

Mayor's Question Time – Monday 24 February 2020

Transcript of Item 4B – Questions to the Mayor

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): We now move to questions on the budget and we have lead-off questions from political groups. The format will be as follows: the first question will come from the Labour Group, then we will take questions from the City Hall Greens Group, then the GLA Conservatives and then the Brexit Alliance Group. Can I ask Assembly Member Duvall to put his question?

Len Duvall AM: Can you tell us if there are any technical changes that you have made to your budget around collections and issues like that in the financial aspects of the budget?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, there are some changes to the budget since I was last here. There has been a revision to the GLA's Capital Strategy to include the correct level of annual housing need, there has been the inclusion of the Homelessness Grant which is now being received and an adjustment to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) capital programme to reflect the Government's cut to MOPAC's specific capital grant. You will be aware that there has been new funding in relation to the receipt of council tax and business rates, which were better than we thought.

Len Duvall AM: Obviously that will enable you to do a little bit more for Londoners in terms of your future priorities and in terms of this budget.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. As you have seen, the overall total available to allocate is circa £143 million and I have set out in the final budget how we spend and allocate that £143 million, which I referred to in my opening statement.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you for that. Can we just turn to the Green New Deal for Londoners. You rightly say it is an ambitious programme for world cities, probably one of the largest on the table from many politicians across the world. I appreciate you cannot talk about specific issues but can we delve a bit deeper in terms of what your priorities would be in this coming year and beyond?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for that. There are two main areas we are going to focus on. One is obviously to reduce climate change emissions, but the second area is to pivot into how we can benefit from the opportunities that the transition to zero carbon creates in relation to individuals and job but also businesses. Can we use the money we have set aside, £50 million, to leverage in more funding from the private sector and other third parties as well? There are a number of areas we are exploring from greater electrification to helping skill up Londoners to have the skills for jobs created, to helping businesses to see the opportunities that a zero carbon economy can lead to.

Len Duvall AM: In terms of that other great public health initiative that you undertook under your watch, the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), are you confident it will deliver and give a further push for London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for the question because you have reminded me that one of the things that leads me to be more confident is two policies that were opposed by some Members on this Assembly. There was the introduction of the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone last year. What the ULEZ has done is that in the first few months we have seen a reduction in nitrous oxides (NOx) by a third. We know bold plans can work in relation to the ULEZ.

The other thing that was opposed was me giving monies - I know you voted for the budget; some people did not and voted against - towards Low Emission Bus Zones. What we have seen with the introduction of Low Emission Bus Zones is that in those parts of London where we have the Low Emission Bus Zones, the air quality breaches have been reduced by around 97%. Whereas we would be discussing on 3 or 4 January reaching the annual limit of air quality breaches, we now can get to months seven, eight and nine before we reach those levels. I am confident that bold policies can lead to good results and that confidence is what leads me to have a target of zero carbon by 2030 with the announcement today, but we need the Government to give us more powers and more resources.

Len Duvall AM: Of course there will always be voices to say, "We need to speed this up. We need to go faster". Of course we would go faster if we could. In terms of some of your thoughts and reflections about the speed and being carbon neutral by 2030, what sort of things did you take into account in arriving at that speed of travel rather than what others would say, "You can go much faster, you can do a lot more"?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): [Meeting the target of] 2030 is going to be very, very hard. We cannot do it without the Government stepping up and giving us more powers and more resources. But the reason why I am keen to have this target is that it will lead to, in my view, us transitioning faster, and also we can take advantage of the jobs that can be created and the growth in the green economy. What I want London to be is a beacon for investors, innovators and businesses who want to get involved in a zero-carbon economy and a zero-carbon business to come to London to start their businesses or to expand. We have already seen some of the opportunities created by us having the most comprehensive air quality monitoring of any city in the world. We have seen the opportunities created with electric double-decker buses, zero-emission double-decker buses, because of a conference I held here three years ago. What I want to do with the £50 million I have announced today is see a transition faster but also London benefitting from the transition to a zero-carbon London.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you very much.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member Berry?

Siân Berry AM: Mr Mayor, following on from that, I think you have acknowledged there that the £50 million in your Green New Deal so far is not anywhere near enough to deliver a Green New Deal for London, and I appreciate the limits of your current spending powers and devolution to raise money for this kind of thing. Do you have an assessment of how this compares with the need across London, for example, to make all of our homes energy-efficient and carbon neutral?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. The Climate Action Plan that I have already published said the cost of making London net zero is in the order of £61 billion with £10 billion just for the capital cost of energy efficiency improvements in our buildings.

Siân Berry AM: See, I think your numbers seem a little low, actually, and I just wanted to delve a little bit more into the aspirational investment needs that you have outlined in the Capital Spending Plan. I have been comparing the budget submissions with the final Capital Spending Plan on page 75, with the five-year period going forward, and it has increased. It has gone up to £5 billion per year, on average, that you are saying you need in the future, but obviously you have said just now you have upgraded the new affordable homes money that you need so that might be behind the increase. Have you increased the amount that you need for greener homes in the final capital budget plan and can we see a breakdown of that, please?

David Bellamy (Mayor's Chief of Staff): We can certainly give you a breakdown. There should be one in the final GLA budget which will be coming to the Mayor in a couple of weeks anyway, which will set that out. The position in the Capital Spending Plan I think has been fairly consistent this year, as with last year, when the Capital Spending Plan has always recognised the huge investment that is needed to tackle the climate emergency. Only a portion of it we ever would expect to flow through the GLA books. It is somewhat arbitrary, in the absence of the Government setting forth how the investment would be available and so forth, saying what amount would come through the GLA books and what would not. That is why obviously the Mayor has done the work to set out what the overall expenditure required is.

Siân Berry AM: Yes. I think this is work that needs to be done. We have asked the Assembly Scrutiny Research Team to look into this. They came up with a number of £32 billion just to bring homes up to energy rating C and replace gas boilers, and that is just a small part of what is needed. Will you commit to publishing everything that you have so far on the assessment of need across London for warmer homes and the Green New Deal in general?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I cannot think of a good reason why we would not do it. We want maximum transparency but also what it does is it enables allies to work with us to lobby the government, and I see you as an ally. The more we can publish, the better we can get like-minded people to lobby the Government to do the right thing.

Siân Berry AM: That is really useful. I just have a final question. Along with Assembly Member [Caroline] Pidgeon [MBE], my Group proposed a budget-related motion at the last meeting last month asking a similar question on transparency about the cost of amending or cancelling the contract you have signed for the Silvertown Tunnel. Without rehearsing the arguments again - we all know where we stand - can I just ask, yes or no, whether you will allow for relevant parts of the contract and any penalty clauses to be released to Assembly Members so we can see the liabilities London has as a result of your decision?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is a big difference between a commercial contract and the steps you have to take to get to zero carbon. One of the things that obviously TfL and the legal adviser are conscious of is commercial sensitivities in relation to publishing stuff that could compromise TfL. You will have seen from the way the TfL Board conducts meetings and the huge improvements made with Crossrail that where I can, I try to have maximum transparency and avoid the need for redaction. Subject to the legal advice and the need for commercial sensitivity, I am more than happy to have relevant documents made public.

Siân Berry AM: That would be great. The last thing we want is for the next Mayor to be caught out the way you were in the Garden Bridge contract on liabilities left behind on a project that we might want to review and cancel in future.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, that is a fair point, Chair. That is one of the lessons I have learnt from the previous Mayor in relation to the need for maximum transparency. Hopefully colleagues will have seen the huge difference between my first four years as Mayor and the previous Mayor's eight years as Mayor.

Siân Berry AM: Thank you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member Hall.

Susan Hall AM: Mr Mayor, there is a violent crime emergency in London at the moment. Knife crime is at record levels, murder is at an 11-year high, robbery has soared by 73%. Can you please tell me why, under your watch, you have increased your culture budget by an extra £7 million?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, let me deal first with violence reduction and then with culture. In relation to violence reduction, since I have become Mayor, just from council tax we have increased the police budget by £459 million because of my increase in council tax. Because of the freezes made by the previous Mayor and cuts made by the previous Mayor, council tax losses are around £718 million, which is obviously a big issue. The previous Mayor, we lose out because of the decisions he made. Since I have been Mayor we have had more monies into the police because of my decisions. On top of that, because of my diversion of business rates, the total amount we have spent on violence reduction is in the region of £580 million. It is a big difference from the previous Mayor.

In relation to culture, I am surprised by the question asked by the Assembly Member because she must see the benefits not just to Londoners but to our economy in relation to culture. Culture contributes £52 billion towards London's economy, one out of six jobs in London is in the cultural sector and it is one of the biggest and fastest-growing sectors in London's economy. I am surprised she does not want us to invest in diverting young people away from criminal gangs and picking up a knife, and also supporting our economy, but also I am surprised she is pointing out culture without mentioning the huge investment that has been made in policing as a consequence of decisions I have made over the last three years, all voted against by her colleagues.

Susan Hall AM: Yes. You should cease to be surprised by what I think, Mr Mayor, because you should know that my priority, certainly for London, is to keep London safe. That is what you have said over the years. In fact, only very recently you said that keeping Londoners safe is your top priority. If it is your top priority, monies should be diverted into it not when you get a windfall but monies should be diverted into keeping Londoners safe, in my view, all the time. Perhaps you would like to explain to me how many lives your bicycle ballet saved and how many Londoners have been kept safe by the Duckie Loves Fanny drag act that £75,000 has gone into. How can you justify £7 million extra going into the culture budget when we have this absolute mayhem on the streets?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I think what the Assembly Member has to recognise is that the budget that I have presented today, which I am hoping all Members will vote for, has an additional £100 million towards violence reduction. That includes more than £45 million for the police, which will pay for an additional 600 police officers. It is possible to invest in policing and violence reduction and try to fill the massive hole left by her Government's cuts over the last 10 years. What I will not apologise for is for investing in culture, particularly where it can divert young people away from joining criminal gangs, away from a life of crime and toward having their potential fulfilled.

Just one example of the difference culture can make is the celebration we saw last week at the Brits [Brit Awards], where British artists had their potential fulfilled because people believed in them. They are now world leaders, from Stormzy to Dave, selling records and tracks being downloaded around the world, which creates wealth and creates revenues for taxes to be paid but also is a good example of Londoners having their potential fulfilled because of culture. The alternative is some of the friends Dave and Stormzy had, whose lives were not diverted towards culture but towards a life of crime. I would rather invest in future Daves and Stormzys than future victims of crime.

Susan Hall AM: Mr Mayor, if you think putting money into people like Dave is a good idea, well done you, but you are not spending correct money - which you are clearly not - in sorting out the crime on our streets. If you were, we would not be in the mess we are in now. If you put your money where your mouth was, we would not be in the situation we are now. As it is, we have youngsters out there being murdered all the time on our streets, we have knife crime out of control, and you talk to me about Dave and Stormzy. It is an absolute disgrace, Mr Mayor. Your money should go into where you said your priorities were. It is no good putting

money in at the end of the day when you get a windfall. If it is your number one priority, you should put the funding there for it.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Mr Mayor, you have heard Assembly Member Hall give forth her commentary, because I did not see a question in the last minute or so of that --

Susan Hall AM: Madam Chairman --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Excuse me, Assembly Member. If the Mayor has heard anything in the last few minutes in what you have said that he wishes to rebut, then I am going to ask him to do that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Firstly, Chair, I was grateful to receive your letter, sent to all Members of the Assembly, about how we should conduct ourselves in these meetings.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Thank you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am glad one of us is following the injunction given by the Chair.

The second point I make is that I think what you heard from the Assembly Member was her frustration at her Government's actions over the last 10 years. What I would hope to see from all Members of the Assembly, whichever party you belong to, is us working cross-party to reverse the massive cuts they have made over the last 10 years, £1 billion from the MPS budget plus millions of pounds cut from youth services and after school clubs. I do not apologise for being tough on both crime and the causes of crime and I would hope that Members from all sides would work with me in the interests of Londoners rather than making cheap party-political points.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): I will be chairing and Members can get away with their soundbites, but I will have balance in this Chamber. Can I now call on Assembly Member Kurten?

David Kurten AM: Good morning, Mr Mayor. Of course everyone knows the number one issue facing London at the moment is spiralling violent crime and we have to do something about it. Your budget does have some things in it which are going to give a little bit more money to the police but one thing you said this morning, which I think is allocating money to the wrong place, is you said you are going to put £50 million into a Green New Deal programme to tackle a non-existent climate emergency. That money would pay for up to 800 extra police officers. Why have you decided to put £50 million into some programme that does not seem to have much detail attached to it and is not going to do anything, when you could be putting it into increasing the numbers of our police to keep our streets safe?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, we have climate change delayers and climate change deniers in this Assembly. I am quite clear that when you invest in the police you have to make sure the funding can continue going forward. What you cannot do is invest in the police with a one-off payment. It has to be recurring because you cannot make police officers redundant. One of the things that has happened since I became Mayor is we have raised council tax to the maximum allowed, but also I diverted business rates towards making sure we could help violence reduction initiatives. What I have done since I have been Mayor is invested from council tax £460 million to additional police officers because council tax is recurring and carries on year in, year out. It is really important to have a sustainable funding system for police officers going forward.

Where I have had funding which is one-off, I have used that money to invest in other violence reduction initiatives which can help. For example, the Young Londoners Fund is now £70 million. It has already diverted 110,000 young people towards doing constructive things, supporting more than 330 projects.

I will invest in things that are important, of course, like the Green New Deal, because we face an existential threat. We either accept that there is a climate emergency or, like you, we do not. I accept there is a climate emergency. I accept there is climate change. I think we can do something about it. My question to you is very simple: are you going to be the first generation that does something about it, or the last generation that does not? I want to be the first generation that does something about it.

David Kurten AM: Well, Mr Mayor, that is the difference between you and me --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There are many differences between you and me.

David Kurten AM: Indeed there are, Mr Mayor. On that we would agree.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I could not sleep at night if I thought that was the only difference.

David Kurten AM: We do have many differences, Mr Mayor. Absolutely. Indeed. Carbon dioxide is not a demonic gas that is going to destroy the planet, but we can leave our differences aside on that.

Let us go back to the meat of the matter, which is to talk about business rates, as you were mentioning. In your budget you actually say that the amount of business rates which is going to fund the police is dropping this year. In fact, you get £1,096,000,000 per year - well, for this coming financial year - in business rates but you are only going to put 10% of that into the police. Nearly 90%, almost all of the rest, is going to go to TfL. Why have you reduced the amount of business rates going to the police this year when you could have kept it at the same level and funded more police officers?

David Bellamy (Mayor's Chief of Staff): Chair, the reason for the reduction in business rates relates to Government proposals around business rate growth and when that will be received by local authorities. At the moment we receive business rate growth income along with the rest of our business rate income, in the year in which it is paid by taxpayers to the billing authorities. The Government is proposing that they change that so that growth is received two years later, after the final figures are known. The consequence of that would be that as the Mayor has chosen to divert business rates on a recurring basis to fund the 1,000 additional police officers, there would be a two-year gap where there was no funding for them. In last year's budget, the Mayor took the decision to set aside £118 million to cover that two-year gap to ensure that those police officers could be funded and could exist. That was very much a one-off thing that had to be done to fill that gap and that is why the overall business rates figure falls, because there was that exceptional allocation given the impending Government changes.

David Kurten AM: Thank you. I think I am out of time there, Chair, but as always it has been a pleasure discussing these things with you, Mr Mayor.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): You definitely get the soundbite of the day, I think. Let us then to move to other Members. I have Assembly Member Pidgeon.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Your final budget, Mr Mayor, included £34 million to help retain bus drivers in the capital. Some might question the timing of this announcement but it still, I think, fails to adequately address the challenges for bus drivers. Should not you and TfL instead be looking to negotiate higher wage

levels when awarding bus contracts routinely, rather than using your budget in this one-off way to subsidise the wages of bus drivers?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You will be aware of the huge progress made in the last 3.5 years in relation to bus drivers. For example, the London licence is really important so that drivers who move between one bus operator and another can take with them the experience, which means they do not start at the bottom when they move to another operator. Also, you will be aware of the minimum wage we have managed to secure which is paid by operators. The reason why we have introduced this reward and retention scheme is because one of the things we know, and we have information from all the different operators, is that all the operators have a problem where bus drivers begin, they are trained up and within two years they have left. Some will stay for year three and leave as well. It is a particular issue in relation to the wages, frankly speaking, that some bus drivers are receiving.

What we have done with this scheme is give an incentive or reward to bus drivers who stay two years and an additional payment if they stay for year three. It is £1,000 after two years and another £600 after year three. The advice we have from speaking to not just the operators but the drivers and the trade unions is this will hopefully lead to an improvement in retention and recruitment and will lead to bus drivers being more professionalised because they stay longer, which will lead to a better quality of service that our communities receive as well. At the same time, we will work on issues around bus driver fatigue. It is really important to address some of the concerns bus drivers have.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Yes. Should this be routinely part of your new bus contracts rather than this one-off? Is that how it is going to be in future?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK. That is good. What I also wanted to know is: you are subsidising these poor wages of bus drivers, who are employees of private companies. Where does this stop? Are you now going to be looking at the wages of poorly paid private hire drivers or taxi drivers? Why are you doing this as a one-off rather than incorporating it in your routine contracts?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is a particular issue in relation to bus drivers. You will be aware that there are 5 million journeys across our city today, every day, in buses, a bit more than private hire vehicles. I am sure you would agree. Also, if the Assembly Member has a way we can pay for that, I am obviously happy to look into that scheme. I am quite clear what we have announced in this budget enables City Hall to support TfL and the operators going forward. We will review it again in 2024 to see the success or otherwise and TfL will carry this on after this money from City Hall has been used up. I am really keen and I do not apologise for wanting those who are public servants to get decent pay for a hard day's work.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK. Thank you very much.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member Desai.

Unmesh Desai AM: Mr Mayor, of the £100 million in terms of extra funding to tackle violent crime, £45 million is going to the MPS. Of this £45 million extra, can you tell us exactly how this money is going to be spent? In your opening statement and some of the answers you have already given the Assembly, you talked about 600 extra officers, but to have clarity, could you specify exactly how the £45 million is going to be spent?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): First, to make the obvious point, unless Assembly Members vote for this budget, the MPS will not receive the additional money. Those Assembly Members that do not vote for this budget are denying violence reduction more than £100 million. I would ask all Assembly Members to vote for this budget.

In relation to the £100 million, £45 million will be a cash injection to the MPS which will pay for 600 officers from September [2020] onwards. The Government has agreed to pay 1,360 officers. We will be able to recruit that by September. The Government has not told us how much money we will receive for years two and three and they are not bringing forward the monies for years two and three this September, so one of the options is to turn the tap off, stop recruiting in September and then start again in April [2021]. That will cause us huge problems as you cannot simply turn it on and off. I am diverting this money to make sure the police can carry on recruiting.

What the Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis, Dame Cressida Dick DBE QPM] is quite clear about, and I agree with her, is that our priority must be reducing violence. The additional officers will go towards violence reduction and will be on the front line to try to get a grip with the increase of violence we have seen across the country, including London. They will be in Basic Command Units so Londoners across the city will see, hopefully, more officers. One of the big concerns I have is to make sure there is proper supervision of these new officers and the MPS are working to make sure the new officers have proper supervision rather than just being thrown in the deep end without proper support.

Unmesh Desai AM: Thank you. This is important. What Londoners out there are interested in is how your budget helps them. How many extra police officers are there going to be out there on the streets? To get this clear, the Government over the next financial year will give 1,369 officers, although you have asked for 6,000 and the Assembly itself has asked for 5,000. By the end of the next financial year, how many police officers do you hope to have out on the streets of London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): By March 2021 we should have 33,000 police officers in London, which is still less than we had when the Labour Government left office in 2010.

Unmesh Desai AM: Indeed. Mr Mayor, my final question --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): That is *pro rata*, clearly.

Unmesh Desai AM: Yes. Of course in the last financial year it was 1,300 officers, so we are making progress, for which I commend you.

Mr Mayor, a number of charities have recently stated that the Home Secretary's proposals to close United Kingdom (UK) borders to low-skilled workers after Brexit risk driving vulnerable European Union (EU) citizens into modern slavery. A couple of the charities mentioned in *The Guardian* on Friday were the East European Resource Centre and Focus on Labour Exploitation. Whilst I welcome your announced investment into county lines programmes, and many of us would see county lines as an aspect of modern slavery, will some of the new money you have announced for the MPS be used to improve the force's Specialist Crime and Vulnerabilities Unit so that London is prepared to deal with a potential increase in cases as a result of changes to immigration law?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you for that question. First, one of the things that we are trying to do is to make sure we can train up as soon as possible the detectives we need, which is really important for modern slavery work. You know we have direct entry detectives as well. The other thing is to work with other

public servants in this area around modern slavery. We have doubled the number of trainer sessions to make sure other public servants who are frontline can see the signs of modern slavery, paid for through MOPAC. Some Assembly Members wanted to cut that money. I think we should support it. We are also delivering a community-based campaign to highlight domestic servitude. The Chair has talked about this in the past in reference to violence against women and girls and the links there are with modern slavery. We are also supporting the national helpline, really important for those who are vulnerable, and also supporting best practice through the Good Work Standard to make sure employers do the right thing.

Unmesh Desai AM: Thank you, Mr Mayor. This Assembly Member certainly believes that you are putting your money where your mouth is in the form of this budget and indeed your police budgets. Thank you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member Cooper.

Léonie Cooper AM: Mr Mayor, I would like to come back to the issue of culture and sport, perhaps from a slightly different angle from Assembly Member [Susan] Hall, who I think was displaying the things that she is interested in. It is quite clear that Londoners as a whole, from the Priorities for London survey, think that culture and sport is one of the best things about living in the city. How will your budget ensure that all Londoners can access the very diverse range of world-class sport and culture offered by the city, including potentially things that Assembly Member Hall does not wish to see herself?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): First, thank you for your question. In your question you have clearly understood the power of culture and the power of sport, not simply to divert young people away from a potential life of crime but also to help them to fulfil their potential and, Heaven forbid, have a good time in our city. Some of the things we will not be able to do if some Members of the Assembly have their way is to deliver the London Borough of Culture, so important in Waltham Forest and we will see it in Brent this year. Lewisham and Croydon, who are going to be the next Boroughs of Culture, will not see that happening if some Assembly Members get their way. We have had more than 500 venues and creative spaces saved, sustained and newly built over the last 3.5 years. It would not happen going forward. The East Bank, which is a really important culture and education district in the Olympic Park, will not be able to happen without the support we are giving. The Creative Enterprise Zones, really important across London. We have six of them.

You will be aware that as a consequence of culture and sport it brings revenues into our city, not just live concerts but the benefits that they bring in relation to tourists coming into our city. Four out of five tourists who come to our city say they come here because of our culture. All that is at risk if some of the Assembly get their way and cut the amount of investment we are giving culture.

Léonie Cooper AM: It is actually a fairly small increase. £7 million is nothing compared to the very large amounts that you have been putting in through raising council tax and also the business rate uplift that we have had. You did mention one in six jobs, I believe the figure is £52 billion, and four in five tourists. There are so many people who work in this sector. How is your budget going to continue to support this? I have discussed it with London & Partners and they feel it is part of the offer not just to tourists but also that it brings students here and a wide range of people.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Absolutely. You mentioned the £52 billion a year from culture and creative industries. We have worked out in 2018/19 alone, just the one year, London's creative industries generated £737 million in new orders, exports and inward investment. You mention the London offer. The reality is we as a city are now competing in relation to jobs and businesses with Frankfurt, Berlin, Paris, Dublin and around

Europe, but also New York, Singapore and Hong Kong. One of the things that attracts businesses to our city and one of the things that attracts new talent to our city is the complete offer, and part of that complete offer is culture.

Léonie Cooper AM: You have been broadening it out, Mr Mayor. I have not heard any criticism of you failing to fulfil your manifesto pledge to introduce the London Borough of Culture and one of the things I have found really interesting as you have gone ahead and fulfilled that is that the outer London boroughs have been coming into play in terms of where the money has been going. They have made their own choices about the things that are in the programme, but does it surprise you that there are some people on this Assembly who do not want Brent, Waltham Forest, Croydon, Sutton and Lewisham to be outer London Boroughs of Culture, and also the fact that they are putting money from the smaller awards into things like music projects, for example, in Hammersmith and Fulham to work with very deprived and excluded children. It is shocking, is it not?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): To be fair, Assembly Member [Steve] O'Connell is not one of the people you referred to. To be fair to him, he lobbied me extensively to see that Croydon won the London Borough of Culture in 2023. Can I just say there is no link between him lobbying me and that award being done? It is about independent judges, just in case anybody makes any allegations. We should not tar them all with the same brush, is the point I am trying to make.

Culture can be transformative for young people. Culture enriches our lives. I am not embarrassed of being proud that London is the cultural capital of the world. Yes, of course I am concerned about the increase in violent crime across the country but I think one of the ways that we are going to get on top of this and divert young people - who by and large are fantastic and lawful and peaceful and do great things - to have their potential fulfilled is to use culture and sport. This summer I will be enjoying the Euro 2020 with so many games in London. If some people had their way, those games would not be coming to London. I am really proud they are.

Léonie Cooper AM: I am really proud that we have a Mayor who is prepared to support the very wide range of diverse things, including things that I personally do not necessarily want to go and see, baseball, to things like supporting the diversity that we see across the city. Thank you, Chair.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member Hall, you were named in that exchange. Do you wish to use your right of reply?

Susan Hall AM: Only to say that if he wants to get down to that level, Madam Chairman, and you do not want to stop him, that is fine. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of pointing out that he is being so petty and so political. Thank you.

Léonie Cooper AM: I do not think attacking the Mayor -- it was actually me who named you, Assembly Member Hall.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member Cooper, can we move on? The Standing Order is there to enable the Member who another Member names to have that right of reply. That has been dealt with. Assembly Member Boff.

Andrew Boff AM: The culture budget was used to spend £75,000 on a drag act in Waltham Forest. This was hosted by Amy Lamé [Night Czar], whose company received £1,000 to do so. Do you think it is acceptable behaviour for your team to be receiving additional funds from GLA budgets without those earnings being declared?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I have to be very careful because somebody has been named. I would like to read some text. What I do not want is litigation arising as a result of what the Assembly Member has said. The event referred to was allocated £70,000 from Waltham Forest's London Borough of Culture programme. As well as funding through City Hall and Waltham Forest Council, the London Borough of Culture programme garnered funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Arts Council England and ARTful, amongst others. Waltham Forest was solely responsible for choosing the organisations and groups it worked with in their London Borough of Culture programme. The Council commissioned Duckie Ltd to put on the event, and I quote, "Duckie Loves Fanny", in September [2019]. Amy Lamé was independently employed by Duckie as a freelance performer for the event and paid via Amy Lamé Ltd, a private company that is noted on her register of interests.

Andrew Boff AM: Yes, all of that is on the record, Mr Mayor. Do you think it is acceptable behaviour for your team to be receiving additional funds from GLA budgets without those earnings being declared?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, again, I have to be careful because the assertion is that the earnings were not declared. That is not my understanding, Chair. If the Assembly Member is alleging that earnings were not declared, he can allege that. I am not going to confirm that because it is not my understanding.

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, do you think it is acceptable behaviour for your team to be receiving additional funds from the GLA budget without those earnings being declared?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Again, they were not from the GLA budget. Chair, this is the problem.

Andrew Boff AM: I am asking you a general question, Mr Mayor. You seem to not want to answer it. Let us strip out all the rest of the question and ask you one question. Do you think it is acceptable behaviour for your team to be receiving additional funds from the GLA budget without those earnings being declared? Is that acceptable to you?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I have answered the question three times. Amy Lamé, as I understand it, did not earn monies from the GLA budget and any money she did earn from --

Andrew Boff AM: Let us not talk about Amy Lamé.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): You introduced her, not me.

Andrew Boff AM: Let us talk about any member of your team. Do you think it is acceptable behaviour for any member of your team to be receiving additional funds from the GLA budget without those earnings being declared?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am not going to respond to hypotheticals. I have responded to the question I was asked. I am not sure I can respond any further than I already have.

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, what levels of transparency do you have in your team and amongst those people who you have appointed if you do not expect them to declare earnings from GLA budgets?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, people appointed by me -- I am not sure Amy [Lamé] was appointed by me. I know she was not. People appointed by me, I --

Len Duvall AM: Chair --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No, I am going to let this discussion carry on.

Len Duvall AM: Chair, if I may, a point of clarification because the reference to "your team" is quite important, if this reference carries on, because --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No, Mr Duvall, stop. I want this exchange to finish and then I will call you.

Len Duvall AM: Chair --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No, I am sorry --

Len Duvall AM: Chair, sorry, this is a member of staff of the GLA, not a political appointment like the 10 plus two [the 11 plus two members of staff which the Mayor may appoint under Section 67(1) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended)].

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No.

Len Duvall AM: I think it is very right and proper --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Stop the time.

Len Duvall AM: We would not normally --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No. Can you sit down, Mr Duvall?

Len Duvall AM: We would not normally -- Chair, we would not normally refer to members of staff --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No. I see this as you obstructing a question --

Len Duvall AM: I am not obstructing --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): -- being put by a Member of the Assembly to the Mayor.

Len Duvall AM: I am seeking clarification, Chair.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No. I want this exchange --

Len Duvall AM: I am seeking clarification.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): This is a very important exchange about openness and clarity whatever you want to call it.

Len Duvall AM: I think it is as well. I would not obstruct. Clarification; I do not wish to obstruct.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): I will go back to the Member and ask him to put his question one more time so that we can be clear about the Mayor's answer to your question.

Andrew Boff AM: I think we do need clarity and we all think that we want transparency. Do you think it is acceptable behaviour for members of your team to be receiving additional funds from the GLA budget without those earnings being declared?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, as I have said, I did not appoint Amy Lamé but I am a big fan of the work she is doing. I am quite clear that she has done nothing improper. I am also quite clear that I think it is important that all of us abide by the rules.

Andrew Boff AM: Mr Mayor, could you write to me and indicate to me how many other members of your team are receiving additional funds over and above --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): This is an assertion. Chair --

Andrew Boff AM: Or will you not write to me?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No, can you listen to the question?

Andrew Boff AM: It is purely a question, Mr Mayor. Will you write to me and indicate to me how many other members of your team are receiving additional funding from the GLA budgets without those being declared? Will you write to me with that information, in the interests of transparency?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am always happy to write to the Assembly Member. I just wish he had not cast aspersions on somebody who works really hard for City Hall --

Andrew Boff AM: I have cast no aspersions whatsoever, Mr Mayor.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): -- who is helping to preserve and save the music hall --

Andrew Boff AM: My question is based on facts.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): -- is doing huge work in the night-time economy and is a credit to this city. I think the work of the Night Czar is one we should commend rather than aspersions being cast about her integrity or the work she is doing.

Andrew Boff AM: I have cast no aspersions whatsoever.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Sorry. It is OK, Mr Boff. The transcript of this exchange can be viewed and can be judged and can be picked up by anyone.

Andrew Boff AM: One final question, then.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Can I get the question from Assembly Member Duvall or his point of order that he is raising?

Len Duvall AM: A question, Chair. Mr Mayor, can you confirm that Amy Lamé is an appointment of the GLA staff and not a political appointment of the 10 plus two, and therefore when the Assembly Member refers to "your team" you will be writing about every GLA member of staff that has an outside interest or is earning some money, fully declared?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The problem was - thank you for the question - the Chair's interpretation of the Standing Orders surprises me but she is always right, the Chair is always right, so what I will probably do is seek advice outside of this meeting about the Chair's ruling and about the question asked by the Assembly Member.

Len Duvall AM: If I am right logically in terms of following the question, it is the Head of Paid Service the question should be directed to about the activities of Amy Lamé rather than you as the Mayor.

David Bellamy (Mayor's Chief of Staff): That is correct. She is the employee of the Head of Paid Service, not of the Mayor.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Again, I will seek advice about the Chair's ruling about what is proper for me to respond to in answer to the questions you have asked. Also, let me make this point, Chair, through you. These members of staff are not here to defend themselves. I had the same rule when I was a Minister in Government as I have now, which is that to make allegations or aspersions being cast about somebody's character and them being named is not the way to conduct business.

Andrew Boff AM: No, Mr Mayor, I have made no aspersions.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Excuse me, Mr Boff.

Andrew Boff AM: Sorry. I beg your pardon, Chair.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Having sat in this Chair for quite some time through a number of Mayors, I am quite clear in terms of my ruling. My main job here is to ensure that Members get answers to the questions that they put, and I do not sit here playing games and I do not sit here tweeting or what have you. I am sitting here listening to what Members are saying. I stick to my ruling and say Assembly Member Boff was putting questions that were appropriate in accordance with section 2.14 of GLA Standing Orders. I will refer you to that. When we bring an individual member of staff's name into discussion in this Chamber, I think it is the individual who refers to that individual who must take responsibility for introducing that person's name. I would just say that I heard Assembly Member Boff refer to an individual member of staff once but, Mr Mayor, I also heard you refer to that very same person as well. I just again refer you both, and all Members, to section 2.14.

Now, I will then move on and I will take one more question from you, Mr Boff. I want a clear, straight question to the Mayor with the hope that we will get a straight answer to it.

Andrew Boff AM: It is merely an action on the Mayor's part that I am requesting because in that exchange I was not sure about what the Mayor said. I wanted for him to write to me and let me know what other members of staff are receiving money from GLA budgets without declaring those earnings. Will you write to me with those details about your team?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I am always happy to write to Assembly Members and what I will do is take advice. As I said, Chair, the Chair is always right, not you personally but chairs in general are always right. It is my basic way I behave in relation to all sorts of hearings, but I always take advice. I will be taking advice in relation to the question asked and making sure that the answer I give, as always, is proper.

Andrew Boff AM: You will be writing to me? Is that clear?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): I think he said he is going to be writing to you.

Andrew Boff AM: Did he? Was that an undertaking? Thank you very much.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): I have noted that the Mayor has indicated that he will be writing to you, Mr Boff. Enough now.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. Londoners will appreciate that transparency.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Now let us move on.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sorry, Chair, is that another question? What is your ruling, Chair?

Andrew Boff AM: I was thanking you, Mr Mayor --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member Duvall, do you have a question?

Len Duvall AM: Yes. Turning to transport, Mr Mayor, the [Douglas] Oakervee Review noted that the passenger experience at Euston could be enhanced by Crossrail 2 proposals and the future High Speed 2 (HS2) business case should include an assessment of passenger dispersal in Euston. Can you update us on how you think Crossrail 2 can be funded and what effect it will have on this year's and future budgets?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am lobbying the Government to ensure we get support for Crossrail 2 going forward. You will be aware of the recent announcement in relation to a station at Old Oak Common, which is good news for those of us who want to see the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) making some progress. I am concerned about the potential delay between the works undertaken at Euston. I will be lobbying the Government in relation to the review that they are undertaking to make sure that we get Euston also improved in the near future.

You mentioned passenger experience. I make this point. If some Members of the Assembly had their way, TravelWatch is destroyed because of the cuts made in today's budget. That will have a real impact on the ability of passengers to let people like you and me know about their experiences. I hope Assembly Members would vote against any plans to decimate the budget of [London] TravelWatch.

Len Duvall AM: Of course Crossrail 2 has wider implications, not just here for London and the southeast but also for the national economy. Government is obviously wanting to do a number of things, both up north as well as down south, but do you think Government really does understand that business case, the wider business case for Crossrail 2 effectively - do you know what I mean - in terms of some of those conversations that you are having with Government on this particular project?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I had a very good meeting with the Chancellor [of the Exchequer] and I made the point to the Chancellor that in relation to infrastructure it is really important to invest in the entire country, not one part versus the rest. I was really pleased when the Chancellor said his view was that there should be infrastructure investment in other parts of the country as well as London. My concern is that he has now resigned from his position and we have a new Chancellor. I will be lobbying the new Chancellor. I am hoping that he has the same thing as the previous Chancellor said just three weeks ago. It is really important it is not London versus the rest, it is London and the rest. As you have said, evidence from the National

Infrastructure Commission confirms both Crossrail 1 and Crossrail 2 benefit the entire country as well as London and the wider southeast.

Len Duvall AM: Of course this budget and future years' budgets are against the background that we need to avoid this North/South fight. I am a big advocate for investment in the North but I am also a London politician advocating what is in the best interests of Londoners and, as has been proven in the past, what is in the best interests of the country. Is it still the contention that in terms of the economic contribution that London and the Southeast make, it is still important in terms of the national economy as well as in terms of redistribution of some of our resources that we make here in London that are invested in the North and some of those other devolved areas of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes, that is well put. I do not think I would add to what you have said. I agree with that. We in London need other parts of the country to do well. For example, the new Piccadilly line trains we have ordered are being built near Hull, the electric taxis are being built in the western Midlands and the Santander bikes in other parts of the country. We need the rest of the country to have the skills to do these sorts of jobs but also we need them to have the infrastructure to support their regions, which then supports London and the country as well. It is not either/or. It is not a zero-sum game.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member McCartney.

Joanne McCartney AM: Mr Mayor, I want to ask about the UK's exit from the EU and what effect that might have on your current budget and future budgets. When the Prime Minister signed the political declaration with the EU he agreed to a shared framework which included maintaining a level playing field with regards to tax, state aid and social and environmental standards. Ministers appear to be saying now that they do not believe they are bound by that. What effect does that uncertainty have on your budget? Your budget obviously comes from business rates and individuals.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Yes. If you listen to the Government now and read the speech given by the Government's Chief Negotiator, David Frost [CMG], it is quite clear they are stepping back from the political declaration made last year. The straight choice is: do we have alignment or convergence with the EU, or do we have divergence? If we have divergence it means that there will be, not unreasonably, tariffs which are barriers to trade or non-tariff barriers to trade in relation to services. The point I make is this. More than 90% of London's economy is in the services sector: finance, professional services, tech and so on. If we have divergence that causes huge problems for businesses in London to do business with the biggest market there is, which is the EU. What I would say to the Government is they have to be very careful that if we move too far away from alignment with the EU, it will inhibit the ability of London businesses to do trade with the biggest partners they have, and that is bad for us.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you. You have also spoken recently about your concerns about the new immigration system that is proposed by the Government, this new points-based system. It appears to suggest that many of those who work in our public services or in construction are unskilled and therefore will not be welcome in the future. If that proposal goes ahead, what effect do you think that not having those workers here will have on your ability to deliver your budget, for example, house-building and public services?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The good news is we have now been devolved adult education, which means we can redouble our efforts to make sure Londoners are trained up to do the skills where jobs are being created. That being said, we have a position where 30% of construction workers are from the EU outside the

UK, 27% of those who work in hospitality - think of restaurants and hotels - are from the EU, and I could go on. We have more than 300,000 jobs done in London, which are "lower skilled", done by EU citizens.

The reality is there is not a pipeline of Londoners who are there to do these jobs, and so I worry what the Government is doing is cutting off its nose to spite its face. We are going to have a real challenge in London at a time when we have record numbers of vacancies in the National Health Service (NHS) and we have problems in relation to not having enough homes being built in our city. The obvious question to ask back to the Government is: who will care for our elderly, who will build the homes we need, who will work in restaurants and hotels if the Government carries through its plans as announced a couple of weeks ago by the Home Secretary?

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you. Like you, I agree that London is the greatest city in the world, but how does this uncertainty and possibility of lowering standards affect London's international standing?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There are a number of big issues that are at stake here. One is we have to understand that, fairly or unfairly, an impression was created after the Brexit vote that we are going to stop being open-minded, outward-looking and pluralistic. That is one of the reasons why we began the campaign London is Open, to make sure we reassure people that we, as a city, are not going to change.

The other big thing is we have to keep what we have. We have in London 1.1 million Londoners who are EU citizens. We have to make sure they are encouraged to stay here because they could either return to country of origin or go to other cities around the EU where they have better rights, better privileges and better conditions than they may feel they have here.

Also, we have to attract talent to our city as well, whether it is in culture, whether it is in creative industries, whether it is in technology, whether in professional services or whether it is to do the jobs in social care, the NHS, hospitality and construction that we so desperately need.

I want to work with the Government to make sure we can continue to be a place that is attractive to talent. We talk about London being the greatest city in the world. One of the reasons we are the greatest city in the world is the contribution made by immigrants, economically, socially and culturally. If that is risked, that could really compromise our ability to be the world's greatest city.

Joanne McCartney AM: Thank you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Assembly Member Bailey?

Shaun Bailey AM: Mr Mayor, your budget has provision to pay for TfL nominee passes. We calculate at least £44 million. Why was this money not directed to crime reduction?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): First, there is no money that leaves TfL's budget to go towards nominee passes. It is a misunderstanding of the way budgets work. The way it works is it is a contractual entitlement to TfL to have the nominee passes. If we were to remove the nominee passes from TfL staff, we would have to renegotiate with TfL staff that pass. It is not true to say we are losing money just like, Chair, we do not lose money because Assembly Member Bailey travels free on the Underground and the buses. We do not lose money for that. He has this pass which gives him free travel, but those buses would be running anyway and those Tubes would be running anyway.

Shaun Bailey AM: First, I think there is a misunderstanding on your part because it is not a contractual obligation. TfL made that quite clear earlier on. The point is it is a loss in revenue, is it not, monies that would

be coming to the GLA/to TfL? If we are to believe that crime reduction is your number one priority, why are you not doing everything that you can to direct money to reducing crime?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let me deal with the first point of this question. I know he has lots of legal training but let me give him the experience of my legal training and the advice I have had from our lawyers: this benefit is a longstanding part of the terms and conditions of TfL staff. Then I will give him some advice from the finance people in TfL, bearing in mind he is such an expert here:

“There is no ‘cost’ to TfL because the number of journeys is a tiny proportion of the 11 million Tube and bus journeys made per day, meaning no additional services need to be operated. The nominee pass is offered to TfL employees as part of an overall employment package. Were the nominee pass removed from this package, other parts of the package, including pay, would need to be enhanced in order for TfL to maintain its attractiveness in relation to other employers in the competitive London labour market that allow the recruitment and retention of the workforce it requires.”

I could go on, Chair. The point is that in the budget that I am publishing today we are investing more than £100 million in violence reduction and we are injecting more than £45 million into the police. If Assembly Members want to vote against that, they will have to explain to Londoners why they are depriving violence reduction of more than £100 million.

Shaun Bailey AM: You could have done measures for years, but you have wasted three years of our budgets and time in addressing crime and, more importantly, we want to know why you are not doing everything you can. This is just another example of you not using every power you have, every penny you have to address crime in London. What extra should you be doing? What extra could you be doing?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, how much time do you have?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): You do not. I think you wanted to leave after an hour.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): OK. I am in your hands, but I can give you some examples of some of the measures we are taking, Chair.

Shaun Bailey AM: No, that is measures you are already taking, but I am asking you to do extra. I do not believe you are doing enough. You have already wasted three years, blaming everything on somebody else. What are you doing now? You have sat there, giving us chapter and verse on the nominee passes, which you are going to have to write to me about because our --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): No.

Shaun Bailey AM: Yes, because our information from TfL was different.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): I think the Assembly Member has asked you write to him to give him an overview about the concerns he has raised.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I can answer the question.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): OK.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Of course, I can, yes. So that I am quite clear, “What more can we be doing?” I think is the question, in summary of the three questions I was asked. What more we can be doing is, for example, the additional money I have announced today, which is £100 million. £45 million will go to the police. What more we can be doing is investing more in England’s first VRU and this will be doing, for example, peer-to-peer mentoring in pupil referral units. We will be providing more after-school clubs, which is really important. We currently are providing services through the Young Londoners Fund for more than 110,000 young Londoners and I want to expand that even further. We have already invested £45 million and we are now going to invest in today’s budget an additional £25 million, which will reach even more young Londoners.

The other thing more we can do, at a time we have had hundreds of youth clubs close down across the country and many young people have nowhere to go to, is we can be trying to fill the massive hole left by Government cuts in relation to youth services.

Another big concern that we can be doing more on is in relation to county lines. You will be aware, Chair, of the work we have done around the Rescue and Response scheme. What more we can be doing is seeing if we can roll that out even more to help even more vulnerable young Londoners caught up in county lines.

You were asking me what more we can be doing. One of the things I am concerned about is the issue of drugs. Can we intervene with those who are dealing drugs but also those who are addicted to drugs to move them away from a life of crime? We can use the NHS to try to address some of the concerns young people have that lead them to get involved with criminal activity, to deal with drugs.

Another example of the work we can be doing and we will be doing with the new announcement with the monies today is enhancing the work on the abuse suffered by women in relation to domestic abuse as well as violence against women and girls.

These are just some examples of the things that we can be doing, Chair. I know you will rule it out of order if I talk about the Mayoral and London Assembly elections.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Yes, I will. Any further questions from you, Assembly Member Bailey?

Shaun Bailey AM: That is enough from me, Chair.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): We have Assembly Member Eshalomi.

Florence Eshalomi MP AM: You may be aware that last week I launched a report called *Gang Associated Girls [Supporting Young Women at Risk]*, looking at the big issue of a number of women and girls, who are associated with gangs. My freedom of information (FOI) request revealed that over 1,490 women are in touch with council services as having gang associations. The fact is there are not enough services geared up to support these women and girls. I welcome the additional £25 million in the Young Londoners Fund. Do you think that there is anything more that you could be doing to address this really big issue in London?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): There is. Can I first say your report was both heart-breaking and inspiring? It is inspiring because there is hope and some of the people you spoke to were inspiring.

Yes, one of the things that we did with the county lines work is work with a group that particularly works with girls and women. When it comes to county lines, you will be aware, some of the vulnerable people being used are girls and women. We worked with three groups, one who was specialist with gangs, one specialist with men

and one specialist with girls and young women. Some of the things that are really distressing are some of the sexual abuse taking place as well as the other abuse of vulnerable people.

One of the things we hope to do with the new money I have announced today - put aside the Young Londoners Fund - as part of the work we are doing with MOPAC and the VRU is to see if we can amplify the work of Rescue and Response in relation to county lines work. The other thing we are doing is looking at the work that the partnership reference group is doing around the VRU to target some of this money particularly at girls and women.

The final part of the equation is that I visited last week one of our move-on programmes, which helps those who are the victims of violence/domestic abuse. You will be aware of the intergenerational issue where if somebody sees Mum being a victim, they themselves may also get involved in this. We are doing lots of work in that as well.

Florence Eshalomi MP AM: Thank you and thank you for continuing to stand up for those vulnerable women.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): OK, thank you. Assembly Member Devenish?

Tony Devenish AM: Can you honestly say that you spent every single penny of taxpayers' money well over the last four years, please?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I hope so, but I am sure there are examples where we could have spent that more efficiently. One of the things I am always careful about is to make sure when we are entrusted with taxpayer's money we spend it properly and we learn all the time. If it is the case there are examples of money not spent properly, we want to make sure that does not happen again. I cannot pretend every single penny has been spent as efficiently as it could have been, but I want to make sure that if there are examples that have not, we learn from that going forward.

Tony Devenish AM: At the end of four years, would you be happy, for example, if the National Audit Office (NAO) looked at all your expenditure? Would you refer yourself to the NAO and suggest that we looked at every penny? It is taxpayers' money. It is £18.5 billion, ballpark, is it not, a year? It is an awful lot of money that is spent and every penny should be spent effectively.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): As somebody who used to sit on the Public Accounts Committee and knows the work of the NAO, I am surprised the Member did not do a bit of research. The NAO would not look at the work of City Hall. It is quite clear about the remit it has. I am quite clear in relation to how transparent we are, particularly when I compare my administration with the previous Mayor's. A Garden Bridge-type scenario would not happen during my administration. I am surprised he talks about value for money and he has the cheek to talk about it without mentioning water cannons, without mentioning the Garden Bridge, without mentioning the vanity bus, without mentioning an Estuary airport. He has the audacity to question every single penny being spent efficiently by me during my administration. It is called chutzpah, Chair, I think is the word.

Tony Devenish AM: There is no penny you will look back on? If you are on the doorstep sometime between now and 7 May [2020], and somebody says to you, "You've spent this money on X" -- you are not going to sit here and say there is not one project?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I think --

Tony Devenish AM: I am not going to mention the ones that happen to involve Amy Lamé [Night Czar], but are there issues where you think you badly spent public money?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I think I have already answered that. I think there probably are examples where you can always learn from going forward. I am quite clear that in any job where you are involved in spending taxpayers' money, you have an additional responsibility to spend it more carefully than you would your own money. You are entrusted to spend it properly, particularly where people who work their socks off are paying taxes, council tax, income tax and other taxes. All of us, whether you are a member of a national government or a council or whether you are the Mayor or the Assembly, need to make sure you spend it properly. I would hope Members would agree with this and that all of us have responsibility to spend monies properly.

Tony Devenish AM: I will leave it there. Thank you, Chair.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Any other Members? Assembly Member Duvall?

Len Duvall AM: I think we have only 53 seconds, Mr Mayor, so very brief answers if you can. In this budget and in previous budgets, what do you think has been your greatest achievement? What has given you the most personal satisfaction over these different budgets and the different things that you may have done?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Last year, we began more council homes than any year since 1984. We ditched the dodgy definition of what an affordable home is and for three years in a row, we have broken the record for the most number of starts: 12,500 one year, a record made by us. The next year, we were told we could not do 14,000 and, lo and behold, we did 14,600 homes. This year, a target for 17,000 homes. Some people are hoping we do not do it, but three-quarters of the way through, we are more than 12,500 through that.

People said we could not introduce the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone. We did it. Within a few months, we improved NOx reduction, which went down by more than a third. People said we could not increase the number of protected cycle lanes. We have more than doubled it and I am hoping we will treble it over the course of the next few days.

People said we could not freeze TfL fares because they went up by more than 42% under the previous Mayor over eight years. We have frozen TfL fares over four years, but do you know what else we have done? We have introduced the Hopper with more than 450 million journeys made by the Hopper already. People said the Night Tube could not happen. It was tried by the previous Mayor; could not do it. We introduced the Night Tube and also the Night Overground, improving the night-time economy every day the Night Tube is open. People also said it was not possible for us to introduce a Low Emission Bus Zone, improving the quality of air around London. We have introduced the Low Emission Bus Zones early. We have seen air quality breaches down in some parts of London by almost 100%, a good example of what you can do when you have an attitude to do so.

Another example of the progress we have made is in relation to policing and big budget cuts made by central Government over the course of the last 10 years. We have tried to fill the massive hole left by Government, using council tax and business rates to divert towards policing. Over the last period, 1,300 new police officers because of City Hall. Over the next year, 600 additional police officers. People said, "You shouldn't be tough on the causes of crime".

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): OK now.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We have been tough on the causes of crime by --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): Mr Mayor, that is fine.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I could go on. There are so many more achievements, Chair.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): I know, I know.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, I want to challenge your ruling. I must be given more time to talk about my achievements. One hour is not enough, Chair. Chair, it is out of order to only allow me one hour to talk about my achievements!

Keith Prince AM: I believe the Mayor did not understand your question, considering you asked for one achievement.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): In fact, you have just stolen my thunder, Mr Prince.

Keith Prince AM: Oh, I do apologise.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): That was totally in order. You clearly did not hear the Member ask you for just your one achievement --

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Oh, but, Chair --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): -- and you gave us so many and we are thankful. I want to thank you.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Chair, can I just for a moment -- this will be the last chance publicly, I think - but there are other opportunities to do so - to thank Martin [Clarke] for the amazing work he has done. I just want to end --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair): No, I am going to do that. Let me just thank you for the responses to the questions here this morning and thank Mr Bellamy for his contribution. Then I just want to ask Members to put their hands together and thank Martin one last time and wish you all the very best. Also, on record Martin, our thanks to David Gallie and the whole team for all the work they do and are now so expert at.