

People's Question Time Dagenham 2nd November 2017

Ladies and gentlemen welcome to People's Question Time, please note the fire exit nearest to you. In the event of an emergency follow the instructions given by staff. Please switch your electronic devices to silent mode now. If you wish to tweet about tonight's event the hashtag is #pqt. We have five topics tonight and will spend 20 minutes for each. The chair will take questions from those of you with your hands up. Please wait for a member of staff with a microphone to reach you before you speak. The chair will take three questions at a time and then direct your questions to the mayor or an assembly member. We have no advance notice of the questions. If you are able to stand to ask your question, the cameras and those on stage will find it easier to see you. Please keep your questions short so that we can get to as many of you as possible. Please ask questions rather than make speeches. With so many of you here obviously we won't have the time to take everyone's question, so if you don't get to ask yours tonight please give your question to one of the team in the foyer and we will answer it later. Please also remember to fill in the feedback form and hand it to a member of staff at the

end. We will finish tonight at 9.00 sharp. Without further ado ladies and gentlemen, put your hands together for your chair this evening, the member for City of London and east, Unmesh Desal.

UNMESH: Thank you, thank you for that warm welcome. Good evening, and welcome to the 35th People's Question Time, the first time that this event has been held in Dagenham. I have already been introduced, I'm Unmesh Desal, the assembly member for City and East London, a big part of The City of London, Tower Hamlet, Newham, Barking and Dagenham, I will be chairing tonight. This is the third People's Question Time for your mayor, Sadiq Khan. And it is great to see so many of you here tonight. I'm also glad to see that the leader of Barking and Dagenham council Darren Rodwell is here tonight, welcome. The MP for Dagenham and Rainham, John, where are you John? All right, and we also have the Mayor of Barking and Dagenham, Councillor welcome. I just have a few brief announcements before I introduce my colleagues on the London Assembly and the mayor and then we will take questions. The mayor and assembly want to improve life for Londoners and make London a better place. People's Question Time is your chance to raise your concerns and ask the

Mayor and assembly members directly what we are doing for the capital and its people. We are just about ready, please welcome on stage, your London Assembly members. [Applause] And now, can you join me in welcoming the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan! [Applause] We will be taking questions on five topics, transport, safety, air quality and the environment, housing, growing London's economy. There will also be a short section at the end for questions not covered by these topics. You have already been asked to keep your questions short, so we can get to as many of you as possible and we also ask the Mayor respectfully and members to keep the answers short as well and to the point, so we can fit in more, this is your show folks, and I want to get in as many questions as possible and I will try to be as fair as possible. I will try to get people from all sections of this hall. Please listen to the questions and answer with respect and dignity. Don't personalise it and please do not heckle or disrupt the meeting. Your electronic devices should already be on silent mode, I will check mine and the same applies to the Mayor and assembly members on stage. Before I introduce the London Assembly and then the mayor, can I do something that I don't think has been done at the last two People's Question Time, I only got elected

last May, this is all London People's Question Time, but can I ask the residents of Barking and Dagenham to raise your hands so we can get a feel for the audience. And residents of City and East London, which is Barking and Dagenham again, and Newham, I think there is lots of people from Newham. Tower Hamlets, and The City of London, several thousand residents there. Thank you for all of that and all Londoners are welcome at this question time. Can I now ask the chair of the London Assembly, my colleagues, Jennette Arnold to address you for up to five minutes? Thank you.

JENNETTE: Good evening East Londoners, don't you like being called East Londoners? Yeah? OK well before I start I would just ask you to put your hands together for your assembly member Unmesh Desai! Thank you. Now I'm just working, I'm not going to assume anything, to let me just start by saying that the London Assembly works for all Londoners. The 25 assembly members are elected at the same time as the Mayor every four years, the Mayor as the most powerful directly elected politician in the UK, must be held publicly accountable to Londoners and we make sure this happens every day at City Hall. Just reflecting on the last six months, which have been very busy in terms of our work. We have published 14

reports, they deal with a number of important issues relating to the way the Mayor of London spends your money and the policy choices he makes for you. Our aim is to produce quality reports. It's to take a professional account to scrutiny because we believe scrutiny matters. Do you know what? If you are a good leader, you are not fearful of scrutiny, you appreciate scrutiny and you use scrutiny to make your administration better. So, we are always thankful that when we produce a report it goes and it is directed to the Mayor of London that we know he looks at that and makes recommendations. Our aim is to make a difference. Let's talk about a couple of the areas we are working on. On Grenfell Tower we are looking at whether sprinklers should be retro fitted into all tall buildings in London. We are looking at whether resilience arrangements are fit for purpose and how the donations made after the recent strategy were handled, our housing committee will be looking at how social housing is run in London. Our work on the Garden Bridge contributed to the review and the ultimate decision by the mayor not to incur any further public funding. Our work on Brexit has fed into the mayor's regular conversations with secretary David Davis, including on matters such as the status of EU citizens in

London and what is going to happen to the EU funding streams after Brexit. I know that they will be your concerns because this area benefits significantly from EU funding streams. The budget committee did a major piece of work on police funding that is contributing to the debate now happening ahead of budget announcements. We undertook a major investigation into safety, highlighting a range of issues, including the safety risk that bus drivers encounter on a daily basis. The planning committee looked closely at a possible solution to the housing crisis. Off-site built housing. He may know it as prefab. But these houses can be built quicker, they are quality homes, they are cheaper and more efficient for the capital. The Mayor has picked up this idea in his housing strategy. And we have launched a new campaign spearheaded by assembly member Duvall to encourage MPs to support the concept of a domestic abusers' register. Today we held the latest of our meetings in the scrutiny of the London Legacy Development Corporation. After that we went into debate a number of motions, and myself and your assembly member moved and seconded a motion about something that is so important to us all and that is the state, the unacceptable state about modern slavery, trafficking and all the abuse that goes

on in our city. It has to stop. Our position called on the mayor to ensure tackling modern-day slavery is a priority for his administration. So, finally, please keep up with our work by following us on Twitter @LondonAssembly and watching our meetings on YouTube. Thank you for joining us tonight here in Barking and Dagenham in this wonderful school and we look forward to answering your questions this evening. Thank you. [Applause]

UNMESH: Thank you Jeanette. I am now going to ask Mayor Sadiq Khan - and I think this is your second visit to Barking & Dagenham and second this week. You were here on Monday with Darren Rodwell. Sadiq Khan. [Applause]

SADIQ: Before I start, can I thank Unmesh not only for welcoming us here this evening but for his work as councillor since 1998 and for the fantastic work he is doing as an Assembly Member. [Applause] You know he has always championed the issues that matter to local people and has a track record of working to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour, something he has continued to pursue on the London Assembly. Unmesh it's great to be back in your constituency.

Thank you everyone for coming. It's great to be here in the People's Republic of Barking & Dagenham. [Applause] It's

good to see at the back of the hall, hopefully not causing trouble, the local MP John Cruddas. Thank you, John. My ambition is the same today as when I first became Mayor - for every Londoner to get the opportunity to get on in life that my city gave to me and my family. This means working to ensure that our city works for all Londoners and making sure things like investment, transport links, access to culture and opportunities to get on in life are spread across every corner of our city, outer London as well as inner London, Zones 4, 5 and 6 as well as Zone 1. I understand why areas like Barking, Dagenham and the surrounding communities have often felt they have been overlooked in the past. But I want you to know that helping you and your families to fulfil your potential is a priority of mine.

Since becoming Mayor I have spent time across the borough seeing first-hand the transformation taking place in this part of our city from high streets to housing, to new world leading organisations like The Cube, a £3.8 million scientific research and development centre. Earlier this week, as Unmesh said, I was back in Dagenham to announce, alongside the leader of the council, Darren Rodwell, he is here as well, pressing ahead with London's biggest film studio. This will help to make London a world leader in film production and bring hundreds of jobs to this area. So, it's

great to be back again in Dagenham tonight to hear from you.

Before we get on with the questions, I want to touch on three of my key priorities - safety, housing and transport. The most important responsibility I have is to keep Londoners like you safe. As we continue to face an unprecedented terrorist threat it's a tough part of my job but we are lucky to have the best police force in the world, who have shown incredible bravery in recent months. I am working with the met every day to keep our city safe and make sure we are prepared as possible. As part of this, I am fighting tooth and nail to protect London's police budget. Our safety is being put at risk by the scale of the police funding crisis from the Government. This is not scare mongering, it's simply the truth. I'm also restoring real neighbourhood policing here in Barking & Dagenham and across our city. I'm having to take tough decisions to shut down front counters and to keep police numbers as high as possible, but at the same time I'm listening to local concerns and acting accordingly. To this end I am pleased to say today that Dagenham police station will now remain open.

[Applause]

Secondly, housing. The housing crisis is not only contributing to the shocking cost of living in our city but it's a massive social issue too, causing poverty, health

inequalities and growing inequality. I have been honest from the start I can't promise to clean things up overnight. It's going to be a marathon not a sprint, but we have already made big steps in the right direction. For example, last September I approved the plan for Barking Riverside. This there is no room for complacency, this is just the start of greater things to come.

Thirdly, transport. It was simply unfair that fares had increased by more than 4% by the eight years before I became Mayor so I have delivered a Transport for London fares freeze till 2020. I don't have the powers to freeze fares on overcrowded lines. If I can do it, why can they not. I hope this gives you an idea of some of the things we are delivering and I look forward to discussing many of these over the course of the night, from tackling air pollution to encouraging greater social integration.

Let me end by saying this. There is much more to do. We have made a good start and I am determined to keep up the pace of change. You know what? You have a bright future here, with one of the highest proportions of young people in London. I met some of the students earlier this evening.

We need to tap into this potential and to make sure everyone has the chance to get on in life. I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you. [Applause]

UNMESH: Okay, it's now your show and it's now time to hear your questions. We got for the next 18 minutes questions on transport. Just to say, we do take these things very seriously. Sadiq's team of Deputy Mayors are here. They won't answer your questions but they will take notes. Raise your hands if you want to answer a question, Assembly members.

Questions only, not comments or speeches please. I will start off on my right-hand side. Microphone 1, the gentleman here.

FLOOR: There is a looming transport crisis on the Isle of Dogs, E14. We know what challenging is, it's a looming crisis. When will the Mayor come to the Isle of Dogs? This rampant overdevelopment without proper or planned infrastructure is strangling the Isle of Dogs there are pinch points on the Isle of Dogs, let's have some of the money that has been raised, please don't mention Crossrail, it won't take up the strain and it's almost paid for. We raised most of it or the largest proportion, 10% in Tower Hamlets. Come and see us, you will see for yourself, it will help you take the right decisions.

UNMESH: I'm going to take questions in blocks of three so two more questions. Microphone number 5. I think there is a sister to your right.

FLOOR: My question is will you be making the district line 24 hours just like the Jubilee Line and most of the other lines?

UNMESH: Can I say you are not obliged to but it would be good if you introduce yourself, which borough you are from or which organisation you represent. Have you got that question, Sadiq?

SADIQ: Yes.

UNMESH: One more question the gentleman with the blue shirt.

FLOOR: Hello my name is Neil Crowley. I volunteer with a lot of disability groups and I am just really ashamed at the Mayor's transport strategy. There are only two pages that covered disability and I just wanted to know why was it so thin?

SADIQ: I will deal with all the questions one at a time. I think I have got the third question but if I haven't, we will make sure we speak to you to answer the question.

First of all, the question from the man who asked about the Isle of Dogs. The question of infrastructure affects all housing in London. In order to build the homes, we desperately need, we need to make sure there is infrastructure to support the housing. That includes things like schools, GP practices, public transport and other things that support the housing and that is needed to go with the

housing. I have been to the Isle of Dogs many times in the last 16 months and many times before and was recently in Tower Hamlets with Mayor Biggs and recently opening a new redevelopment with my Deputy Mayor in Tower Hamlets. I am happy to visit the part of the Isle of Dogs you referred to. Please speak to the people at the front from City Hall about the project you mean.

Just to give some optimism, the Government has recently announced a housing structure fund because the Government recognises if they are going to meet the needs of additional housing there needs to be infrastructure support and the Government deserves credit for announcing this but also putting aside some money. What they have said is part of the country should bid for this money. It's called HIF. We at City Hall have bid, local authorities have bid, including your local authority, and we are going to get an indication towards the end of this year whether we've been successful or not so. In addition to the SIL money, that is infrastructure money you can get from businesses. Speak to my team and by the end of this year we will know how lucky we've been with the HIF application money. The question about the night tube is a really important question. In August 2016 we began the night tube in London. The previous Mayor promised to have a night tube and couldn't do it. I am really pleased and proud that

within a few months of becoming the Mayor we managed to start the first night tube on the Victoria Line. I wanted to do a big bang to make sure it works. We now have five lines where it's working 24 hours on a Friday and Saturday night. There were some worries people had around antisocial behaviour. By and large we have addressed those issues and it has brought huge benefits to people who work at night-time - porters, cleaners, junior doctors, nurses, police - but also it has helped the economy and we can quantify the benefits brought to London. The Jubilee, Northern, Piccadilly and Central Line have it. We are pleased to announce that shortly parts of the London Overground will run night services and then other lines, but some of the lines we need modernisation first. We are learning the lessons from the first five lines to make sure there aren't noise problems but the short answer is watch this space in relation to other lines coming on stream in the future. I am really excited about the possibility of other lines coming on stream in the future.

The third question sir and if I have not understood it, the people in the front row, my staff will make sure we speak to you afterwards. It's in relation to disabilities and public transport I think. What we have done in relation to my transport strategy is make sure, look, public transport should do what it says on the tin: Be transport for the

public. That includes people who are disabled, people who have access issues. We have set aside in the transport budget £200 million for step free access. We want by the end of my first term roughly 40% of the underground to be step free. All of the Elizabeth Line will be step free, roughly 92% of our bus stops are currently disabled friendly, all of our buses disabled friendly, black taxis disabled friendly. So, we are doing what we can to make sure our transport system is accessible to all Londoners, that includes, by the way, the tax system, making sure the internet is easily accessible, but making sure human beings are there to talk to you. If I have misunderstood the question please don't leave, I will ask my deputy for transport, Val Shawcross to speak to you to make sure we have understood your question because I am keen to make sure London's transport system is the best in the world. This summer we proved we are the envy of other cities, but it's still not good enough.

CAROLINE P: I wanted to pick up a couple of points. The issue with the Isle of Dogs, I have been on a pedestrian cycle bridge on the isle and over to Greenwich on the other side. It's really important we invest in that and also in the tube and rail link. Across London unless we keep investing in transport we are going to see more and more overcrowding and that's why projects such as Crossrail 2

which is so central to making sure the Northern line doesn't seize up and some of the train lines that go into southwest London and down into the northeast but we need to get that investment and there is a huge amount of lobbying cross-party to make sure the Government listens.

It is so important you are able to get around on London Transport, whoever you are. And the Government deferred step free exits on 10 stations. That is a bad sign when we need to make sure more stations are accessible. As a Transport Committee we have successfully lobbied and helped Transport for London to continue things like mobile ramps on the tube system which was only going to come in for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, we lobbied successfully to make sure every CrossRail station would be step-free from day one. That was not originally the plan, that is something we have worked hard on. Personally, I did a lot of work with people with guide dogs weren't allowed on escalators we did a huge amount of work to persuade the former mayor to enable people to get around. We have to make sure that stations in London are fully staffed. That means if you have a disability and you are in a wheelchair you can turn up and get a train like the rest of us. I think we have to make sure we have more dedicated funding

and staffing to ensure whatever your ability you are able to get around the city. [Applause]

UNMESH: We have 8-9 minutes left in the section. I want to get in at least six more questions, two sets of three questions. Can I go, right the gentleman with the red, waving, the cap, microphone number eight.

>>: Can you hear me, good evening Mr Khan, Mayor of London, I'm a London taxi driver and I find it absolutely disgraceful that we have been banned from Bank junction, can you get this reversed. Now you talk about you know access for the disabled, we supply the only wheelchair accessible vehicle for people such as that gentleman. We are being denied access to that junction and other bus lanes. [Applause]

UNMESH: Gentleman here in the front microphone 1.

>>: I'm from the United States in Boston, I'm doing market research for my company, a small private service that has complex safety features not yet used in other companies. Can you please tell us Uber and Taxify what did they do wrong to lose their license, and what could they have done in future to correct it? And lastly if you were to advise a new company coming out what would your advice be.

UNMESH: Microphone number three.

>>: I'm a tenant and resident in Barking and

Dagenham and regarding public transport and overcrowding, you are mentioning London but you are saying the north side and all that, Dagenham Heathway at the moment at 4.00 in the afternoon it is a crush on there. We have seen an increase of people coming through now for the last ten years. And when we are saying about disabilities there is no manual workers at the front there. So how is anyone from Dagenham able to get on transport. That really needs to be looked at when you are saying that.

SADIQ: Firstly, the question from the black taxi driver, linked to the second question for somebody who has an interested in private hire vehicles and Uber and Taxify, I can't win, the black cab drivers are not happy or the Uber drivers, I must be doing something right! I see behind you Steve McNamara who represents the LTDA, if he was being honest he would accept that the plan I published last year is looking forward to a flourishing black taxi business in London, we have increased the number of bus lanes that black taxi can drive in, we have increased the number of cab ranks for the first time in a long period of time. We have increased the number of compliance officers taking action against unlicensed private hire vehicles and those doing things they shouldn't be doing from private hire vehicles. We

have increased the amount of money black taxis get to move from diesel to zero emission taxis. Some of this is negotiating with councils, we are not in charge of the roads of the 33 boroughs to a large extent. We are in charge of the TfL roads, but we work with the councils. Steve sitting in front of you, that is a City of London junction, I'm sure they are hearing what we are saying and watching livestreaming as we speak, and I'm sure Steve will email City of London tomorrow to remind them what you can. I'm doing what I can to help the black taxi trade, because you are a crucial part of transport in London, you are iconic and very important and accessible to those who are disabled and I want you to have a bright future going forward, sir. The question here which was 17 questions in one! From our friend from America. So, look Usman, the decision by TfL as the regulator to not give the license to Uber was one based on the concerns they have around safety and security and to answer your question what Uber need to do is persuade TfL that they are going to make sure they address the four reasons, not one, four reasons TfL gave to refuse their license, and Taxify also will know the position in relation to the reasons why their license wasn't granted to them. We want a flourishing taxi and private hire vehicle trade in London

that is safe, secure and also treats everyone with the dignity they deserve. The question that the woman asked around Dagenham Heathway underground station, there has been a concern in relation to the changes made by the previous mayor in relation to fit for the future, removing staff from some of the stations. What I did was I got an independent body, Travel Watch, to look at the closures of ticket offices, the reduction in the number of staff and to make a recommendation to me in relation to the changes made by the previous mayor. They made a number of recommendations, I have taken on board all the recommendations and added some extra resources to make sure we can have the maximum number of staff for the stations across London, because for the reasons Caroline alluded to, you can't beat human beings being present on stations to help people. There are challenges in relation to the fact that the Government has reduced the amount of money received from central Government. We are the only public transport system in Europe that's not subsidised by central Government and we have got to make sure that with the cuts made from central Government we can balance the books. I want to make sure public transport is accessible, affordable and safe. We are

doing what we can to make sure we have the right number of staff across the trials, that is why I asked for the review.

UNMESH: Assembly member Caroline Russell.

CAROLINE: Thank you very much, I'm a Green Party London Assembly member, I'm a member of the Transport Committee and also Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee and chair of the economy committee. But the first question was about Bank junction and I think this comes to the very heart of some of the problems that are facing our city. We travelled over here today in a minibus from City Hall and we sat in very, very slow-moving traffic on a what felt like a four or five-lane road that was bringing us here. There is a terrible, terrible problem of congestion in our city, and that is also causing air pollution, which is very, very bad for our health. So, we have a problem, we have too many cars in the city and we need some really serious action from the mayor to actually change the way that our city is organised. I understand why in the City of London they have banned traffic apart from buses and bicycles and people who are walking from Bank junction, I cycle through there on my way to City Hall every day and it has transformed my ride into work each day. It used

to be incredibly frightening and it is much less frightening now. But having said that, I completely agree with the Mayor, that taxis play a very important part of the future of transport in London. If we are going to use our cards less, there are going to be times when we need that door-to-door service that a taxi can provide. In terms of the ride-sharing question, what did Uber do wrong? They didn't think about the public good of our city. That's the big mistake. If we have these big new technological innovations like the app that allows people to hail taxis and minicabs in a really user-friendly way, it has got to be done in way that doesn't actually cause problems for our city and Uber has caused a lot more congestion, there is many, many more vehicles, licensed minicabs on the road and that is adding to the congestion problem. So, while technology can be really helpful, it needs to be used in a way that is actually going to deliver public benefit and not just profits for Uber and the company that are running it. Finally, the question about public transport. I'm doing a study into walking and cycling in outer London and I have travelled to a lot of outer London junctions and transport, there's not much public transport in outer London and it is really important that when you use it that there is, that there

are enough of staff to help you and to manage the crowds of people that are actually trying to use it.

UNMESH: We are out of time on transport. As I said there are ten minutes at the end and I note two gentlemen on this side I will bring you in later on. If you don't get your question there is a team in the foyer throughout the evening who can take your question and get an answer for you from City Hall within six weeks I believe. I do want to move on to the next section which is safety, please, please keep your questions short, and answers from the stage as well try to keep them as short as possible. I really want to get in as many of you as possible. The next topic is safety, community safety, policing and the fire brigade. Microphone six, the woman in the red jumper.

>>: Good evening, I'm Judith and I work locally, actually throughout East London, it is fantastic news that we are, that you are keeping open Dagenham Police Station, but is it true you are looking to close Barking Police Station front counter and why was this not mentioned at the consultation stage. Thank you.

UNMESH: Gentleman right at the very front, microphone 1.

>>: hello Sadiq, regarding cybercrime in our city, how are the Metropolitan Police going to tackle cybercrime?

UNMESH: Gentleman microphone four please?

>>: Thank you, I would like to congratulate you for doing a lot for the LGBTQ visibility and tackling hate crime, can you tell us more about your plans to tackle homophobia in the Met, and in Barking we had the four horrible gay murders and I think there was a lot that the police could have done. Thanks.

SADIQ: So firstly, the question, the very important question about front counter closures, so the context is I have got to find savings of £400 million over the next four years and I'm making tough decisions. So, we are closing roughly speaking half the front counters in London. Each borough will get at least one 24/7 front counter or Police Station. We aren't closing Barking Learning Centre, there will be another consultation on Barking Learning Mentor, not straight away because you have probably got consultation fatigue. So, Dagenham and Barking will remain open, Dagenham definitely. And the reality is, nearly every single borough in London will have one 24/7 Police Station and front counter in the busiest parts of London, Westminster being the example I give you today, there will be more than one front counter. The good news is fewer people are using front counters, roughly speaking 8% of crimes are reported on front counters, the vast

majority are by phone or computer, but people feel safer with the Police Station being there. And it is a brilliant point, and we understand that the perception of crime is an issue as well as crime and you can't escape that. How do you feel leaving your home, borough and community? That is why we are looking into community session, enabling police officers to be present, but I'm not announcing plans today to close Barking Learning Centre and should we in the future look into that and have a proper consultation like this time, as can you see from the change, with Dagenham it is a meaningful consultation because the Met Police changed their mind in relation to Dagenham.

The question about cybercrime is a really good example of how crime has changed over the recent past. In my short speech I mentioned terrorism but cybercrime is another good thing, think of fraud, identity theft, radicalisation over the internet. Unmesh has done some work in the Met online crime team. They are a world leader in cybercrime. Some of the work with the national crime agency comes from the Met. I set up this year the country's first online crime hub. You may have seen it on the media yourself. Insight to hatred, doing criminal things on the internet. Crime is crime, whether it's online or face-to-face. One of the things we discovered during our consultation is more

people want to do stuff online, report crimes online, get involved with conversations with the police online and actually the bad news is more crime is happening, cybercrime as well.

The LGBTQ issue, for those who don't know there was a horrible example last year illustrated in a court case about a homophobic murder where on hindsight it was discovered the police could have done more and there were issues about why the police didn't respond properly, why they didn't make sure the lessons learned from the first crime was used to stop the second crime, but also to make sure the perpetrator wasn't caught early enough. The good news is that the Commissioner, Cressida, gets this as an issue. It's an issue for us, the Assembly have a zero tolerance to hate crime. My message to Londoners from minority communities is I want you to feel confident in reporting crime. Don't feel it's too trivial or won't be taken seriously. I have got a commitment from the commissioner the most senior police officer in the country that it will be taken seriously, but also the deputy commissioner for police and crime, Sophie. It's a sobering exercise because these are recent incidents, recent responses from the police that simply weren't good enough.

ANDREW B: In response to the cybercrime question three years ago now, GLA conservatives published a report called

hashtag report hate. We were alerted at the time because of the increasing incidence of online intimidation based on sexist, racist or homophobic comments and that the medium was being used to effectively harass people. I am delighted the Mayor has taken up the suggestion and set up this specialist unit, not because it needs to take away from the police their ability to report such crimes, but the area around online hate crime is so complex, so very complicated, not every police officer will be skilled up to be able to deal with it. So, the online hate crime unit is there to give assistance to the police so they can bring those criminals to justice and no more shall we have as we experienced then, I hope, the advice from the police when they have a complaint from someone who has been racially abused on Twitter and Facebook, no more shall we get the advice from the police "just turn-off the internet then" because that has been the response we have had.

Briefly on the LGBTQ hate crime, let's be clear about this.

The Barking police dealt with those cases with staggering incompetence. Absolutely staggering incompetence.

[Applause] I want to know that we are satisfied that changes have taken place at Barking police so that can never, ever happen again because that was a direct example of homophobic judgments being made by police officers and as a result lives were lost. [Applause]

UNMESH: Next set of questions, the gentleman with the green jumper you have had your hand up some time, microphone 4.

FLOOR: My name is John Collins, I am a Dagenham resident and the question I would like to pose to the Mayor, it's my understanding that you, sir, are going to impose road pricing on us motorists, we are the most taxed people in the world. Thank you. [Applause]

UNMESH: The sister right at the back with glasses. With the yellow - microphone 5. I am trying to get a balanced set of questioners.

FLOOR: My name is Sakina, I am a pharmacist and local resident. I am just wondering about the recent report on the air -

UNMESH: Is your question about the air? This is safety.

FLOOR: My name is Lara, I am a solicitor living in Hackney. I am sure most people in the room will be aware of the recent increase in moped crime, it's becoming increasingly violent. I would like to know what the Mayor and the Assembly are doing, particularly since the police are not chasing people on mopeds. Thank you. [Applause]

UNMESH: Gentleman with the white paper.

FLOOR: Mr. Mayor, chairman and Assembly Members, thanks for your time. My name is Trevor, I live in that little blob on the end called Havering. I served as a London

fireman for 30 years operational service W. The tragedy of the Grenfell fire, will you give assurances that all recommendations from the enquiry into Grenfell are implemented immediately and not sat on for four years, as the Tory government did with Lacken Hall House. One further question and it is short, please can we make sure there are no more AC M panel it is aluminium composite panels put on any new builds that are undertaken anywhere in London. Safe houses for our people. Thank you.

[Applause]

SADIQ: The first question from John I think was on road pricing asking me not to introduce road pricing. I have got no plans to do so. What I want the Government to do is give London the share of road tax they collect from London. What happens is the treasury collects VED (vehicle excise duty) from London and doesn't spend it in London. So, the roads are deteriorating in London and we need to ask for ring fencing of that money to London so we can use it in London. It's really important we get VED to London.

UNMESH: Sorry I shouldn't have allowed that question. Go on. You can't ask supplemental from the floor. Have you finished answering the question Sadiq?

SADIQ: Yes, I am lobbying the government to get vehicle excise duty from them so we get the proportion of money they collect.

UNMESH: Move on to the next question. Sir, you cannot ask supplementary questions from the floor. Be fair to others please. Can you please sit down? Thank you very much.

SADIQ: So the next question was the air quality we will come back to, I will make sure that the chair comes back to you for the air quality question.

The question about moped crime, this is a really, an issue that has caused huge concern genuinely and rightly to Londoners. It's reckless, scary and it's on the rise. It's on the rise across the country but particularly in London. A number of reasons why. It's easy to steal a moped.

Actually, what has happened is mopeds not just stolen but when they are stationary, people riding mopeds have them stolen by gangs. Some of the increase in acid attacks are linked to moped crime. Some of the increase in phone thefts are linked with moped crime. It's not the case that the police won't chase anybody on a moped. There is some confusion caused by a distressing case a few years ago when somebody lost their lives when there was a pursuit from the police. That case has now concluded in relation to the police disciplinary hearing. That was the reason for the confusion amongst the public. As far as the police are concerned there is no confusion. They will pursue somebody on a moped who is acting in a criminal manner.

Of course, the police will make sure they don't behave recklessly and cause injury or distress to passers-by. The progress the police have made recently is encouraging. First of all, they now have mopeds and vehicles they use that can chase mopeds. Mopeds in the past have managed to go down alley ways and police can't chase them. That is happening now. The police are looking at the use of drones for chasing people on mopeds. The manufacturers have got to do more. A few years ago, there was a big issue with stereos being stolen from cars. What happened was we worked with the manufacturers to make sure it wasn't worth it because they were built into the dashboard. We need to do much, much more. My Deputy Mayor Sophie has done a lot on that. Suzuki for example give a contribution of £200 to making their mopeds safer in London. The police are always using this liquid thing which they will squirt on somebody who has stolen a moped. You can't see it with the naked eye but it's ultraviolet. There has been a reduction moped crime and criminal offences we think as a consequence of the police using this liquid to catch perpetrators. There is a huge concern and we have got to make sure we get rid of moped crime across London and the commissioner gave evidence about this to the select committee earlier this week.

Trevor, listen, can I say thank you very much for your service as a firefighter and the work you did. [Applause] Like our police officers, a firefighter literally goes to work in the daytime or whenever their shift begins and takes risks with their life. I appointed the fire commissioner Danny Cotton who was at the scene when Grenfell Tower happened the tragedy there. During the course of the night I was in contact with Danny the commissioner and she was there with her brave firefighters as they went into Grenfell Tower without any water. That is the risk they took to try and save families from the awful fire at Grenfell that took place. I was there the next morning and was surprised to discover we were borrowing drones from Surrey and borrowing long ladder vehicles from Kent. What I said to Danny Cotton the next morning but also at subsequent times I have met the commissioner was first of all you need to make sure that you and all the firefighters receive the help you need to make sure your wellbeing physical and mental is looked after and the commissioner makes sure that everyone in the control room received the care they needed. Some of the staff in the control room are also here, were speaking to families in Grenfell Tower right up to the end. It was very distressing. I said to the

commissioner let me know what you need to make sure you have the tools to keep the city safe. My goals are simple. We have a contract with firefighters and by the way the police too. What it says is you agree to in the line of duty take risks with your personal wellbeing and safety, but the quid pro quo as got to be we provide you with the equipment. We can't respect you and admire you for taking risks when you haven't got the right equipment. I said to Danny let me know what the fire service needs to make sure firefighters have the equipment they need. She came back very swiftly as she should have done with a list of things she thinks that the London fire brigade needs.

I then said to the Home Secretary can you pay for the stuff we need and she said no. I used money in reserve, it costs £6 million to pay for the stuff the commissioner needs. Some takes time to order, it is bespoke stuff, you know. Using the reserves to pay for the equipment the fire commissioner says she needs. We will make sure our firefighters have the equipment they need to keep us safe. Your question in relation to lessons learnt is the one that is the most upsetting. Because Grenfell Tower isn't the first tower to catch fire. And lessons learned from the fire in Southwark, recommendations were made by the

coroner in the inquest in relation to that fire haven't been learnt. There wasn't the review of building regulations, there wasn't changes made that should have been in relation to the sprinklers, in relation to some of the other issues that you know about. The Government has now said there is going to be a review of the regulations. The Government has now said the Advisory Group is going to make recommendations. I have said to the Government and public inquiry chair, read the recommendations now, not in three years' time, so we are doing what we can in London. The London Fire Brigade has carried out inspection with local authorities and various tower blocks across London. The good news is in Barking and Dagenham there is not that building, they have done all the checks they need to do. The council is willing to put in sprinklers if they get support from central Government. I have to tell you this, councils are cash-starved, they simply can't afford to pay for sprinklers to be retro-fitted. They need support from central Government. I'm supporting councils across London to do that. We have to make sure the lessons are learned from Grenfell Tower, when you meet some of the families from Grenfell Tower, when you meet some of the people affected in that part of the community,

there are three things they want. They want to find out how their loved ones passed away. They want to know what happened. They want to make sure justice is done, those responsible are brought to book, but thirdly, they want to make sure, never again. And we have a responsibility as the Mayor and the assembly and I know they are with me here, to make sure, never again. [Applause]

UNMESH: Thank you Sadiq, I hope you will understand I have to allow the Mayor more time to answer questions, particularly on Grenfell and also on moped crime. I have been visiting fire stations in Barking and tower hamlets and Dagenham, and they are all heroes. Three short questions and hopefully short answers, at the back with the white glasses, microphone number 8. This way, come to the front. The woman with the phone, not her, the one in the middle! Sorry, I should have put my glasses on. In the greenish jumper. That is microphone six?

>>: Can you hear me now. My name is Marika and I'm from Indonesia and a resident I'm representing for students in London. I appreciate you and everyone in the office who has made the transport in London very easy. However, one of my friends, she is a female, she has experienced verbal harassment from the taxi

drivers while using the local taxi service, is this something we can report and if yes, where? Thank you.

UNMESH: A gentleman here in the front in the white shirt and black, jacket? Microphone 1.

>>: I'm from Anti-Knife UK, I would like to ask the mayor, does he know how many Londoners have been killed this year. You said this morning 33 young lives, it is actually 75 lives. What is your, what are you going to do to try to break down knife crime and reduce it. [Applause]

UNMESH: The sister with the white card gap, microphone number two.

>>: My name is Beatrice, I'm from Dagenham Village. My son was stabbed last year in November and he died, so my question to you sir, one of the priorities is to safeguard children, my son Diran was a victim of knife crime, and then funding has been promised for youth activities, because we see our youth, they are not busy enough to do something. What will my son's legacy be, please? [Applause]

SADIQ: Can I thank you very much for coming tonight and your bravery in asking the question which must be very difficult for you. I'm extremely sorry for the loss of a son. I can't imagine what it must be like to lose a

child. I'm afraid I have spoken to too many parents like you who have lost children and they are children. And it is linked with the question the second gentleman asked around young people. Because I'm afraid the bad news it is young people who are being injured and losing their lives. This year alone 15 teenagers have lost their lives, 33 people below the age of 25 have lost their lives in London. And if you saw programme on the news at ten two nights ago it is a problem across the country. There is the word used by senior officers is a word I accept it is called "epidemic" of knife crime across the country. There are a number of things we are doing to tackle this. I can't pretend there is one single thing that will reduce or stop knife crime. It is a variety of things we will need to do to stop knife crime. There are interesting phrases that I like, it says it takes a village to raise a child, I think it will take a village to solve the issue of knife crime. The police are doing what they can on their side, there is stop and search, arrest, sweep knives, to stop young people carrying knives. Tougher sentences from the courts. But the police by themselves aren't going to solve this. We need schools to play a role. This week I organised a summit with teachers, we need to prevent and stop young people carrying a knife in the first place. For

young people to realise if I carry a knife I won't get more respect and be safer I'm more likely to be a risk. We have offered schools action that is they can take in schools. We are helping them with how to have a lesson in classroom. We are working with civic leaders, we are funding strategies away from gangs for young people. Actually, the evidence is most young victims of knife crime aren't involved in gangs. We assume it is to do with gangs, some of it, but a lot of it isn't. And the honest answer is this is a problem that's affecting the entire country and we need a solution that involves everyone. Civic society, faith leaders, big brothers and sisters, politicians, the police all have a role to play. I'm hoping to work with young artists and people who young people look up to. If I'm honest as much as I think young people look up to me and listen to me, my street cred is not as good as I think it is. We need people who have respect to talk to young people. It could be people involved in knife crime, or music artists. It is a complex issue, I will come down here at the end, if you wouldn't mind coming to the front and I could speak to you and give you your details. Often bereaved families can teach us so much about how we address this issue. The second question was linked with this in relation to you know anti-knife

UK, the reason why I focus on young people, not to disrespect older victims of knife crime, but it is because it is really important to recognise there is an epidemic amongst young people and I understand there is a big issue amongst knife crime generally we are taking action to stop shops selling knives to young people. We are trying to take action amongst the internet to stop selling these zombie knives. The police have been successful in stopping people with guns, they are difficult to get hold of ammunition is difficult to get hold of, but knives are really easy. Everyone has knives in their homes. We need to stop young people thinking it is OK and gives me more respect to carry a knife. One of the explanations given by the experts in the increase of acid attacks is displacement. People go from guns to knives and now acid and so one of the things local MPs here and politicians are lobbying for is a change of the law. Just like it is against the law to carry a knife, it should be against the law to carry acid.

UNMESH: No interruptions, we are seriously running out of time, no the mayor has answered the question. Please show some respect and to the audience. No, I need to get more questions in.

SADIQ: Linked with the question from the mum around youth services, you know we have seen, I'm not saying

this is the sole reason, but we have seen massive reduction in youth service and youth clubs over the last few years, and the vast, vast, vast majority of young people are a credit to themselves, their families, their schools and London. But if you are not doing constructive things and hanging around street corners, sometimes you may inadvertently get involved in things you shouldn't. The first question was in relation to harassment from taxi drivers, I think, what the student asked. So, the gentleman at the front who asked a question about Uber, one of the four reasons for refusing the license by Transport for London was a failure by Uber to report to the police allegations of criminality made against Uber drivers. There is a responsibility on private hire vehicle operators when users report crimes to them to report it to the police. If you yourself had been the victim of a verbal abuse and crime, please report it to the minicab, the operator, the taxi operator, also to Transport for London and the police. It is really important to stop criminality in private hire vehicles or other forms of public transport.

UNMESH: Can you be as brief as possible Shaun.

SHAUN: Just to address the mother who talked about knife crime, I'm sorry for your loss and the Mayor is correct he has a knife strategy and looking in the right

direction, it has a few holes. There is a lot of talk about youth work, I have been a youth worker for 22 years, the most effective work is family work, it is families who train children on how they conduct themselves. Where the Mayor is right and talking about a village...[Applause]..talking about a village, if he spends any money on this he will get £10 back from family work for every half pence he puts in. You need to equip parents and communities how to deal with knife crime, not so much youth work.

UNMESH: Moving on to the third section, air quality and environment. Again, same procedure, questions I will go to the sister right at the end who started asking the question about air quality in the crime section.

Microphone number five please.

>>: My concern about toxic air and the pollution levels now breaching global safety limits and research has linked it to previous Governments promoting diesel cars. Have you any plans to implement measures to tackle that.

UNMESH: The gentleman with the striped shirt?

>>: I'm Herman, and Mr Mayor you launched your T-charge recently, it is a commitment of tackling the air pollution. I took the Northern line every day but I went on the news that the air pollution in the

northern-line is 12-times higher than any other line.

How do you tackle the air pollution inside the tube?

Thank you so much.

UNMESH: One more question. Gentleman, microphone two in the green cardigan.

>>: Hi, I'm Ralph, I live on the Isle of dogs, the PLA are predicting that emissions from vehicles on the Thames will get 15% once, that along with other river traffic which is quite polluting. What has the Mayor asked the Government to provide in controls to deal with river emissions?

SADIQ: Thank you for the three excellent questions. The question at the back actually is linked to all three questions. We need to recognise that the air in London is a killer. Each year in London just think about this, more than 9,000 Londoners die prematurely because of our air. There are people in London who suffer asthma, suffer stroke, suffer heart disease, suffer dementia and it is linked with the air. It is shocking, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations has a recommendation of what should be air limits, not just one part of London, all of London is in breach of the United Nations limit. You know there are 430 schools in areas where the air is a killer.

I don't apologise for wanting to take action. It's important we understand what the danger is. The problem is we can't see it. If it was smog, that is visible. Particulate matter NOX, is invisible to the eye. We breathe it in and it goes into our lungs. There were politicians who took action against smog in the 50s and politicians passed the Clean Air Act. It meant that power stations weren't in the centres of cities, they were on the outskirts. It meant that sulphur dioxide, which was the killer then, was removed. I'm not waiting for the Government to take action. I want to take action now which is why we have got a comprehensive package as Caroline said encouraging more people to walk and cycle, use public transport, getting people to move away from the stuff that pollutes our air. You know what, you are right. A previous generation of politicians, people like me, said to people like you said, "Petrol is bad because of the carbon emissions, move away from petrol to diesel", they were partly right because diesel has less carbon emission, greenhouse gases than petrol. The problem is that diesel has more particulate emissions and NOX. That is why we need diesel scrappage schemes. I am saying to the budget there's a budget taking place on 22 November. You should have a diesel scrappage scheme to help businesses and poorer families to move away to cleaner forms of transport.

What we don't want is people moving back from diesel to petrol.

The second question was a really good question is look I'm trying to be good and use public transport and now I discover public transport is dangerous. He is right. We have discovered that the Northern line which is one of the oldest undergrounds in the world, about 150 years old, over a period of time there is bad stuff there - not just the rats and the mice. We are trying to clean it up and we are using some really exciting technology to clean up air in our underground. Some of the subsurface trains are better but some of the deep service trains are a problem. We are using this to try to clean up the air to make sure public transport is as clean as it can be. I am not one of those Mayors who hides things away. I have introduced air quality alerts. You should know when the air is bad so you can take action to protect yourself if you have asthma. For those who suffer from hay fever you know when there is a high pollen alert so you can take action. Similarly, I want you to have the information in relation not just the pollution on the roads and the air, but public transport. It's really important.

The third question demonstrates why we need action in relation to Clean Air Act. You are right, sir. To give you an idea of the scale of the challenge, half of the bad air is

caused by our roads, so half of it is caused by transport - coaches, lorries, buses, cars, minibuses, vans on the road. I am doing what I can to reduce that. The policies I have announced, T-Charge T ultra-low emissions zone which I hope to announce soon, we think that will lead to half of the NOX being reduced by 2020, the next election. The bad news I have got no power over the River Thames, no power over construction, very little power over housing. I am saying to the Government you should, when you do a new Clean Air Act for the 21st Century, devolve to Mayors and bring the power to take action. You are right, there are diesel boats and ships going on the River Thames, diesel generators over the River Thames that are putting out this bad stuff, the NOX and particulate matter. The good news is they are trying to take action. They are bringing people together to say, "Look we may have no powers but using the pulpit of City Hall, can we convene and persuade you to do things to clean up the air in London?" I need your support. The more pressure you bring to bear on national politicians, local authorities and frankly speaking the all of us, the more it's going the change.

UNMESH: Final set of three questions and please be as brief as possible. The sister on the far left, microphone number 8.

FLOOR: Hello, my name is Nimo, I live in Dagenham. I have got four kids I look after. My question is that day by day, month by month it's getting worse the knife crime and something needs to be done about it and it's not only up to the parents, it's up to the local police, it's up to the look schools, it's actually to educate young kids like 9-year-olds, 7-year-olds, I am going back to the knife crime because I wanted to make it clear. It's not about air, lives are getting lost and something needs to be done. Thank you so much.
[Applause]

UNMESH: Can we move on the sister in the middle.

FLOOR: My name is Jo. I would like to say that air kills many people as well. My question to the London Assembly is about plastic pollution, what are you doing to combat the growing problem of plastic pollution in our water ways. We are losing out, there are valuable impacts in terms of the wildlife, economic impacts in terms of tourism we are losing, and we are all starting to take in the toxins from the plastic. There are schemes in London to do with plastic bottles, you could reward people who take plastic straws.

UNMESH: The gentleman in the front.

FLOOR: I want to ask a question regarding working class areas and public spaces as it seems that parks and public spaces are more neglected compared to parks in richer boroughs and areas. I wonder how you would tackle this as

I live in Barking & Dagenham I feel our parks are really neglected. Thank you. [Applause]

FLOOR: Hi, I'm from the Isle of Dogs, again, we see a real lack green spaces in London and I just want to know what are you doing to encourage the creation of more green spaces, more Green Parks and access areas for families to play, go out and enjoy London and the wonderful places we have.

UNMESH: Sadiq, do you want to respond as briefly as possible and then I want to bring in Assembly Member Leonie Cooper.

SADIQ: I'm going to let Leonie answer this because when Jeanette Arnold was talking about the Assembly Member, it's important the pressure they bring to me to take action. Which I will do but I will let Leonie explain the pressure she is bringing to bear on me.

I do want to mention the knife crime issue, although I know it's not the knife crime section. Can I just say in relation to your concerns as a parent, I understand those concerns, I have got two teenage children as well and I understand the concerns you have about your children. One of the things we are doing, Shaun Bailey is absolutely right it's to do with the family, but there are so many people whose family aren't able to give them the advice and support we were lucky to have. That is why we are having an increased

amount of school safety officers. We want young people when they go to school, because most children spend most of their time in schools, to receive a vice from teachers, people they respect, role models, but also school safety officers. We are taking very seriously our responsibility as the village to help us raise your family T role we have to make sure your children are safe that is a responsibility we all take seriously as people who love our city and love young people.

The question first of all, can I just ask you to show your appreciation to a sixth form student who asked me a student just now in the front. Well done for asking that question. [Applause] I said ask me tough questions, I didn't think you would take me up on the offer.

It's a really important question raised by the gentleman from the Isle of Dogs. This is a question of social justice. Actually, the people who suffer the most from the bad air are the poorest. It's a fact. The schools which are in areas with the worst air are in the most deprived areas. An amazing stat, which is more than 80% of the children who go to the schools which have the worst air are on free school meals. So, it's an issue of social justice. You all know from your GCSE biology that the more green we have, the more trees we plant, photosynthesis means it takes in the good stuff, carbon die oxide and pumps out oxygen. Our Deputy

Mayor for energy has got £1 million and we are saying to schools and groups bid for this money for green areas, it could be to plant trees, it could be to have green corridors. We are making sure the new schools we are build having green roofs, green walls. Roughly speaking 45% of London is green but not in the most deprived parts of London. We have got to make sure the dense parts of London benefit from greener areas. The first tranche is £1 million. Look at the website and see if you can bid with your community for this funding. We have got to make sure that we don't just build on the green built, we have got to keep what we have got but we have got to have more as well. Amazing fact, we could double the density of homes in London and still have less density than Paris. We could keep the green we have got, have some more and meet the needs of Londoners.

LEONIE: Thanks Mayor for asking me to come in on this. We did look in the Environment Committee, which I chair, at plastic bottles. We did a whole meeting on this and took a lot of worrying evidence. It is a plague and it's getting a lot of attention. It's destroying our oceans, 75% of the fish in the River Thames are full of plastic. So, when we eat fish we might be eating plastic. We came up with a series of suggestions - I think I'm about to have a Theresa May moment. I'm just waiting for my P45! Kidding! (*Laughter*)

So, we came up with a series of recommendations. The Mayor is right, this wasn't something that was in his manifesto, but if you go and check out the environment strategy, which you can comment on till 17th of this month, it mentions plastic bottles and that is a direct result of the work that we did there our committee and the recommendations included having a look at whether or not a deposit return scheme would work so that people take bottles back. Also looking at things like people just being able to walk into shops who have got maybe a sign outside or finding them by an app on your phone that says you can come in and refill a bottle water, because some of these things are going to take us stopping just the drop the bottles and every time you get another meal deal you get a plastic bottle and actually carrying a bottle with you that you refill. I have just mentioned a couple of things, the report is on the website, but if you've got some thoughts, go and look in the draft environment strategy and make your comments. Can I say one thing about the parks and open spaces which two people mentioned, that was another thing we looked at not the Environment Committee. More Londoners replied to our call for evidence to over 3,000 people responded, 3,000 Londoners said, "This is what I value about my local green space", and we came up again with some recommendations, some of which have found their way into the draft

environment strategy. There is a whole section in there. Go and have a look at it. We think Londoners find parks and open spaces really important. That is why the Assembly has been looking at it and why it's a priority for the Mayor as well. Thank you. [Applause]

UNMESH: Thank you Leonie. We have got just over half an hour to go through two sections. The next one, section four is on housing. Three questions at a time, I will take the gentleman in third row, microphone number 4.

>>: I live in Dagenham, I live in the 65% market rent affordable flat and I get an average wage and I struggle every single week. Most affordable rents are higher at 80% which is definitely not affordable for most people. Can you define what you mean by when you say you are going to build genuinely affordable homes and do you agree that the way to fix the housing crisis is to build more council housing at social rents to put an end to the social cleansing that is happening in our city?

UNMESH: Microphone number three, the gentleman in the white shirt next to you. I will come there, don't worry, give me time.

>>: I'm Mark, I live in the borough and work in Newham, will a blanket policy to force developers to

have 30% affordable homes actually work or will it increase gentrification or lead to developers taking their business overseas?

UNMESH: Microphone number four.

>>: I'm Catherine Ward member of the Irish travelling community. In your recent published draft housing strategy, you said you would be providing funding for new sites for London gypsies and travellers, when will this funding be available and when will the local authorities be told about the new funding so that they can begin planning?

SADIQ: Thank you for all three questions. So, this issue of affordable housing, I mean the phrase "affordable housing" has become something that nobody believes anymore because what is affordable housing? The definition that has been used up until now is an affordable home is one where you pay, forget 65%, 80% of market value for the rent. Or, a starter home costing up to £500,000. I have changed the definition of what I think is an affordable home, I have said what it is, I say it is one of three things. It is either a home where you pay a social rent, council property and the council property rent just so you know is linked to the wage of a manual worker locally. One, council property, two it is a home where you pay a

third of average earnings, I have not linked it to the value of the rent, that can be huge, I have linked it to how much you earn. The average earning in Barking and Dagenham, is different to the average earning for example in Westminster, it would be useless having an average earning across London. I have said a third of average earnings, why a third? We have worked out if it is a third of average earnings it gives you a chance to put some money aside to fulfil that your dream of owning your own home. If you are living hand-to-mouth the idea of saving for a home is a joke, unless you have the bank of mum and dad or someone passes away and leaves you a lot of dosh. We have to make it easier for you to own your own home, so it is those two or shared ownership. That is what I mean by affordable housing, it is not the dodgy definition, I have a new definition. It is link today the question asked by the gentleman at the back, there is a development taking place so how can we ensure a proportion of those homes are genuinely affordable, not unreasonably a developer wants to make as much profit as they can, who can blame them. I tell you what I say to them, I don't mind you making a profit or begrudge you, but the condition of you getting permission to build for example 100 homes is I want a

significant proportion to be affordable. I will publish next month a draft London plan. My long-term target is half of all new homes to be affordable. If you can persuade me in the next two years you can start building I will let you do 35%, we need homes built sooner rather than later. We have to make sure we have a significant number of homes that are genuinely affordable and we have to make sure the homes that are being built are built. But you are absolutely right, we need more council housing. What I'm saying to the Government is there are good councils like Barking and Dagenham dying to build council housing, they have all this money got from Right to Buy, they are not allowed to use all of it, and also they can't borrow to invest, the interest rates haven't been lower for a generation and there are local authorities saying let us borrow to build the homes which our local residents need, the property prices are going only one way, we are trying to put pressure on the Government to change the laws to allow councils to borrow. These are councils across London. Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats, they are wanting to build homes. We have set up a pot of money £250 million, we are saying to local authorities saying you can borrow this to buy land in your community. Once you have bought the land and

built the homes give us back the money to resolve the money and use it elsewhere. I have used it in once in Waltham Forest, and there are 350 affordable homes as a consequence and others can use this one. But it is only £250 million which in the grand scheme of things isn't enough. The second question asked about developers going elsewhere, I don't think so. All the evidence we have from developers is they want to build homes in London because they can't get construction workers to afford to live in London because of the housing crisis, it is in their interest to build genuine affordable homes, we have to get the sweet spot, 35% in two years and 50% long-term. I'm doing my bit, if there is surplus public land I'm in charge of, I'm making sure at least 50% of that land is affordable. We think we can do it. By the way that means there is a thing called a viability assessment, this is a con, by and large, where developers say to councils you know what, you gave me permission to build 35% of affordable homes, but it is not viable any more, can you reduce it to 25%, and councils either roll over or they can't test the reports but I will hire the expert and I will do the reports to make sure we get value for Londoners and affordable homes. The Irish traveller communities, we have published a draft housing

strategy recently, the consultation ends shortly and councils can make submissions to bid for the money. They can get in touch with us now. If you know a council interested in having a site locally get in touch with us, and we can look into it as well. It is really important that we give dignity to people who from the travelling community. Some good councils want to have lawful sites to have homes built on those sites for the travelling community. If you have a local authority, let them know that we are interested to take interest now and we will help them in relation to looking at sites for various communities in London.

UNMESH: Tom Copley?

TOM: I'm Tom Copley a member of the housing committee. I want to address a couple of the points. Firstly, I want to address the point on gypsies and travellers. I have done a lot of work with the community, I was very proud to host London gypsies and travellers at City Hall a few months ago. I have to say there has been a big shift with this current Mayor versus the previous Mayor on policy in this regard with regards to gypsies and travellers. I'm holding a meeting with some of the deputy Mayors in February about negotiating. The point you make about not just having words in the strategy but actually getting

boroughs to take up this funding and deliver sites for gypsies and travellers is a really important one. It is something that I'm working with the Mayor and Deputy Mayors on. On affordable housing I remember the arguments we in the Labour group had with Boris Johnson where he essentially abolished all funding for social housing in conjunction with George Osborne and David Cameron. We now have funding for social, rented housing coming back, that is really very important, I agree with you for the need for council housing, we have to get investment in council housing but the Mayor's hands are always to some extent tied by Government policy which has to change.

UNMESH: Three short questions. Gentleman here? Microphone one?

>>: Your commitment to genuinely affordable housing is great with councils leading, I think it is good. My question is about offsite manufacture, because so much of the new housing supply, because the current construction industry just isn't delivering. So much of the new development is going to be in Barking and Dagenham and in Unmesh's constituency, would you not promote a factory being sited in this area with plenty of new jobs and produce the homes quickly.

UNMESH: Sister in the red jumper and scarf,

microphone five?

>>: Can I congratulate Sadiq on the Garden Bridge a great decision. I want to congratulate him also on the targets I see 66,000 homes a year. You are asking for that to be built in the new London plan. But how are they going to be delivered? The problem is there is lots of public land designated for housing and it has been undeveloped for years on small sites, which you don't really have planning powers over. For example, there is a site in Coin Street in Waterloo, which has been vacant for 40 years and could have 50 plants on it and at the moment there is a proposal to put an ABBA-themed nightclub on it, which will wreck the people living there. That is going to planning next week, you don't have the powers to call that in and insist social housing goes on there as the land was given to the GLC to provide social housing, what about all those small sites across London.

UNMESH: Gentleman with the glasses, microphone seven. You will get a chance to put written questions and they will be answered within six weeks. Third one sorry.

>>: Welcome Sadiq and London Assembly members, I understand TfL has lots of land available, a few thousand acres and more. Why not make it available

to the London Community Land Trust which enables them to build houses that are really affordable. Thank you.

SADIQ: the question about manufacturing is a good one. One of the assembly members, Nicky Gavron, has done a lot of work and persuaded us this is an opportunity, not simply to accelerate house building in London, not only to create the jobs you are talking about. One of the things can you do is attract more diversity in the construction sector which by making it more attractive, the prefab and modular stuff is really exciting here. We are happy to speak to buses interested in doing this, hopefully it can be in London. I think the reality at the moment is it is not developed in London. There are businesses outside of London, we shouldn't be precious wherever the businesses are we will support them and stuff. This is potentially really, really exciting going out. By the way particularly bearing in mind about that so of the construction expertise will leave because of Brexit and stuff so we are out 30, 40% EU citizens, even more reason to have home-grown companies building this stuff. The 66,000 is the needs we need as a growing city. There are different arguments as to what the needs are, some say 60, some say 72, we have come

out with 66,000. The reality is we are only building 30,000 homes each year and most aren't affordable. We have to build more homes and they have to be affordable. I think we can meet 66,000 if we have support from Government. The number of things the Government can do to help us. For example, if they increase the investment we get as a city to build affordable homes we can make some progress. The amount of money given to affordable homes was this year 0.5 billion, we could do with more investment from central Government. The ability to borrow to invest really important for councils. Changing the rules around compulsory purchase orders for the sites you referred to, that is one of the reasons why I have this revolving fund to help councils with the small sites. Because the small sites are more realistic for the council to use. One of the things we are lobbying the Government for, use it or lose it. My two-year incentive I referred to was to developers it was a use it or lose it in relation to permission for 35%. If you don't build within two years, I won't say 35% after two years I will say 50%. We have to have incentives to use the small sites. But you are right there are pockets of small sites across the country that could be used to build the genuinely affordable home, we need

the powers. We are the most centralised democracy in the western world, with more devolution to City Hall but also across London. The value in the land should be existing value not speculative value going forward. There are lots of surplus public land in TfL, we have accelerated some of the surface public land going forward. There is a car park around City Hall sitting empty for the last seven or eight years, we have brought that forward to build genuinely affordable homes. Some of the land is difficult to build on. It could be next to a station or could be contaminated and it costs money to make it accessible to housing. We are doing things to help Community Land Trust. So, there are ideas about helping that, we set up a hub to give expertise advice, it was very good meeting London citizens with the one Community Land Trust, we need to do more of that. We need to scale that up going forward. With the TfL surplus land, the realistic short-term offer is joint ventures, working with, Community Land Trust, or developer to start building on this land. But you are right, the surplus public land we have to make it available to build the homes we need.

UNMESH: Assembly Member Boff did you wish to come in?

ANDREW B: With regard to the community land trusts, actually the housing committee's report on TfL seconded most strongly that the TfL should be looking towards liberating those tiny bits of land that TfL own that aren't of interest to the big developers because we think at the moment they have a way talking to the bell way homes and the big developers, but they have no way of talking to Bob the Builder who might want to build three or four homes and we identified that as a weakness in the TfL model and we are looking to see ways in which they can do that.

There is a problem here however on housing. The Mayor continually goes on about percentages of housing without going on about global numbers. I sometimes think if he only built two houses and one was affordable, he will think he has been a success, which he clearly has not been. In his manifesto the Mayor clearly said that in every year of his mayoralty there will be more homes built, not after a couple of years, this year he built 20% less than his predecessor, this year he built no social homes, this year he built fewer affordable homes than his predecessor the reality is that it is going downwards rather than up and the Mayor is distracting you on this by going on about affordable.

UNMESH: Please don't interrupt.

ANDREW B: The reason we have an affordability crisis in London is because we are not building enough homes. That

means numbers, numbers, numbers, not percentages, you cannot live in a percentage.

UNMESH: I don't wish to interrupt you Andrew but we have got to be out of the hall by 9.00. I am moving to the next section, which is growing London economy, jobs, skill and training. Three questions. Sister at the front. I do apologise but I can't please everyone. Can you sit down, please? Can you sit down. I am giving you a warning please sit down. Can you get on with your question.

FLOOR: I am a domestic worker from the voice of domestic workers. Domestic workers are very important in London's economy, they are take care of families, children and the elderly and households. We enable other workers to be productive. Currently migrant domestic workers are allowed to change employer within six months following visa entry clearance.

UNMESH: Question.

FLOOR: And to claim employment rights but not the renew their visa. This means they can't meaningfully enforce their rights and has made them even more vulnerable to very well documented abuse and exploitation. The loss of revenue to the UK has been calculated as 188237280 plus the loss of tax and - but it is the cost which is so high.

UNMESH: Question, please.

FLOOR: My question is can the Mayor of London act to protect London domestic workers.

UNMESH: Sorry interrupt you, gentleman in the baseball cap.

FLOOR: My question is for the Mayor and everybody else here, I can assure you the majority of people own cars here, they are always being punished. Isn't it time the manufacturers should be punished for producing such bad engines? That is my question. [Applause]

UNMESH: The gentleman with the tie, microphone 6.

FLOOR: Hi my name is George, I represent the Latin American community, Spanish speaking. We want to congratulate the Mayor and the London Assembly for help to the Latin community. My question is some people from our community are living in poor conditions, with two people in one room.

UNMESH: Desai get to the question please.

FLOOR: What we need to do is improve housing for people from all backgrounds.

SADIQ: First of all can I deal with an issue which is very important in relation to the housing crisis. We have had eight years of a Tory Mayor, seven years of a Tory government. I don't want to be lectured by a Tory about the housing crisis. [Applause]

You can see.

UNMESH: We are running short of time.

SADIQ: I think Andrew for goodness sake. And he said it with a straight face. Anyway, let's deal with the important questions raised by important people. The first question in relation to migrant workers. This is a really important issue about dignity, about treating people with respect. One of the things that Jeanette Arnold has been pushing me on is in relation to how we use the modern slavery act and how we help Londoners, and by the way you are a Londoner, you contribute to our economy and our city. With issue of tied visas and the vulnerability that you have and the important work you do with helping vulnerable people. We need to make sure we protect your rights. What we've been doing with the police is to help the people who have access. Some people who are vulnerable don't know how to use the agencies, don't know how to get assistance. We can't assume that people are articulate and know how to get services. One of the things we have to do is help you to stop you being abused.

Let me tell you about car manufacturers. Volkswagen were accused of so-called diesel gate. They were accused of cheating. The Government in America made them pay billions and billions of dollars to the drivers. Our country appears to be in the pocket of manufacturers, my question is why don't you stand up to the ordinary Joe rather than

standing up for big business. I wrote to Volkswagen and said why aren't you doing much more for those Londoners who bought vehicles innocently - and by the way now it appears it was not just Volkswagen - and need support and assistance. Not unreasonably, if our government isn't taking action against them, why should they worry about a Mayor or politicians on the Assembly. It's a constant theme now where politicians aren't willing to say boo to a goose about big business. The same goes for how much fumes your car is emitting. Frankly speaking you can't believe the information you are given by the manufacturer in relation to whether your car is a clean car, what the NOX levels are, what the particulate levels are. We have got independent experts now to do research not in the laboratory but on real roads to see how much NOX or particulate matters your car emits. We have got a website set up, you can go to the GLA website to see when it comes to buying a new vehicle, whether you buy a new vehicle or an old vehicle, but you are right, people who drive cars have a situation where the road tax you pay doesn't stay in London but also the manufacturers appear to be cutting corners in this country. By the way Germany made recommendations to these companies, why not England? By the way those in the Latin community, you are Londoners. My Deputy Mayor for social integration Matthew

met a number of Londoners with Latin American heritage about challenges in overcrowded housing, the challenges in our areas, Elephant and Castle being one, seven sisters being another. One of the things is city is evolving, and we are working to make sure we are meeting the needs of all Londoners including the Latin American community.

JEANETTE: Thank you chair. Marissa, thank you for your question and can I just say thank you for the work that you and members of the small charity you founded, voice for domestic workers do. The bravery of the women involved in this would bring tears to your eyes when you hear about the unimaginable cruel conditions and the sexual and physical violence that they have to endure here in our city, on our streets. We know them, we see them, but they are living in a shadow land. This has to stop. It is as the Mayor said, I have already started to work with his deputy. You have heard that he recognises you as a Londoner. What we want now is for all domestic workers to get access to their rights and that they should have the same rights as any other Londoner I can assure you and the Mayor knows when he sees me coming that I am coming fortune. We are going to do all that we can and also the good news is I will be working with colleague Unmesh Desai and other members from other parties on this. We are with you, you

are a Londoner, as are every domestic worker in London.

[Applause]

UNMESH: Thank you Jeanette, and I do apologise for rushing you but we are pushed for time. We have five minutes left, three extremely short questions, not more than 15 seconds. The sister at the back in the jumper.

FLOOR: I want to ask a question, I want to know because the Home Office figures are really high and many of the foreign people in the country are all working but are deported, when they go to sign, they are deported. How will Mayor Khan help us deal with the situation?

UNMESH: Sister at the back, the far end.

FLOOR: Hi Mr. Khan, I myself am a masters graduate and a bachelors journalism graduate and I have done work with charities such as Barnardo's, Water Aid and St. John's Ambulance. Is there any help for graduates that got into thousands of pounds of debt for no reason. Thank you.

[Applause]

UNMESH: One final question. Written questions will be answered within six weeks.

FLOOR: I just want to answer the Mayor and the London Assembly, the London centre and rape crisis is the only centre providing assistance and guidance for victims of rape and sexual assault. There needs to be more centres for survivors of sexual assault and these victims, please.

UNMESH: Mr. Mayor I am going to ask you to be extremely briefly.

SADIQ: First, I think rape crisis provision, we do fund Nia, the charity which provides a rape crisis centre, we have carried on all the funding for the rape crisis centres for women and girls. In our new police and crime plan, published earlier this year, one of our priorities is violence against women and girls. That is making sure we have safe houses for children who are victims of violence, sometimes it can be overlapping violence, sexual abuse, other forms of violence, domestic abuse and other issues. We are trying to make sure we provide a better service to Londoners. Her Majesty's inspector inspected the Met police and gave a report how poor is the quality of service for women and girls.

In relation to the question at the back about the Home Office we have set up for the first time a citizenship engagement office, I have not got time to deal with it but go to the website, math knew is doing work here. Please look into the website and see the work we are doing around this issue.

The graduate in relation to the debt you have, one of the big things that Jeremy Corbyn the labour leader promised should we win the election and become a Labour Government is to get rid of tuition fees that is a

big source of debt for graduates. Can I just say this. Please don't lose hope. I know it's really difficult when you are a graduate, you have worked really hard at university, you've got debt and you may be unemployed and thinking what was the point. Don't lose hope about the possibilities of getting a great job as a consequence of university. University takes you all sorts of skills which are useful in life. One of the things about the London promises by working hard you can get a helping hand and fulfil your potential. One of the things is to be a hand so people can fulfil their potential.

UNMESH: Thank you very much, a full transcript will be available on the GLA website in a few days' time, hand your questions in and complete the feedback form and post in the boxes. Lots of things happening in Barking and Dagenham, get the films going out so we can say made in Dagenham. Good night, have a safe journey home and thank you for coming.