# London Assembly

**MQT – 20 November 2013**

## 16th Mayor’s Report to the Assembly

This is my sixteenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 10 October to 6 November 2013.

**Executive Summary**

**Trade mission to China**

On 13 October, I led a delegation on an official visit to China where I was promoting London as the best destination for Chinese investment, students and tourists.

There’s a huge appetite for London in China and this visit has proved to me that Chinese investments such as those into the Royal Docks and Crystal Palace are just the start of a new wave of significant, vitally needed investments.

**Chair of Ethics Panel**

On 10 October, I announced that Lord Carlile of Berriew, QC, the former Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, had been appointed as chair of a new MOPAC Ethics Panel.

**Gangs Panel**

I have appointed Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime and Ray Lewis, my Mentoring Advisor, as co-chairs of a new Gangs Panel to oversee work aimed at tackling gangs and steering London’s vulnerable young people away from crime.

**World Islamic Economic Forum in London for the first time**

On 28 October, I welcomed the arrival of the World Islamic Economic Forum to London. The first time this major international conference has been held outside Asia.

**TfL improves transparency and accountability by publishing more data**

Transport for London is reinforcing its commitment to improve transparency for customers and stakeholders by making a range of previously unpublished information available on its website. This is consistent with TfL’s commitments given as part of the London Assembly Oversight Committee’s report into Transparency across the GLA family.

**Haringey - Britain’s first electric bike borough**

Electrically-assisted bicycles will become a common sight on the streets of North London after the borough of Haringey was chosen to trial Britain’s first electric cycle hire scheme.

**Policing and Community Safety**

**Chair of Ethics Panel**

On 10 October, I announced that Lord Carlile of Berriew, QC, the former Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, had been appointed as chair of a new MOPAC Ethics Panel.

The MOPAC Ethics Panel, which will complement the existing structures in place to oversee the way the city is policed, will examine issues of public concern around the ethics and quality of policing and make recommendations. This will help to provide reassurance and boost public confidence in policing. The role of the Chair will be to act as an independent, public-facing figurehead to lead the work of the MOPAC Ethics Panel.

**The MPS return to Whitehall**

On 14 October, I announced that renowned architects Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM) have been chosen to redesign London’s new police headquarters. The MPS are moving to more modern, cost effective offices at the iconic Curtis Green building on the Victoria Embankment in 2015.

The sale of the current MPS HQ - New Scotland Yard - will provide significant capital to reinvest in frontline policing.

**Southwark Police cadet visit**

On 30 October, I joined Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the MPS Commissioner, on a visit to Walworth Academy to inspect and address Southwark police cadets, including their new youth cadet unit for 10-13 year olds.

The Volunteer Police Cadets are a key part of my Police & Crime Plan’s aim of reconnecting the police with the public by boosting volunteering and growing the police family. The aim of the cadets is to teach life skills, encourage social responsibility and build positive relationships between young people and the police.

**Gangs Panel**

I have appointed Stephen Greenhalgh, my Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime, and Ray Lewis, my Mentoring Advisor, as co-chairs of a new Gangs Panel to oversee work aimed at tackling gangs and steering London’s vulnerable young people away from crime.

The panel will bring together the police, key stakeholders and voluntary sector groups, and its findings will feed into the London Crime Reduction Board.

**Annual Police Bravery Awards**

On 17 October, the Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime attended the Police Bravery Awards. This event recognises the most outstanding acts of courage by the police service in England and Wales, who place themselves in harm’s way to protect the public.  It was a night to celebrate the courage, commitment and sacrifice of the officers in the Metropolitan Police and all of Britain’s police forces.

**MOPAC Challenge**

On 22 October, I chaired the latest Quarterly MOPAC Challenge, where we heard the good news that London has reached the highest ever record for effective trial rates of 61.3%.  I also heard that the MPS was doing a substantial job in bringing down crime faster than police forces across the rest of the country and in 6 out of the 7 key neighbourhood crime types, we were seeing progress that put the MPS on course to achieve the 20% Challenge I have set them.

**Visit to Oceana nightclub in Kingston**

On October 25, Stephen Greenhalgh, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, visited Oceana nightclub in Kingston, a year to the day since the tragic stabbing of a clubber and the temporary closure of the venue.  In the same week Kingston was named the capital’s safest borough in the latest Metropolitan Police figures and Stephen congratulated staff and officers on the dramatic 85 per cent reduction in crime at the venue.  Stephen was given a demonstration of the Scan Net system, which has been credited with helping reduce crime in Oceana significantly since last year.

**Conference in the Netherlands**

The 2013 Grand Conference on Building a Resilient Digital Society took place on 5 November, organised by the Dutch department of Cyber Resilience. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime attended and shared experience with civic leaders, industry and law enforcement from many leading Smart cities in Europe. The aim of the conference was to underline the importance of leadership on cyber resilience to help protect people, businesses and infrastructure in large cities.

Transport

**First fully-segregated Barclays Cycle Superhighway opened**

On 6 November, I launched the first fully-segregated section of Barclays Cycle Superhighway and unveiled plans for similar improvements elsewhere on the road network. I also committed to a major upgrade of existing Cycle Superhighway routes and an entirely new north-south segregated cycle route through Central London.

The new section of Barclays Cycle Superhighway 2 (CS2), between Bow and Stratford, has just under 2 miles of new cycle track, almost entirely physically separated from traffic, along with “bus stop bypasses” to protect cyclists. Similar bus stop bypasses already exist in other parts of London, such as on Pinner Road in North Harrow, and in Brighton.

Transport for London have also announced that over 100 additional designers, engineers and traffic modellers will be sought to help deliver the massively-expanded cycling programme, which will see new routes and improvements across London, as part of a wider initiative for improving the capital’s roads.

**TfL improves transparency and accountability by publishing more data**

Transport for London is reinforcing its commitment to improve transparency for customers and stakeholders by making a range of previously unpublished information available on its website.

These improvements include:

* Proactive publication of the information regularly requested by customers and stakeholders;
* Lowering the threshold for the publication of all expenditure from £500 to £250;
* Publication of all contracts above the appropriate OJEU threshold.

This is all consistent with TfL’s commitments given as part of the London Assembly Oversight Committee’s report into Transparency across the GLA family.

TfL has examined the thousands of information requests received under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and from London Assembly Members to identify the information for which it is regularly asked.

As a result, data will now be published each quarter on: Oyster card deposits, balances and incomplete journeys; road safety; Congestion Charge payments and penalty charges, including outstanding payments from embassies; Barclays Cycle Hire usage and availability; and performance on responding to FOIA requests.

All expenditure of more than £250 will also be published, allowing even greater scrutiny of how money is spent. The previous reporting threshold was £500.

In addition, all contracts with a value above the appropriate OJEU threshold entered into as a result of an Invitation to Tender issued after 1 September 2013 will now be published within 20 days of being signed. Older contracts will be published on request and any contract announced in a press release will also be published.

**Haringey - Britain’s first electric bike borough**

Electrically-assisted bicycles will become a common sight on the streets of North London after the borough of Haringey was chosen to trial Britain’s first “Barclays Bike-style” electric cycle hire scheme.

A fleet of e-bikes will operate from a network of docking stations in the area around Muswell Hill. Anyone will be able to use them to take the pain out of cycling (or walking) up the area’s hills.

Following bids from boroughs to become ‘Mini-Hollands’, Haringey was identified as being an optimum location for this e-bike trial, due to particularly hilly areas in the borough and the potential to use e-bikes to link in with public transport.

The trial scheme is likely to operate in a similar way to the existing Barclays Cycle Hire scheme in inner London, with users riding between docking stations, though it will be completely self-contained and bikes will not be interchangeable with the main scheme. The scheme will provide a valuable supplement to the buses that are the area’s only public transport.

Electric bikes are exactly like normal bikes except that there is a small, battery-powered motor to help you pedal. They are especially useful in hilly areas, or for people who need to ride without breaking sweat, or for people who are older or less fit.

**Route 9 becomes third route to served by iconic New Bus for London**

On 26 October, Route 9 became the third in the capital to be served entirely by New Bus for London vehicles. The route, which is operated by London United, runs between Hammersmith and Aldwych, and will see at its peak 22 of the new buses in passenger service to carry the 16,000 people who travel on the route each day.

**TfL helps ex-Armed Forces members back into employment**

Transport for London is to create 30 paid work placements to help ex-Armed Forces members back into employment.

TfL has been working with the Armed Forces resettlement support groups and Remploy, and has identified that many of the personnel who are leaving the Services have useful skills that can be transferred to the transport sector which has a shortfall of skilled engineering and planning staff. As a result, a pilot of four six-month work placements took place between 2010 and 2012, with three out of the four ending up with permanent positions at TfL or its suppliers.

Following the success of the trial a wider rollout of 30 six month placements will see people working in engineering, planning, project management and operational roles. These placements will provide ex-Service men and women with an opportunity to develop further work experience and skills that are transferable within the transport industry to help them onto permanent employment at the end of their placements. They will also receive training in interview techniques and CV writing skills to enable them to have the confidence to apply for future roles in the industry.

**TfL and Crossrail graduate trainee programmes**

TfL and Crossrail have now welcomed 140 new graduate trainees into their organisations, working in areas that include engineering, project management, transport planning, commercial, information management, finance and marketing roles. Applications for the 2014 schemes have now opened and a similar number of graduates are expected to be recruited.

Projects that they will be working on include contributing to the improvement of the reliability of the Tube and to making TfL’s network more accessible for passengers. All TfL graduate trainees will also spend time in frontline roles across TfL’s network to get a firsthand experience of providing Tube, Bus, rail and other services to customers.

**TfL and the MPS cut cycle theft across the capital**

Transport for London has joined forces with the MPS in a special operation titled Project Cycle Ops in a move to cut cycle thefts across London. Since the start of the new initiative in October 2012, bike theft has fallen by 11 per cent across the capital with over 2,000 fewer offences.

The number of bike thefts in London from October 2012 to the end of August 2013 was 19,052, compared with 21,488 in 2012 and 20,411 in 2011 over the same time period. Against a three-year average (used to flatten out fluctuations caused by spells of extreme weather) bike theft is down by 10.3 per cent.

Activity to tackle bike crime has included bike marking and registration events, educating cyclists, high-visibility policing patrols to discourage thieves, surveillance, and special undercover policing tactics. During the course of Project Cycle Ops police have security marked and registered over 40,000 bikes on BikeRegister.com.

**Crossrail awards Paddington New Yard contract**

**Crossrail has announced its intention to award the contract for Paddington New Yard to Costain Limited.**

The contract includes the construction of a new 180m long elevated bus deck which will connect to Westbourne Park Bus Garage, the relocation of an existing concrete batching plant, and preparatory works for the installation of new rail track and associated systems for Crossrail in Paddington New Yard.

**New landmark Abbey Wood station gets the green light**

**Plans for a brand new station have been approved by the London Borough of Bexley and the Royal Borough of Greenwich.**

The new two-level station will open in 2017 and will be built above two new dedicated Crossrail tracks and those used by North Kent services. The station will include a bright, spacious concourse that leads directly onto a wide forecourt connecting the station to the Harrow Manorway dual carriageway which runs above the current station; two new ‘island’ platforms for Crossrail and North Kent services and lifts to help passengers get around the station and to provide step-free access to every platform.

Work on the temporary station, which will be situated in the current station car park and open in autumn 2014, will get underway next month. It will provide an accessible route to all platforms throughout the build programme via platform lifts. Demolition of the existing station will begin once the temporary station opens.

**Network Rail awards two major Crossrail contracts for west London and Berkshire**

Network Rail has awarded a contract to VINCI Construction UK Ltd for the design and upgrade of 13 stations in west London and Berkshire and a separate contract for overhead line equipment to Balfour Beatty.  
  
The stations contract covers significant improvements to stations from Acton Main Line to Maidenhead. Many of the stations on the route are being refurbished or partially rebuilt in preparation for Crossrail.   
  
Proposed improvements along the line include new station buildings and ticket halls, new lifts to deliver step free access and longer platforms. The detailed design phase will start at the end of 2013 and main works will take place between mid-2014 and 2018.

The contract awarded to Balfour Beatty involves the installation of electric overhead line equipment between Airport Junction and Maidenhead across all tracks facilitating the delivery of Crossrail services as well as new high speed Intercity Express trains on the Great Western route.

**Four new campaigns launched to cut death and injury on London's roads**

Pedestrians, drivers and motorcyclists are being targeted in four new campaigns to improve road safety in London.  
  
Starting from 21 October for six weeks the campaigns will use various tactics to raise safety awareness among different road users. Teenagers, who are a particularly vulnerable group on the roads, will be urged to stay safe in film clips featuring the cast of Channel 4’s ‘Top Boy’ and comedian & Choice radio presenter Kojo.  
  
Earlier this year I launched a new road safety plan which set out a clear path towards helping to reduce accidents on London's roads. These new campaigns will build on the progress already made and aim to cut road accidents even further.

**Transport for London celebrates schools’ commitment to active and safer travel**

Transport for London recently celebrated London’s schools’ success in promoting sustainable and safer travel. At an annual event at City Hall the highest performing schools across London were brought together as part of TfL’s STARS (Sustainable Travel: Active Responsible Safe) school travel plan accreditation scheme.

Forty per cent of London schools are ‘STARS’ equating to 1,248 primary and secondary schools across all London boroughs, up 16 percent from 2012. These schools are making a significant difference to their communities by implementing safer and sustainable travel initiatives, resulting in reductions in car use and increases in walking and cycling on the journey to school as well as more responsible use of public transport. Schools earn accreditation at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold, achieving a higher level of accreditation based on the number of travel initiatives and their effectiveness in delivering a move away from car use.

**Armed forces concession - Transport for London**

I have approved the proposed provision of free travel on TfL services for current members of the UK regular and reserve Armed Forces whilst in uniform. I have delegated to TfL the power to make this concession.

**Business, Enterprise and the Economy**

**Trade mission to China**

On 13 October, I led a delegation on an official visit to China where I was promoting London as the best destination for Chinese investment, students and tourists.

The main objective of my visit was to raise the profile of London, and showcase our strengths, in the minds of potential investors, students, tourists and the country’s key political decision makers – crucial at this time as diplomatic relations between China and the UK continue to improve.

Altogether my visit took in the country’s three primary cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong over six days.  My itinerary in each city was packed with over 30 meetings and engagements and included:

* Meetings with the Mayor of Beijing, Vice Mayor of Shanghai and the Chief Executive of Hong Kong
* Speech to Peking University alongside the Chancellor of the Exchequer
* Meetings with many businesses and investors who expressed their on-going commitment to London
* Experiencing the high speed rail link between Beijing and Shanghai
* Promoting the new bus for London in Hong Kong
* Speaking at the London & Partners ‘Go Global’ event
* Visit to Hong Kong’s new airport and the old city centre airport site

With the levels of media interest that this visit generated in China, it has really delivered on the two goals of raising people’s awareness of London as a welcoming city for Chinese tourists and students, and leaving China with the understanding that London means business, that we’re open, and that we encourage them to invest, visit and study here. There’s a huge appetite for London in China and this visit has proved to me that Chinese investments such as those into the Royal Docks and Crystal Palace are just the start of a new wave of significant, vitally needed investments.

**Increase in London Living Wage announced**

On 4 November, at the start of National Living Wage Week, I announced the annual increase in the London Living Wage taking the hourly rate from £8.55 to £8.80 per hour.

I have been working with the Living Wage Foundation, part of London Citizens, over the past year to encourage even more employers in the city to sign up to the scheme. The number of accredited employers in London paying the Living Wage, which includes both the Greater London Authority and Transport for London, has soared 174 per cent from 78 to 214. Major new sign ups include the National Portrait Gallery, Pearson and Oxfam.

Since 2005, the London Living Wage has put around £235 million into the pockets of lower paid Londoners.

**World Islamic Economic Forum in London for the first time**

On 28 October, I welcomed the arrival of the World Islamic Economic Forum to London. The first time this major international conference has been held outside Asia.

The 9th annual WIEF conference brought together government leaders, captains of industry, academic scholars and regional experts to discuss opportunities for business partnerships in the Muslim world and beyond. The conference has attracted 2,300 attendees, its largest number to date, from 120 countries. Staging this prestigious international event gave London an ideal platform to promote its credentials as a leading hub for Islamic finance. London is both the largest Islamic financial centre in the West and the ninth-largest in the world.

**Skills Supplier Team – project continuation 2013/14**

I have approved expenditure of up to £370,000 (£210,000 in 2013/14 and £160,000 in 2014/15) with Transport for London as the Greater London Authority’s contribution towards the total project costs of delivering the Supplier Skills Team project in these two years.

**Environment**

**Capital Clean Up**

This autumn my  Capital Clean-up campaign, in partnership with Team London and McDonald’s, has awarded 17 grants and 35 ‘Clean-up Kits’ to Friends of Parks groups, schools, youth groups and other community organisations across 17 boroughs in London. A second round of grants will be available in January, and more ‘Clean-up Kits’ are still available.  I urge groups from across London to apply and join this ever expanding community of Capital Clean-up champions' who through volunteering their time to clean and green their neighbourhoods make London a better place to live, work, and visit.

**Social Inclusion and Health**

**Over 50s contribute £53 billion boost to the economy**

The GLA Economics report – The Economic Contribution of Older Londoners – presented by my Deputy Mayor of London, Victoria Borwick, at the Positive Ageing in London “Supporting Older People’s Contributions” event on 17 October, revealed that older Londoners contribute an impressive £53 billion to the economy.

In addition to a £47 billion contribution to the economy through paid work, they also provide £4.7 billion, as a result of caring for other adults and £600 million providing childcare for their grandchildren. Older Londoners contribute a further £800 million through volunteering activities.

**London Ambulance Service event**

On 22 October Victoria Borwick, my Deputy Mayor, attended an event hosted by the London Ambulance Service to explore options for LAS to work strategically with partners to ensure a high quality, effective and efficient emergency and urgent care system for London in the future.

**Launched Breast Cancer Campaign strategy**

On 30 October Victoria Borwick, my Deputy Mayor, together with London Breast Cancer Ambassador, Zandra Rhodes CBE, hosted a reception in London’s Living Room to mark the culmination of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event was held in partnership with Breast Cancer Campaign whose new research action plan, *Help us find the cures*, sets out its ambitions for the future for the prevention and treatment of breast cancer.

**‘Physical and mental health – one agenda’ conference**

On 10 October, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, attended the ‘Physical and mental health – one agenda’ conference in Euston. The conference, held by the Royal College of General Practitioners, explored the gap between physical and mental healthcare.

**Cheapside Hoard Exhibition**

On 10 October, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, attended the Cheapside Hoard Exhibition at the Museum of London, London Wall.

**London Health Board**

On 15 October, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, met with Claire Goodchild, the new Chief Officer for the London Health Board at the headquarters of London Councils. Victoria and Claire discussed the operating arrangements and secretariat matters for the new Board.

**Breakthrough Breast Cancer**

On 29 October, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, met with Chris Askew, the Chief Executive of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Victoria and Chris discussed the recent achievements of the charity, its investment in London and the potential to work with the Mayor in future.

**C Hoare and Co Lunch**

On 30 October, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, attended and spoke at a lunch at C Hoare and Co in Fleet Street.

**Education and Youth**

**London Schools Excellence Fund**

On 8 October, I announced that £7m from my London Schools Excellence Fund had been awarded to thirty schools and education organisations. My £24m London Schools Excellence Fund is designed to support teaching excellence and help students achieve better results through expert teaching, improved subject knowledge, and subject specific learning methods.

Grant agreements are now being concluded for this first round of LSEF grants which could potentially reach up to 1,000 London schools, involve around 8,000 teachers and boost the teaching of around 250,000 pupils in computer science, literacy, maths, science and technology, and modern foreign languages.

Two further funding rounds have been advertised: the second round for small grants launched in July and round three opened in October on ‘[English: The Key to Integration in London](http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/young-people/education-and-training/gla-education-programme/london-schools-excellence-fund/english-key-to-integration-in-london)’. Both have closing dates of 15 November 2013.

**Opening of the Royal Greenwich University Technical College**

On 24 October, as Chairman of Transport for London, I joined the HRH The Duke of York in opening the Royal Greenwich University Technical College (UTC). TfL is a non-financial sponsor of the UTC providing expertise and equipment as part of its offer to 14-18 year olds. Other sponsors are the Royal Borough of Greenwich, the University of Greenwich and the developer Wates Group.

The curriculum will include engineering, construction and design, alongside core GCSEs and A-Levels. Students will be able to work in an environment which has £1.5million-worth of industry standard technical equipment to help them develop techniques required for future careers.

**Olympic and Paralympic Legacy and Sport**

**New pedestrian bridge at Olympic Park**

As part of the ongoing transformation work at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, a new pedestrian bridge has opened to the public linking Hackney with the Park. The bridge, which connects Wallis Road in Hackney to Waterden Road by the Copper Box Arena, will help improve access to the Park for local residents.

**Sports Aid**

On 18 October, youth sports charity SportsAid filled the Copper Box Arena with an inspiring array of athletes for the Duchess of Cambridge’s first official engagement as the charity’s patron.

The event saw more than 70 SportsAid athletes past and present, including several Olympians and Paralympians, demonstrate their skill at CP football, badminton, wheelchair basketball, fencing and volleyball.

**Whizz-Kidz**

London Legacy Development Corporation sponsored the use of the Copper Box Arena for Whizz-Kiz on 22 October, as their “Bikes for Trikes team”, who had raised nearly £200,000 to provide trikes for disabled children, undertook their first handover of trikes.

**Advance Payment under s.52 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in relation to land acquired under Olympic and Legacy CPO 2005**

I have granted approval for payments in relation to the named claimants, who had land acquired under compulsory purchase powers arising from the London Development Agency (Lower Lea Valley, Olympic and Legacy) Compulsory Purchase Order 2005.

**Culture and Events**

**Diwali Festival**

Our Diwali Festival took place on 27 October at Trafalgar Square, with an audience of approximately 30,000 throughout the day coming together to celebrate. Londoners from all communities, as well as visitors to the capital, were invited to attend the free event, which featured a line-up of traditional and contemporary music and dance including Sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar. The event also featured a number of stalls selling delicious food and drinks and activities for children to enjoy. The stage programme was presented by the event media partner Zee TV and organising partner Diwali in London Committee.

**Peoples Question Time**

On 5 November, I held a People’s Question Time meeting at The Great Hall, Imperial College in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. These meetings help to increase the transparency and accountability of our work at City Hall.

**NFL Fan Rally**

On 26 October, I supported the National Football League (NFL) Fan Rally at Trafalgar Square with free use of the venue. This popular celebration of American football took place in advance of the game at Wembley Stadium between San Francisco 49ers and Jacksonville Jaguars the following day. The free event attracted more than 20,000 people, including fans from both teams, Londoners and visitors to a programme with appearances by NFL players, special guests, cheerleaders and live music.

**Tour de France 2014**

On 23 October, I hailed the return of the world’s cycling superstars to the capital as the final Tour de France 2014 route was unveiled in Paris. A million cycling fans are expected to turn out to see the Tour de France when it reaches London on 7 July 2014 as part of a three-day visit to Britain.

**Big Dance Shorts**

Leading British and Brazilian choreographers and film-makers have been commissioned to make a series of short films for Big Dance. The five new films explore the creative relationship between the UK and Brazil and are set to be screened in each country and on Channel 4 as part next year's Big Dance Week which takes place from 5-13 July 2014. Big Dance Shorts is run in partnership with the British Council and Channel 4 in association with BAFTA.

**Frieze Art Fair**

On 15 October, my Head of Culture attended the Frieze Art Fair, now one of the most important international art fairs globally. The continued success of Frieze underlines London’s significance as a centre of the international art market.

**57th BFI London Film Festival**

On 15 October, I joined screen legend Sir Christopher Lee to celebrate his BFI Fellowship at this year’s London Film Festival gala screening of *Inside Llewyn Davis*. Though I was sadly overseas in China for the screening, BFI ran a pre-recorded message where I reiterated my support for this fantastic festival and took the opportunity to claim the genius Coen Brothers for London.

**Mayor’s Music Fund breaks £1.7m barrier**

On 8 October, I spoke at a breakfast to raise money for the Mayor’s Music Fund. The event at Mansion House was attended by 190 leaders of the business community. As patron of the Fund I took part in a lively conversation with Jon Snow, after which two of the Mayor’s Music Fund scholars performed with great distinction.

The Mayor’s Music Fund has now raised over £1.7m and benefitted 14,500 young people across every London borough. Intensive support has been provided to 230 children in financial need who have received four-year music scholarships. Thousands more have been inspired to continue their studies by taking part in workshops, master-classes and performances alongside London’s top professional musicians.

**Launch of Bonhams new auction house**

On 24 October, I opened Bonhams new auction house in Bond Street.  Bonhams is bringing jobs, growth and investment to our city – and renown to London as the leading cultural, artistic and auctioneering capital of the world.

The building was opened to the public with an exhibition showing some of the outstanding artworks that Bonhams will be offering worldwide over the coming months. This new development represents the company’s commitment to London as a global centre for art.

**Volunteering**

**Team London programmes**

Team London is partnering with Free The Children UK to deliver our flagship programme, Team London Young Ambassadors.  The programme was launched at a conference for schools at the end of September and aims to be in 400 schools by the end of this academic year and up to 1,000 schools by the end of 2015.  Over 100 schools are already signed up to the programme.

Team London continues to deploy volunteers to major events across London, including the recent Diwali celebration and is currently recruiting for the Christmas deployment of the Visitor Welcome programme and the New Year’s Eve event.

On 25 November, I will be presenting awards and certificates to recognise over 80 volunteers across London who have made a huge difference in their local communities at our second Team London Awards ceremony.

## Planning and Development Control

**Demolition of all existing buildings at Stephenson Street, in LB Newham**

I have approved the demolition of all buildings on the site known as Stephenson Street (owned by GLA Land and Property Limited), in order to remove a significant rates liability.

I have also approved the allocation of a Capital budget of £538,000 to cover the total cost of the demolition works and the procurement of a demolition contractor through the existing approved Estate management contractor (GVA).

Finally, I have delegated authority to appoint the demolition contractor to the Executive Director of Housing and Land.

**Publication of the Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan (REMA)**

I have considered the response of 13August 2013 of the Secretary of State CLG to his submission of the Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan as intended for publication, in accordance with sections 337 and 341 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (“GLA Act”, as amended) and regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (London Spatial Development Strategy) Regulations 2000.

I have considered the outcome of the Extraordinary Plenary meeting of the London Assembly held on 3 September 2013 at which the Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan were considered, in accordance with section 42B of the GLA Act (as amended).

I have considered representations made after the publication of the EiP Inspector’s report on 14 August, in accordance with section 337 of the GLA Act (as amended).

I have approved publication of the Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan (REMA) as my spatial development strategy, in accordance with sections 337 and 341 of the GLA Act (as amended) and regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (London Spatial Development Strategy) Regulations 2000. I have also taken account of the Sustainability Statement on the preparation of the Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan which will be published at the same time.

Finally, I have authorised expenditure of up to £7,000 from the Planning Unit’s budget on placing the statutory notices of publication.

**Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)**

*Reed House, 82-84 Piccadilly, City of Westminster*

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

*University of London Halls, LB Camden*

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

*Galaxy House, LB Croydon*

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

*Plot MO401 Greenwich Peninsular, LB Greenwich*

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

*Battersea Power Station, LB Wandsworth*

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

*Former Mulberry Business Centre, LB Southwark*

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

*251-258 Tottenham Court Road, LB Camden*

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

*Parkway Trading Estate, LB Hounslow*

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

*Copley Close Estate, LB Ealing*

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

*Former Dairy Crest Site, LB Hillingdon*

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

*Land to the rear of ARK Academy, LB Wandsworth*

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

*Former Queen Elizabeth Hospital, LB Tower Hamlets*

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

*67-71 Dalston Lane, LB Hackney*

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

*Swakeleys House, LB Borough Hillingdon*

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

*Convoys Wharf, LB Lewisham*

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

**Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)**

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

* Site We4B, Western Gateway, LB Newham
* Former Goswell Bakeries and Moss Electrical Sites, LB Newham
* Mast Pond Wharf, LB Newham
* Hayes and Yeading Football Club, LB Hillingdon
* Land at South Grove, LB Waltham Forest
* Canterbury Hotel, LB Lambeth
* 263-289 Holloway Road and 2-16 Eden Grove, LB Islington
* Audit House, City of London
* Sleaford Street Industrial Estate, LB Wandsworth
* Keybridge House, LB Lambeth
* 206-214 Stratford High Street, LLDC
* Eastbury House, LB Lambeth
* 111 Upper Richmond Road, LB Wandsworth
* Former Contractors Compound, LB Hillingdon
* Kirtling Wharf, LB Wandsworth
* 26-30 Holborn Viaduct, City of London
* Queens Wharf and Riverside Studios, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
* London City Airport, LB Newham

**Development Plans**

I have written to the following Councils giving a response to their development plan consultations:

* Lewisham Council Local Development Framework/LDF Consultation Response, LB Lewisham

**Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning**

* Compost Site on and Land Off Cookham Road, LB Bromley
* St Pauls School, LB Richmond
* Tavern Quay Commercial Centre, LB Southwark
* Former Putney Hospital, LB Wandsworth
* Bentley Priory, LB Harrow
* 210-218 Old Street, 70-100 City Road, 32-37 Featherstone Street &13-15 Mallow Street, LB Islington
* Riverlight (Former Tideway Industrial Estate, LB Wandsworth

#### Key Engagements

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

* I attended the 2013 UK Bioscience Forum at the Royal College of Surgeons on 10 October
* I met with Sir Phillip Green, CEO of the Arcadia Group, on 10 October to discuss London’s economy and investing in London
* I met with Michael Gutman, Westfield, on 10 October to discuss London’s economy and investing in London
* I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 10 October
* I attended the London Transport Museum Fundraising reception on 10 October
* I attended the funeral of PC Duncan on 11 October
* I visited China and Hong Kong from 13 to 18 October
* I spoke to Ron Dobson, LFEPA, on 15 October to discuss the FBU industrial action
* I had a brief introductory meeting with the Mayor of Mecca on 21 October
* I had my regular meeting with James Cleverly AM and Ron Dobson, LFEPA, on 21 October
* I had my regular discussion on policing in London with Deputy Commissioner Craig Mackey, Metropolitan Police Service, on 21 October
* I attended the MOPAC Challenge on 22 October
* I attended the House of Lords Committee Evidence Session on 22 October to answer questions on Legacy from the Olympic and Paralympic Games
* I held my regular “Ask Boris” Twitter session on 22 October
* I attended a viewing of Sir Tim Rice’s new show, From Here to Eternity, on 22 October
* I attended Mayor's Question Time on 23 October
* I met & presented certificate to a year 7 pupil, Libby Coyte, from Kingsley Academy on 23 October
* I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 23 October
* I had my regular meeting with Transport for London and Crossrail on 23 October
* I hosted a reception for members of the British Society of Magazine Editors on 23 October
* I attended the opening of the Greenwich UTC with HRH The Duke of York on 24 October
* I met with Sir John Armitt, Chair of the Olympic Delivery Authority, on 24 October to discuss Olympic Legacy
* I had an introductory meeting with the new US Ambassador, HE Matthew Barzun, on Thursday 24 October
* I attended the opening of Bonhams new headquarters on 24 October
* I hosted a conference call about the St Jude’s storm and its impact on London on 28 October
* I attended the London Global Cities Initiative on 28 October
* I attended the London Councils Executive Committee on 29 October
* I had an introductory meeting with HM the King of Jordan on 29 October
* I visited the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with the Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Minister of State for Universities and Sciences, on 29 October
* I chaired the London Legacy Development Corporation Board meeting on 29 October
* I hosted a meeting of the Growth Borough Leaders & Mayors on 29 October
* I had an introductory meeting with the Crown Prince of Bahrain on 29 October
* I attended the World Islamic Economic Forum reception on 29 October
* I addressed the World Islamic Economic Forum at Excel on 30 October
* I attended the Google hangout on 30 October
* I hosted a conference call with James Cleverly AM and Ron Dobson, LFEPA, on 30 October to discuss the FBU industrial action
* I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 30 October
* I visited the Southwark Police Cadets on 30 October with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner
* I attended the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank reception on 30 October
* I met with Hugh Mitchell, Shell, on 31 October to discuss investing in London
* I met with the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 31 October to discuss the economic development of London
* I had dinner with Sir Peter Hendy, Transport Commissioner, on 31 October
* I attended the London Living Wage event on 4 November
* I had my regular meeting with Dame Ruth Carnall on 4 November
* I addressed the CBI Annual Conference on 4 November
* I hosted my regular monthly Ask Boris Phone in with Nick Ferrari on 5 November
* I attended an event to launch London Poppy Day on 5 November
* I hosted a lunch for the New Schools Network on 5 November
* I met with the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health, on 5 November to discuss Health in London
* I attended People’s Question Time in Kensington & Chelsea on 5 November
* I chaired the Transport for London Board Meeting on 6 November
* I opened the new section of Cycle Super Highway 2 at Stratford High Street on 6 November
* I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 6 November
* I had an introductory meeting with Steve Varley, UK Chair of Ernst & Young, on 6 November
* I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 6 November

### Ends