

MAYOR OF LONDON

Navin Shah

London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow
City Hall
Queens Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Date: 20 December 2017

Dear Navin,

Re: **RELIGHTING THE TORCH: SECURING THE OLYMPIC LEGACY**

I am writing in response to the London Assembly Regeneration Committee's recent report into efforts to create a lasting legacy of regeneration from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and progress towards achieving the convergence objectives for the six host boroughs – the Growth Boroughs.

I note your three recommendations to the Mayor to provide the strategic direction required for convergence to succeed. The Mayor is committed to driving 'Good Growth' across the capital, ensuring growth is socially and economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable. Key to this is tackling health and economic inequalities and developing more successful and integrated neighbourhoods right across the city – reflecting the three cross-cutting themes of the convergence agenda.

The Mayor's aims are clearly set out in his new draft strategies:

- Good Growth is the guiding principle for the new London Plan, which has six cross-cutting Good Growth policies, focused on creating a healthier, more efficient and more resilient city where all communities have access to the homes and economic opportunities they need to thrive. The six policies – which resonate with the convergence themes - are:
 1. Building strong and inclusive communities
 2. Making the best use of land
 3. Creating a healthy city
 4. Delivering the homes Londoners need
 5. Growing a good economy
 6. Increasing efficiency and resilience

The London Plan also identifies Strategic Areas for Regeneration (Policy SD10) in those parts of London that are within the 20% most deprived parts of England (according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation), and includes significant areas within the Growth Boroughs. It puts a renewed emphasis on tackling spatial inequalities, and requires boroughs in their development plans, and when considering applications, to tackle the environmental, economic and social barriers that affect the lives of people in these areas.

- Addressing inequality right across London is at the very heart of the Mayor's draft Economic Development Strategy. The strategy proposes specific policies to realise the Mayor's ambition for a fairer and more inclusive economy that works for all Londoners, from ensuring London provides world-class education for all, to overcoming barriers to work and learning, to addressing affordability issues and ensuring fairer pay and employment practices. This is linked to the Mayor's goal to further enhance London's competitiveness and create a business environment that is not only friendly – in terms of being conducive to investment and growth – but also fair, where all companies play by the rules and where all Londoners stand to benefit.
- The Mayor's draft health inequalities strategy – Better Health for all Londoners – recognises that London has the widest health inequalities in England and sets out a range of measures to ensure

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that all Londoners have a fair opportunity to live a long life, and to be well enough to get the best out of life in London at any age. The report highlights some inequalities that are particularly acute in relation to the Growth Boroughs. For example, the rate of early deaths from preventable causes is twice as high in Tower Hamlets as it is in the nearby City of London. The overall ambition of the strategy is to reduce this unfair variation while also improving the overall health of all Londoners.

The development of the draft strategies has been informed by various pieces of research and Integrated Impact Assessments, as well as by GLA Economics' Economic Evidence Base and the sophisticated population projections produced by the Demographics Team in the GLA's Intelligence Unit. This work looks at a wide range of factors that affect inequalities across the city (including convergence), such as educational attainment, skills levels, employment, income, poverty and deprivation. The research uses borough-level data where possible, identifying sub-regional and sectoral trends.

In terms of the Mayor's Good Growth Fund (GGF), this is an overarching London-wide regeneration programme delivered through the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP). It will provide approximately £70 million in funding, expert regeneration advice, design support and knowledge sharing opportunities to a broad range of public, private and third-sector organisations to support projects to deliver against three strategic, interrelated themes: empowering London's people; strengthening London's places; and growing London's prosperity.

A total of 205 Expressions of Interest were received for the first round of the GGF. In evaluating these at a programme level, the aim has been to support the full range of actions set out in the prospectus, to expand the range of organisations the Mayor and LEAP support, to encourage partnership working, and to maximise impact right across London by creating a balanced programme. Projects located in the Growth Boroughs account for 18 of the 51 projects that have been invited to 'submit detailed application', 8 of the 19 projects offered 'development funding', and 27 of the 84 projects in the 'pipeline'.

The Mayor and LEAP are committed to understanding the impact of investment through such funds. GGF project partners will therefore be asked to collect evidence on the environmental, social and economic impact of their interventions including carrying out equalities monitoring. A handbook has been produced to provide guidance to project partners on collecting evidence, demonstrating impact and undertaking evaluation.

I trust this snapshot of activity provides reassurance that the Mayor is working hard to tackle inequalities right across the city and is delivering convergence across London through his Good Growth agenda

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jules Pipe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jules Pipe CBE

Deputy Mayor, Planning, Regeneration and Skills