM chaired a meeting of the London Resilience Partnership's Brexit Contingency Planning Group. The Group continues to oversee the Partnership's preparedness for EU Exit.

Lambeth Fire Station Visit

On 1 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM visited Lambeth Fire Station with Assembly Member Florence Eshalomi. They were given a tour of the pop-up Museum and shown plans to improve the site at 8 Albert Embankment which include workspaces and 417 new homes. They were also briefed on firefighting along the Thames on one of London Fire Brigade's fire boats.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

The Mayor's Prize at the New London Awards 2019 Ceremony

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE awarded my Mayor's Prize at this year's New London Awards which recognise the best in architecture, planning and development in the capital. This year my prize focused on 'Commissioning Quality' - as highlighted through my Good Growth by Design programme - and was awarded to the client and design team of Chobham Manor in the London Borough of Newham. This was a great example of how strategic decision making at an early stage, a commitment to good design throughout, and the right approach to procurement, engagement and inclusion can create high quality places for all Londoners.

I'm delighted that, following my Mayor's prize focusing on diversity last year, New London Architecture, which is behind the awards, now requires all applicants to provide a diversity statement, outlining how the project responds to the diverse needs of Londoners, promotes social integration and reflects the diversity of the city. Through my Good Growth by Design Programme, I will continue to call on London's development community to embed sustainable, inclusive and accessible growth through good design.

Helping Londoners make a difference in their local area

On 9 July, I pledged more than £600k to 23 inspirational community-led projects through my Crowdfund London programme. Working with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), Crowdfund London gives Londoners the opportunity to pitch new ideas - big or small - for community-led projects to make their local area even better. From a work experience platform helping young adults get work ready, to supporting young people in Lambeth to design and build a local events space, these projects have the potential to transform Londoners' lives. My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE announced the 23 projects that were successful in securing a pledge in this round of the programme at an event at City Hall.

Cities of Service visit

On 25 July, I hosted judges from the Cities of Service: Engaged Cities Awards who are considering my Crowdfund London programme as a finalist. The international award recognises programmes where cities are demonstrating new and effective ways to actively engage citizens to solve local challenges. The judges and I met with inspiring Londoners who have taken part in the programme and have received up to £50k funding pledges from City Hall. Project creators worked with their local community to propose, fund and deliver ideas to improve the area they live in. The judges visited some of the many successful projects across London and got to see the impact these have first-hand. I am delighted that the Crowdfund London programme has been recognised internationally for the way it promotes active citizenship, social integration and community empowerment.

London Fashion Fund launches

On 30 July, The London Fashion Fund officially opened for applications. The Fund will back new talent by investing in early stage fashion and fashion-tech businesses. This initiative, delivered by the Fashion District partnership, is part of my £2 million programme of investment via the Good Growth Fund into workspace and skills initiatives, which support the sustainable and inclusive growth of the fashion sector in London.

Housing

Supporting small and medium housing associations to deliver homes for Londoners

On 17 July, I announced a new package specifically to help London's small and medium-sized Housing Associations. This programme includes more flexible funding, alongside making access easier to my Land Fund and my 'Small Sites, Small Builders' programme.

I recognise the contribution that London's smaller and medium-sized housing associations play in building new homes – three of them have already become Greater London Authority Strategic Partners, committed to delivering at least 600 affordable homes by 2022.

Deputy Mayor for Housing James Murray launched this package of support at an event attended by around 70 staff and board members from London's smaller and medium-sized housing associations. James was joined in speaking by Carol Carter from Origin Housing Association, Clare Norton from Peter Bedford Housing Association, and Simon Nunn from the National Housing Federation.

Bringing rents down – my blueprint for the private rental sector

On 19 July, I published a landmark blueprint which set out the changes and powers we need from the Government to truly overhaul London's private rental sector. In my report I set out how the private rented sector in London should be transformed to give renters open-ended tenancies and to bring rents down. I am calling for the powers to establish a universal register of landlords and rents, and to set up a London Private Rent Commission to:

- design an effective system of rent control, including its own role in implementing, monitoring, and enforcing the new approach;
- set out how existing rents should be gradually reduced, and their subsequent levels limited within and between tenancies;
- recommend incentives to encourage investment in new and existing rental housing supply.

Despite having no powers over the Private Rented Sector – unlike other mayors around the world – I am committed to fighting for the rights for London's 2.4 million renters. I have set up a new public database to 'name and shame' rogue landlords and letting agents, and I worked successfully with campaign groups in the capital to end letting fees to tenants and get the Government's commitment to scrap 'no fault' evictions.

Working with the local community to build social rented and community-led homes at St Ann's

On 23 July, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, James Murray met with the St Ann's Redevelopment Trust as part of our ongoing work together on the former hospital site, which I bought in March 2018 using my Land Fund. They had a productive discussion about key features of the approach we are taking, such as our commitment that the development will include a minimum of 50 community-led homes.

200 homes for London's rough sleepers and victims of domestic abuse

On 8 August, I confirmed plans for up to 200 homes for former rough sleepers and victims of domestic abuse to enable them to leave hostels and refuges and move on with their lives.

The first two contracts totalling up to £25 million have now been awarded and the homes are expected to be started by March 2021 – with the first available this autumn. Alongside the new homes, residents will be provided with specialist support including for mental health issues, financial management, employment, education and training opportunities, and referrals to other agencies.

This funding will build on City Hall's wider work to help rough sleepers and to support victims of violence against women and girls. People will typically move from hostels and refuges into the homes, where they will be supported as they start to live more independently, ahead of moving into permanent private rented or social housing.

My 'Life off the Streets' programme is expanding

On 15 August, I approved spending of £6.29 million for a range of extra services under my 'Life off the Streets' programme to help rough sleepers in London. These include a new rapid response outreach team, projects for people with mental health support needs, and support for non-UK national rough sleepers.

The rapid response team will respond to reports from Streetlink, providing faster support to those on the street. By responding to new reports of rough sleepers, the new team will help free up existing outreach teams to focus on helping those who have been living on the streets for a long time and have complex needs.

With high temperatures over summer, I have also been working with councils to support rough sleepers who are especially vulnerable to dehydration, heatstroke and heat exhaustion. I have encouraged councils to make sure they extend access to homeless day centre services, and provide access to water, sunscreen, and immediate support.

Over £200 million for improving infrastructure in housing hotspots

On 17 August, after many months of work by my team, the Chancellor announced funding for two infrastructure schemes which will unlock around 24,000 new homes for Londoners.

The announcement included £81 million for capacity improvements on the London Overground and £156 million for infrastructure to support the delivery of Meridian Water in Enfield.

This funding will be used to improve service frequency on key sections of the London Overground and to increase station capacity on this line, as well as supporting a new shuttle from Tottenham Hale to Meridian Water.

I have now secured in excess of £775 million for infrastructure schemes that will unlock thousands of new homes across London. There are two further schemes that are currently being assessed. If successful, these will help unlock even more homes in the Royal Docks and London Riverside.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

New Mayor's Construction Academy accredited providers

My Construction Academy aims to help more Londoners train in the skills they need to access construction vacancies on the capital's housebuilding sites.

At my Mayor's Construction Academy (MCA) stakeholder event on 29 July, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe, announced four newly accredited MCA Quality Marked providers. This brings the total number of MCA accredited providers to 24.

The Quality Mark identifies and recognises high-quality construction skills training provision in London. By recognising those organisations that most strongly demonstrate that they are addressing industry skills needs.

Launch of the delegated Adult Education Budget

On 1 August, I officially assumed responsibility for control of London's share of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) worth more than £300 million annually. This is the culmination of years of planning and I am delighted that I now have this opportunity to tailor part of the

capital's adult education and skills system to ensure Londoners can learn and develop the skills they need to succeed.

I have already made changes to ensure this funding better meets the needs of Londoners, including extending eligibility for full funding of training to those earning below the London Living Wage. I have also introduced funding for eligible learners who cannot access spoken language because of their deafness to study for a first qualification in British Sign Language. This is another step towards creating a more equitable and inclusive adult education and skills system for London.

Following extensive consultation with the sector, I will shortly set out plans for other changes to the AEB in 2020/21 and beyond to ensure London has an adult education and skills systems than can meet the city's challenges now and in the future.

Young Londoners participation on Talk London

On 12 August, International Youth Day, I announced that we lowered the registration age from 18 to 16 on our online community Talk London. This is a safe space where Londoners can have their say on the big challenges facing our city, from the housing crisis, air pollution and climate change, to safety, jobs and affordable transport.

Young Londoners are often impacted the most by these challenges, which is why I want them to have the opportunity to participate, and to help us to deliver a better, fairer city for all. Young Londoners can now sign up to Talk London at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/talk-london/>

Environment

London confirmed as the world's first National Park City

On 22 July, the National Park City Foundation confirmed London as the world's first National Park City at a summit at City Hall. The summit brought together representatives of international, national and London organisations who are supporting London becoming a National Park City. I co-signed the London National Park City Charter which sets out key actions to make London a city where people, places and nature are better connected.

The National Park City idea encourages more people to enjoy the great outdoors and to support Londoners and the city's local authorities, businesses and institutions make the city greener, healthier and wilder. A greener future is central to my vision for London and I'm proud we're officially the world's first National Park City.

National Park City Festival – 20 to 28 July

On 19 July, I launched the opening night of the National Park City Festival from the outdoor River Stage at the National Theatre. Over 300 events took place as part of the festival, highlighting the importance, beauty and breadth of London's green spaces and encouraging thousands of Londoners to get out and discover the green spaces and waterways on their doorstep.

My Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues also attended a number of festival events including the National Park City Wildlife Photography Exhibition at Kings Cross and the Living Symphonies installation in Epping Forest organised in partnership with Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019.

Community Green Space Grants

Applications opened on 15 July for the third round of my Community Green Space Grants, part of my £12 million Greener City Fund. Grants between £5k and £50k are available to communities to create and improve green spaces. The deadline for applications is 30 September 2019 and £1 million is available in this round for projects that will take place between January and December 2020.

The grants can cover a wide range of activities including neighbourhood greening, improving parks, creating wildlife habitats, restoring waterways and greening school grounds. Applications are open to community groups, charities, boroughs, schools, housing associations and others. All of the details are available at: www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/greener-city-fund/community-grants

Drinking fountains and London Refill

On 18 July, I announced the locations of 50 new public drinking fountains which are now being installed across busy areas of London to help people ditch single-use plastic bottles and reduce plastic waste. These new drinking fountains will be installed as part of my partnership with Thames Water to provide over 100 free drinking fountains across London. The fountains will also expand the network of 28 public drinking fountains I have already installed through my initiative with the ZSL #OneLess campaign.

These installations are part of my program of work to help Londoners easily reduce single-use plastic bottles in the capital by providing free drinking water and work alongside the Refill London scheme I have supported. The Refill London scheme allows Londoners to access free drinking water from nearly 2,700 cafes, shops and businesses offering free tap water, with participating outlets placing easily identifiable Refill stickers in their windows.

First localised air quality data from the 'Breathe London' network

On 29 July, I published the first data from the 'Breathe London' network and launched the live data platform. Breathe London is a new lower-cost, hyperlocal, air quality sensor network. It complements the existing monitoring done by the London Air Quality Network and Air Quality England by building up a real-time, hyperlocal image of the capital's air quality. The Breathe London network highlights potential air quality hotspots, allowing solutions to be put in place as quickly as possible.

Data from more than 100 fixed sensors placed in locations across the capital for Breathe London found levels of pollution likely to exceed legal limits not only in central London but also outer boroughs such as Barking, Kingston and Hillingdon. The findings demonstrate that poor air quality is not only a problem for people living and working in central London. This supports the rationale for my decision to expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the North and South Circular roads by 2021.

Electric taxis

On 31 July, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues joined the CEO of the London Electric Vehicle Company to celebrate their production milestone of 2,500 zero emission capable taxis, of which 2,000 are now licensed in London. These vehicles are playing a significant role in helping to improve London's air quality and it is leading the way to a greener London taxi fleet.

Grey to Green

I am supporting community groups to green local neighbourhoods by replacing paving and hard surfaces with planting, including by committing funding of £55k to bolster the 2019 Open Space Awards administered by Groundwork London. Further details are on the Groundwork London website at: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/london/pages/our-space-award>

To further help community groups, on 6 August, I published 'Grey to Green – a guide to community-led de-paving projects' which provides advice on how to make grey areas greener to help reduce the risk of flash flooding by slowing down the flow of rainfall to our sewers and waterways. The guide can be downloaded at:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/grey_to_green_guide.pdf

Education and Youth

LondonEd conference

On 5 July, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM delivered the opening address for LondonEd 2019: A Research Conference for London Schools. The event was held at City Hall, and led by the London South Teaching Schools Alliance, Rosendale School and other partners. The audience of 150 delegates included primary and secondary school leaders, education professionals and academics. They came together to celebrate the strength of, and share learning from, the teacher research movement in raising the attainment of pupils across London schools.

Joanne announced the release of my London Education Report, which shows how London continues to lead the way across the country on many measures of primary and secondary school pupil achievement. The report can be found here: london.gov.uk/london-education-report and will be updated on a rolling basis as new government data becomes available. This will mean that schools, educationalists and other policy-makers will have ongoing access to the latest London-level data.

Care Leaver Covenant

On 19 July, I invited local authorities across London to City Hall to learn more about the Department for Education's Care Leaver Covenant initiative. The event was opened by my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, and co-chaired by two members of my Peer Outreach Workers team with care backgrounds. Representatives from 14 local authorities across London participated and Joanne shared details of my own six key offers of support to care leavers in the capital. There were also presentations from Spectra First (the national delivery partner for the Care Leaver Covenant), the London Children in Care Council and Lewisham Council, which is London's champion borough for the initiative. I hope that all

London local authorities will engage with the Covenant as a way of providing extra support for London's care leavers.

Fawcett Society's Commission on Gender Stereotypes in Early Childhood

On 19 July, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM attended the Fawcett Society's Commission on Gender Stereotypes in Early Childhood. As one of the Commissioners Joanne will help gather evidence and explore how gender stereotypes interact with other norms including race and class. The Commission will report in 2020 and suggest practical solutions to ensure that all our children are able to reach their potential.

Annual Sea Cadets National Band competition

On 3 August, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM represented me at the Tower of London for the annual Sea Cadets National Band competition and was honoured to present the prize to the winning team.

Young Londoners Fund - young people scoring days

On 14 August, I attended one of four young people scoring days, led by my Peer Outreach Workers Team, for round two of the Young Londoners Fund. My Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM and my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard also attended earlier sessions on 30 July and 2 August respectively.

Overall, more than 100 young Londoners took part in assessing 520 applications in this round for up to £15 million of further funding. They scored applicants specifically on how they have engaged local young people in the design and delivery of their projects. I sat in on their deliberations and discussed with them how their work was vital to ensuring my funding reaches those organisations who will offer the best projects to help young Londoners reach their full potential. The young people's scores and comments will feed into overall officer scores, to be reviewed at three senior officer panels and three Deputy Mayor panels taking place over the summer, which will make grant recommendations to me. Each panel will have a representative from my Peer Outreach Team, offering feedback from the young people's scoring days.

Other youth funders are taking part in the officer panels, including the National Lottery, BBC Children in Need and Impetus, who are delivering the new Youth Endowment Fund. Applicants for small grants will be informed whether they have been successful during week commencing 9 September and applicants for medium and large grants will hear week commencing 14 October, all pending due diligence checks.

Communities and Social Policy

Welfare Analysis in Schools Poverty Launch

On 17 August, I launched a major new pilot project that will work with schools to tackle child poverty. The pilot will run across at least 12 primary schools this year and will test innovative approaches such as embedding welfare rights advisers within schools to help families ensure they are claiming all the benefit income they are due. The pilot was launched at one of the

participating schools - Colville Primary, near Grenfell Tower - alongside the findings of a cumulative impact assessment of welfare reforms that I commissioned.

This analysis showed that the tax and benefit reforms implemented by the Government since 2010 will push an extra 75,000 children into poverty by 2021/2022 – a 4 per cent increase on London’s already unacceptably high levels.

Publication of cumulative impact assessment of welfare reforms

The cumulative impact assessment also showed the significant effect the reforms have had on disabled Londoners. The analysis showed that the incomes of households where someone is disabled will receive an average of £1,910 a year less by 2021/2022 as a result of the government’s tax and benefit reforms than they otherwise would have. The figure for households with both a child and a disabled person is £3,760. I wrote to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Secretary, Amber Rudd MP to highlight these stark findings and to call on her to reverse the impact of the four-year freeze on working-age benefits – the reform the analysis showed had the biggest negative impact on household incomes. She replied confirming her agreement that the freeze should not be extended.

Stonewall Anniversary Event

On 5 July, I held an event in the London Living Room marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, which sparked a global gay civil rights movement. The event highlighted the importance of the start of the LGBT+ civil rights movement in 1969.

Commemoration event with the Anti-Tribalism Movement

On 15 August, I was invited to speak at a commemoration event for the late Mayor of Mogadishu, Abdirahman Osman, organised by the Anti-Tribalism Movement. The event was a celebration of his contribution to public and civic life and was attended by more than 80 influential figures and community leaders in London’s Somali community.

Health

World Hepatitis Day visit to a testing van

On 26 July, I was delighted to visit the mobile hepatitis C testing van located outside the Manna Centre, a day centre that serves homeless people, near London Bridge. This visit marked World Hepatitis Day and supported the work being done with partners to promote testing and treatment among some of London’s most vulnerable groups who may be at high risk of hepatitis C but not be in touch with other health services. New treatments can cure the virus in most people, and I am supporting the work to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and eliminate Hepatitis C as a public health threat in London by 2025.

London Health Board

On 10 July, I chaired the London Health Board. The Board considered and endorsed the draft London NHS Estates Strategy and received a presentation from Dr Vin Diwaker, Medical Director on the developing London Health and Care vision due to be published at the London Health Board Conference on 2 October. I also took the opportunity to raise concerns relayed to

me from Cllr Peter John, Chair of London Councils around GP recruitment, and the need for Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) to fully engage with local authorities.

Meeting with the London Ambulance Service

On 9 July, in my regular meeting with the London Ambulance Service (LAS) Chair and Chief Executive we discussed the recent London Bridge Inquest and I was able to thank their staff, on behalf of all Londoners, for the service they provide to the capital every day. We also noted the pressures on the Service over the summer, and the impact this can have on meeting performance targets. I was pleased we were able to discuss opportunities for further joint working; in the action we can take to support the health of London's homeless population, and how the Service can further contribute to the work of my Violence Reduction Unit.

London Healthy Workplace Award relaunch

On 9 July, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE welcomed businesses, award winners and partners to City Hall to thank them for their support and to celebrate my newly relaunched [London Healthy Workplace Award](#). It was a fantastic evening of learning, sharing and thanks. The event recognised the impact of the award on the productivity of London's businesses and its contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of working Londoners and their families.

The celebration evening marked the start of a new chapter for the Award programme, that I hope will go from strength to strength. It has a much stronger focus on mental health, reflects the latest health and wellbeing at work evidence – plus there are now two new Award categories – one for Micro businesses (1-10 employees) and one for Communal Workspace business. If you are a micro business or operate a space for other businesses to flourish and connect in, I strongly encourage you to sign-up to my London Healthy Workplace Award and help make London the best and healthiest city to do business. Further information can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/london-healthy-workplace-award/about-london-healthy-workplace-award>

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Team London Young Ambassadors Showcase

On 4 and 11 July, 20 groups of young people showcased the work they have been doing to improve their communities with the help of my Team London Small Grants for Schools. The Young Ambassadors were welcomed to City Hall by my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard and exhibited the projects they are delivering to address issues such as air quality, homelessness, gender equality, and social integration. Four projects received special commendation from the judges and public – they included inclusive rugby tournaments where teams were gender balanced and involving children with special educational or physical needs, environmental projects to reduce air pollution in their area, a community café that provides opportunities for students to learn work skills, and a campaign on period poverty.

Team London Ambassadors

On 18 July, I launched my 2019 Team London Ambassadors programme. Over the busy summer period, more than 600 Team London Ambassadors will volunteer at hotspots across London, making sure that tourists and visitors receive a warm welcome. Known as London's 'friendly face', the Ambassadors are volunteers who share their knowledge and enthusiasm about the capital. This year, over 189 Ambassadors were completely new to the programme, supporting Team London's focus to enable more Londoners to volunteer.

Major Events Volunteering

From 19 to 28 July, over 100 Team London volunteers supported the delivery of the first National Park City Festival. The National Park City Festival Makers were the welcoming face of the event helping Londoners to join in this celebration of London's green spaces, wildlife, green rooftops and waterways.

On 4 August, 30 Team London volunteers supported the Prudential RideLondon FreeCycle. The family-friendly ride gave participants the chance to ride on traffic-free streets on an eight-mile circuit passing some of London's most iconic sights. The event gave volunteers the opportunity to be part of the world's biggest cycling festival and one of the biggest sporting events held in London this year.

Stronger Communities

In July, I awarded the first round of Stronger Communities micro-grants. These will provide funding to grassroots community organisations to deliver sport and physical activities which increase social integration and contribute to my ambition of making London the most active and socially integrated city in the world.

As part of Sport Unites, my multi-million-pound community sport investment programme, the Stronger Communities fund will award grants of £2k to £5k over the next 12 months to projects that use sport and physical activity to reduce isolation and improve social integration in communities. These projects will bring together Londoners from different backgrounds, cultures and faiths, and will help socially isolated and lonely Londoners feel better connected to their local communities. The recently published report '[Survey of Londoners](#)' provides the data which supports the need for programmes like Sport Unites.

Serious Youth Violence Steering Group Launch

On 30 July, I launched the Sport and Serious Youth Violence Steering Group bringing together London community sports experts to help identify causes, share best practice, and propose solutions to serious youth violence. This group is the first of its kind in the sport sector.

The steering group consists of representatives from 20 organisations that I have previously funded through the Young Londoners Fund Sport Unites programme. Each of these organisations has selected a young person involved in their prevention programme to join the group. The young people will have an equal seat at the table and will play a key role in coordinating the work of the group, sharing their own insight of being at risk of getting involved in crime.

HeadStart Interns Programme 2019

On 5 August, City Hall welcomed this year's HeadStart Interns, who are completing a four-week paid internship within ten GLA teams. The interns are aged 16 to 18, come from a diverse background and are part of the HeadStart London programme which Team London runs in partnership with the charity, The Challenge.

On 20 August, I welcomed and congratulated the group, and took questions about my background, inspiration and my role as the Mayor. The Interns' placements will finish on 30 August and they will attend a graduation event as part of their final week. This is an excellent opportunity for them to undertake paid (London Living Wage) work experience. This year 16 interns were recruited - the highest intake to date.

New Phase of London Needs You Alive Campaign launched

As part of my wider plans to tackle serious youth violence, I launched a new phase of my London Needs You Alive campaign. The campaign reached more than 700,000 young Londoners with inspirational messages about realising their potential and promoting free activities available to them during the summer holidays.

Our interactive map featured 700 activities that young people could take part in ranging from sport, tech, music and much more. Many of the organisations running these activities have been supported by the Mayor's Young Londoners Fund.

City Hall also partnered with Apple to deliver a series of 'Made in LDN' sessions during the summer, teaching young Londoners about music production, video editing, design, coding and photography, crucial skills that can set them up for future career success.

Culture and Events

Pride Celebrations

On Saturday 6 July, I joined thousands of Londoners to proudly march in solidarity with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community at London's annual Pride celebration - one of the longest running Pride events in the country. This year, we recognised an important anniversary - 50 years since the Stonewall uprising.

I was also honoured to host the Pride Reception at City Hall to say thank you to the organisers and over 200 people from the LGBTQ+ community, and to support UK Black Pride on Sunday 8 July.

LGBTQ+ venues remain stable

On 6 July, I published figures showing that the number of LGBTQ+ venues in London has remained stable for a second year running, following a decade of decline. City Hall's LGBTQ+ Venues Charter, which helps protect venues, now has fifty-five per cent of venues signed up to it. I have also provided venues with a window sticker to show their visible commitment to the LGBTQ+ community.

Grassroots Music Venues increase

On 16 July, I announced that the number of London's grassroots music venues had risen in the last year, after nearly a decade of decline. Between 2007 and 2016, the number of grassroots music venues in the capital fell by a third, from 144 to 94. Following two years of stability, the past year saw an increase for the first time since 2006.

Music Venues Toolkits launched

On 16 July, my Culture Team hosted the launch of two new toolkits to help entrepreneurs and music promoters open and run new music venues. These toolkits aim to protect and grow London's globally renowned grassroots music scene and were developed in partnership with the Music Venue Trust; they are an integral part of my Cultural Infrastructure Plan.

The Connect - London Borough of Culture Young People's City Hall Event

On 16 July, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, hosted a young people's event at City Hall. Young people who are participating in the London Borough of Culture programmes for 2019 and 2020 attended. This event was also attended by Florence Eshalomi AM. This was an opportunity for the young people, many of who are not in full time education or training, to share learning, celebrate achievements and talk about why culture is important to them.

Illuminated River Launch

On 17 July, I launched the Illuminated River, along with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE. Illuminated River is a new artwork by artist Leo Villareal and architects Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands. The occasion marked the switch-on of the first four central London bridges to be illuminated: London Bridge; Cannon Street Bridge; Southwark Bridge and Millennium Bridge. Once complete it is planned to include 15 bridges, making it the longest public art commission in the world at 2.5 miles in length along the River Thames. The project will reduce energy consumption, address the environmental impact of light pollution and it will provide an improved environment for the river's flora and fauna.

Women's Night Safety Summit and new toolkit for businesses

On 19 July, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, hosted the third Women's Night Safety Summit and launched a new toolkit that gives advice and practical examples to put the seven pledges of my Women's Night Safety Charter into action. The event was attended by a wide range of organisations and signatories of the Charter. Over 250 organisations have now signed up including venues, transport providers, the police, local authorities, sports facilities, hospitality companies and events businesses.

International Busking Day

On 20 July, Busk in London celebrated International Busking Day with a global street performance festival at Wembley Park. Busk in London Ambassador KT Tunstall headlined the event and 12,000 visitors were entertained across five stages. Talented London artists performed alongside acts from across the globe. London's vibrant and diverse busking scene nurtures hundreds of artists and is an important part of the capital's cultural offering.

La Clave Festival

I was excited to again support La Clave Fest - now in its fourth year - a free multi-arts festival that celebrates the contribution of Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese (Latin) culture to London life, through music, dance, film, talks, theatre, sport and gastronomy on Saturday 3 August 2019. The day showcased the very best of the UK's residing Latin artists, particularly London-born and bred Latin talent.

London Borough of Culture – Creative Partners City Hall Event

On 7 August, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE hosted an event for arts and regeneration officers from twelve London boroughs and cultural leaders from more than forty arts organisations. The event encouraged local authorities and cultural organisations to build new partnerships in the lead up to developing bids for the London Borough of Culture competition for 2021 and 2023, which closes on 28 October 2019.

Notting Hill Carnival

On Sunday 25 August 2019, I spent the afternoon enjoying the music, magnificent parade costumes and sunshine at Notting Hill Carnival. Currently in its 53rd year, it is a celebration of Caribbean culture, that attracted an estimated 1 million people across the weekend.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Active East

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park also played host to Active East (1 to 31 July), a summer of sport programme filled with 135 free outdoor sports sessions including yoga, running, basketball, cycling and exercise classes. With 5,000 participants across the programme, the event was a great success, welcoming people of all ages, ability levels and skills.

Green Flag Award

On 16 July, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park was recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the UK's best green spaces, for the sixth consecutive year. This international accolade is testament to all those who work to ensure the Park is held to the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

Muller Anniversary Games

London Stadium's action-packed summer schedule continued with another hugely successful Muller Anniversary Games on 20 to 21 July. Part of the legacy of London 2012, the two-day international athletics meet was the best attended athletics event in Europe, welcoming almost 50,000 spectators. Coinciding with the games, more than 2,500 people also took part in UK Athletics' Festival of Sport, including 530 schoolchildren from 75 local schools as part of the Borough Connect School Relays.

East Education Summer School

While works continue apace at UCL East and Stratford Waterfront sites, our East Bank partners were busy working with other local partners including British Council and The Yard Theatre to deliver this year's East Education Summer School (29 July to 9 August).

Across two weeks, over 350 local young people participated in a varied programme comprised of over 1000 free course spaces, offering windows into the industries and enterprises that cluster around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Free meals were also provided to all participants to tackle holiday hunger issues identified by local schools who helped shape the programme.

Prudential RideLondon

On 3 and 4 August, the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park hosted the start of this year's Prudential RideLondon, which saw 70,000 cyclists riding through the streets of London.

Planning

Engaging the community in opportunity areas

City Hall is currently engaging with communities in the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood Opportunity Area and the Royal Docks and Beckton Riverside Opportunity Area. This engagement is designed to seek ideas and feedback on the issues that are important to the communities ahead of preparation of Planning Frameworks for the Opportunity Areas. This work is being done in partnership with TfL, the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the London Borough of Bexley for Thamesmead and Abbey Wood, and with TfL and the London Borough of Newham for the Royal Docks and Beckton Riverside, working closely with my Royal Docks team.

Planning and Development Control 5 July 2019 to 20 August 2019

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Olympia Hammersmith Road, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

I have written to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Hammersmith Town Hall King Street, Hammersmith and Fulham

I have written to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Juniper House, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest

I have written to the London Borough of Waltham Forest stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Site North West of Leamouth Road, LB Tower Hamlets

I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Travelodge, London Docklands, LB Tower Hamlets

I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Etap Acor Hotel, North Woolwich, LB Newham

I have written to the London Borough of Newham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Morrisons, Yiewsley, LB Hillingdon

I have written to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

King's House Southbridge Way, Southall, LB Newham

I have written to the London Borough of Newham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Westbury Estate, Clapham, LB Lambeth

I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

South Lambeth Estate, Clapham, LB Lambeth

I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Colindale Telephone Exchange, Hendon, LB Barnet

I have written to the London Borough of Wandsworth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Garratt Lane, Earlsfield, LB Wandsworth

I have written to the London Borough of Wandsworth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Land adjacent to 20 Bury Street, City of London

I have written to the City of London directing the Council to refuse planning permission.

Pensbury Place, Battersea, LB Wandsworth

I have written to the London Borough of Wandsworth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Dolphin Square, Pimlico, City of Westminster

I have written to the London Borough of City of Westminster directing the Council to refuse planning permission.

Clapham Park Estate, LB Lambeth

I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

5-9 Surrey Street, Croydon, LB Croydon

I have written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Homebase, Manor Road, North Sheen, LB Richmond upon Thames

I have written to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Watermeadow Court, Fulham, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

I have written to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Edith Summerskill House, Fulham, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

I have written to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Kensington Centre, 66 Hammersmith Road, Olympia, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

I have written to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Site at 3-11 Goulston Street and 4-6 and 16-22 Middlesex Street, Aldgate, LB Tower Hamlets

I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

90 Monier Road, Fish Island, Hackney Wick, London Legacy Development Corporation

I have written to the London Legacy Development Corporation stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Hanger Lane Gyratory, LB Ealing

I have written to the London Borough of Ealing stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Saxon Wharf, Deptford Creek, Royal Borough of Greenwich

I have written to the Royal Borough of Greenwich stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

8-14 Grafton Street, 163-164 New Bond Street and 22-24 Bruton Lane, Mayfair, City of Westminster

I have written to the City of Westminster stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

I have asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- 100 Jersey Road, Hounslow, LB Hounslow
- The Tower, Mercury Gardens, Romford, LB Havering
- 573-585 High Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge
- Research Centre Building, Brunel University, Uxbridge, LB Hillingdon
- 10 -12 Eastwood Close, South Woodford, LB Redbridge
- Barratt Industrial Estate, 20-22 Gillender, Street, Bromley by Bow, LB Tower Hamlets
- Former Kelaty House, First Way, Wembley, LB Brent
- Land off Angel Lane, Stratford, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Tolworth Tower, Tolworth Broadway, LB Kingston
- 5 Kingdom Street, Paddington, City of Westminster

- Vulcan Wharf, Cooks Road, London Legacy Development Corporation
- King's College, London Guys Campus, LB Southwark
- Millbank Complex, Millbank, City of Westminster
- Marshgate Business Centre, Pudding Mill, Stratford, London Legacy Development

Corporation

- 5 Strand, Charing Cross, City of Westminster, City of Westminster
- Portal West, 6 Portal Way, North Acton, Old Oak and Park Royal Development

Corporation

- Vinegar Yard, London Bridge, LB Southwark
- Fosters Estate, Hendon, LB Barnet
- 12-18 Yelverton Road, Battersea, LB Wandsworth
- King's Crescent Estate, Queens Drive, LB Hackney
- Greenburn Centre, Selinas Lane, LB Barking and Dagenham
- South London Mail Centre, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LB Wandsworth
- South London Mail Centre, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LB Wandsworth
- 9-15 York Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge
- 229-255 Kingston Road, Kingston, LB Kingston Upon Thames
- Eastman Dental Hospital, 256 Grays Inn Road, Camden, LB Camden
- St James' Market Phase 2, St Albans House, Westminster, City of Westminster
- Napier House and New Plymouth House, Rainham, LB Havering
- World Business Centre, Newall Road, Heathrow Airport, LB Hillingdon
- Land at Lionel Road South – Duffy, Brentford, LB Hounslow
- Lyle Park West (Land adjacent to West Silvertown DLR Station), LB Newham
- St Thomas' Hospital, Westminster Bridge Road, LB Lambeth
- 57 Greenford Road, Harrow, LB Ealing
- London Road/North Street, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham

Decisions made under delegation to the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills

Planning Application – Stage 2 (delegated decision)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, under powers I delegated to him, has sent letters in response to the following statutory referrals:

Gallions 3B, Magellan Boulevard, Gallions Reach, LB Newham

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Newham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Kidbrooke Station Square, Greenwich, RB Greenwich

The Deputy Mayor has written to the Royal Borough of Greenwich stating that the Mayor will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application

Former Abbey Sports Centre, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

25-55 North Street, Romford, LB Havering

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Havering stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Land East of Kellaway Road, Greenwich, RB Greenwich

The Deputy Mayor has written to the Royal Borough of Greenwich stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- 12-14 Lombard Road, LB Wandsworth
- Segro Park Heathrow, LB Hounslow
- Imperial Hotel, LB Camden
- Kensington Palace, City of Kensington and Chelsea
- Former Nestle Factory, LB Hillingdon
- Royal Docks Service Station, LB Newham
- Hounslow Heath Golf Course, LB Hounslow
- Site 2 G And B Compressor Hire Ltd, Thames Wharf, LB Newham
- Fulham Football Club, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Land At Standard Wharf, LB Bexley
- 23 Olympic Way, LB Brent
- TFL Highway Compound, LB Newham

Key Engagements

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

- I visited the specially commissioned rainbow crossing on Regent Street on 5 July
- I addressed the Stonewall 50th Anniversary event at City Hall on 5 July
- I attended the LFB Pride Breakfast at Soho Fire Station on 6 July
- I took part in the London Pride March on 6 July
- I attended the 7/7 Wreath Laying Ceremony in Hyde Park on 7 July to mark the 14th anniversary of the London Bombings
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 8 July
- I attended a dinner at Middle Temple Hall on 8 July where I was called as an Honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple
- I attended the Congress of Leaders on 9 July
- I had my regular meeting with the London Ambulance Service on 9 July
- I chaired the London Health Board on 10 July
- I joined local ward Police Officers on patrol in Church Street, Westminster on 11 July and visited the Avenues youth club to meet with staff
- I chaired the AEB Mayoral Board meeting on 11 July
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 11 July
- I attended the Metropolitan Police passing out parade taking place at the Hendon Training School on 12 July
- I attended the Cricket World Cup Final at Lord's Cricket Ground on 14 July
- I visited the Salmon Youth Centre in Bermondsey on 15 July
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 15 July
- I had my regular meeting with Matt Wrack, General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, on 15 July
- I chaired a Homebuilding & Development Sector Roundtable on 16 July
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board meeting on 16 July

- I visited the Colville Primary School breakfast club on 17 July to launch new data commissioned by the GLA showing the cumulative impact of the Government's tax and benefit reforms and also to announce a positive pilot project working with primary schools to support low-income families
- I chaired the Mayor's Business Advisory Board meeting on 17 July
- I met with Surinder Arora, Chairman Arora Group, on 17 July to discuss business engagement
- I met with Cllr Stephen Cowan, the Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham, on 17 July to discuss borough issues
- I attended the launch of Illuminated River on 17 July
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 18 July
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 18 July
- I attended a housing roundtable on 19 July to launch my report "Reforming Private Renting: The Mayor of London's Blueprint"
- I visited the Pentavia Retail Park development site in Barnet on 19 July
- I attended the National Park City Festival Launch on 19 July
- I opened the new Beckenham Place Park Lake on 20 July
- I addressed the National Park City International Summit at City Hall on 22 July
- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 22 July ahead of the Transport for London Board Meeting
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 22 July
- I chaired the VRU Partnership Reference Group on 23 July
- I had my regular meeting with representatives of the TUC LESE (TUC London East and South East) on 23 July
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 24 July
- I chaired the Pentavia Retail Park Representation Hearing at City Hall on 25 July
- I met with Myung J. Lee, Executive Director, Cities of Service, one of the judges from the 'Cities of Service: Engaged Cities Awards' on 25 July
- I had my regular meeting with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu on 25 July to discuss policing and security
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 25 July
- I visited the mobile Hepatitis C Testing Van at the Manna Day Centre on 26 July
- I launched the Good Work Standard at City Hall on 29 July
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 29 July
- I addressed the LCCI Business Reception at City Hall on 29 July
- I attended the launch of the Sport & Serious Youth Violence Steering Group at the London Stadium on 30 July
- I had my regular meeting with Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 30 July
- I took part in the Iain Dale: All Talk show at the Edinburgh Fringe on 9 August
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 13 August
- I visited Duke's Aldridge Academy, Tottenham, on 13 August to announce the partnership between City Hall and the Premier League's community programme, Kicks
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 14 August
- I met with Sir George Iacobescu, Canary Wharf Group, on 14 August to discuss the Canary Wharf Group's interest in the Earl's Court development site
- I met with the young people scoring bids for medium-sized grants for round two of the Young Londoners Fund on 14 August

- I attended the Somali community event which took place at City Hall on 15 August to remember the late Mayor of Mogadishu
- I attended the Ashes Test match at Lord's Cricket Ground on 16 August
- I had an introductory meeting with the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, the new Secretary of State for Transport, on 19 August
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 19 August
- I visited the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham with Leader Cllr Darren Rodwell on 20 August to see the Future Youth Zone
- I met with the GLA Headstart Interns on 20 August
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 20 August
- I attended Notting Hill Carnival on 25 August
- I visited the Rotherhithe roundabout on 27 August to see the ongoing Cycleway 4 construction work
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 27 August
- I met with Cllr Ibrahim Dogus, the Mayor of Lambeth, on 28 August to discuss borough issues
- I had an introductory meeting with the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, the new Home Secretary, on 28 August
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 29 August
- I had my regular meeting with Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 29 August
- I addressed the Unite bus driver demonstration outside City Hall on 29 August
- I met with Keir Starmer MP, the Shadow Brexit Secretary, on 29 August to discuss the impact of leaving the European Union

Ends