

How the London Assembly works for you



LONDON ASSEMBLY

Annual Report
2021-2022

YOUR LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBERS 2021-2022



Marina Ahmad AM
Labour



Shaun Bailey AM
Conservatives



Elly Baker AM
Labour



Siân Berry AM
Greens



Emma Best AM
Conservatives



Andrew Boff AM
Conservatives



Hina Bokhari AM
Liberal Democrats



Anne Clarke AM
Labour



Léonie Cooper AM
Labour



Unmesh Desai AM
Labour



Tony Devenish AM
Conservatives



Len Duvall OBE AM
Labour



Peter Fortune AM
Conservatives



Neil Garratt AM
Conservatives



Susan Hall AM
Conservatives



Krupesh Hirani AM
Labour



Joanne McCartney AM
Labour



Sem Moema AM
Labour



Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Liberal Democrats



Zack Polanski AM
Greens



Keith Prince AM
Conservatives



Nick Rogers AM
Conservatives



Caroline Russell AM
Greens



Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Labour



Sakina Sheikh AM
Labour

CONTENTS

- 5** FOREWORD
- 8** YEAR AHEAD
- 10** KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22
- 13** MOTIONS
- 14** IN THE MEDIA
- 17** YOUR HEALTH
- 19** YOUR MONEY
- 26** YOUR SAFETY
- 33** YOUR TRANSPORT
- 37** YOUR ENVIRONMENT
- 40** YOUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES
- 46** OVERSIGHT
- 49** WHAT DOES THE LONDON ASSEMBLY DO?
- 51** KEEP IN TOUCH



Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly 2021-2022



It has been another difficult and tumultuous year. London emerged from lockdown and went into recovery mode following the pandemic, we moved to a new City Hall, and then the war in Ukraine began and we all watched it unfold in horror.

COVID-19 may almost be behind us but we will continue to ensure the rebuilding of the London we all know and love. The city and Londoners have been through incredibly tough times, and we should all pause and reflect on how resilient it has been.

Now we are in our new home and I would like to thank all the support staff, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the relocation happen. It has not been an easy task with construction workforce issues and disrupted supply chains delaying the move a number of times. Change can also take time getting used to but having a place to call home first and foremost gives us all security. We have a building that brings together staff in an invigorated and positive way. The former City Hall played a great role in regenerating that part of London and our move will do the same in the Royal Docks.

With Assembly and Mayoral elections planned for 2020 and pushed back by a year because of COVID-19, they were finally able to take place in May 2021. We saw many of our longstanding Assembly Members move on and I would like to reiterate our sincere thanks for their tireless work. We also saw a large group of Assembly Members elected for the first time and it is

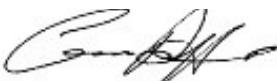
wonderful to have new blood and to see these politicians taking their place in London government.

Throughout the recovery, we have continued to hold the Mayor to account at Mayor's Question Time, asking sometimes difficult questions and making sure that Londoners' concerns are put to him directly. If you have not seen Mayor's Question Time yet, I would urge you to come along to one of our meetings in person to see us in action. We also met virtually and in-person with Londoners this year at People's Question Time to discuss the issues that really matter.

Our committees continue to scrutinise the Mayor of London's key organisations - Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the London Fire Brigade (LFB), the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

Assembly Members championed causes and issues that matter most to Londoners, like reducing violent crime, building safety, air pollution, access to public toilets, rebuilding the night-time economy and the importance of river crossings. It has been an immense honour to chair the London Assembly in this challenging year.

The Assembly has shown its collective spirit on a number of key issues that face Londoners and we look forward to doing more of the same in the upcoming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Boff AM



YEAR AHEAD

2022-23 priorities – our focus for the year ahead

Our work holding the Mayor of London to account and investigating the issues that matter to Londoners continues in 2022-23 with an emphasis on four key priorities.

Cost of Living

The cost of living will be at the forefront of the minds of many Londoners this year – and will rightly be at the forefront of the Assembly’s work. Committees will assess the impact of the increase in the cost of living on London’s communities and its services, with a particular emphasis on housing, food, energy and travel. The Assembly’s newly established Cost of Living Working Group will hear directly from Londoners, understanding and articulating London’s distinct challenges and reviewing how we measure the cost of living and poverty.

Safety

The Assembly will continue to place a particular emphasis on holding the Mayor and key service providers to account for the safety of Londoners. The recent decision by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to place the MPS into special measures, on-going concerns about building safety (marked so recently by the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire) and key developments in the future operation of the London Fire Brigade are just some elements of a wide ranging programme designed to shed light on where action is needed to rebuild public trust and confidence in some of our key services.



COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 on London's people, economy and our way of life continue to be felt. The Assembly will continue its work to understand potential long-term impacts of concern on both London's population, and service provision and to identify where action can be taken to support a strong recovery.

Climate Change

A range of aspects of climate change and the green economy will come to the fore this year, including the 'green transition' and how London can move to a more sustainable economy in a way that is fair to everyone.

Alongside this, the Assembly will place a particular emphasis on older Londoners, recognising the impacts of the pandemic on this particular group and significant shifts in London's demographic brought to the fore in the 2021 Census.

The Assembly will continue to fulfil its wide-ranging statutory duties, including holding Mayor's Question Time and People's Question Time. A large part of our work goes into scrutinising the Mayor's GLA Group budget, which will get underway in the autumn with a number of bodies including the Met and TfL questioned about their financial plans. Following line-by-line detailed analysis of the proposed budget, the Budget and Performance Committee will respond to the draft budget with a series of recommendations. The full Assembly will come to vote on whether to approve the budget and the political groups have the opportunity to put forward their budget amendments and also budget-related motions for agreement.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22



Unveiling of Blue Plaque to honour Diana, Princess of Wales

Princess Diana's Blue Plaque at her flat in Earls Court was unveiled at a ceremony in September 2021. This unveiling by English Heritage followed the London Assembly's campaign asking Londoners to suggest 100 women who should be recognised with a Blue Plaque.

Topical updates from the Metropolitan Police Service

The MPS has had a challenging year and the Police and Crime Committee has consistently raised policing issues that matter to Londoners.

Dame Cressida Dick (now former) Commissioner of the MPS took the opportunity of a question and answer session with the Committee to announce that an investigation would be launched into parties at Downing Street. Sir Stephen House, acting Commissioner, also announced to the Committee that he had called for an investigation into the process of the removal of Dame Cressida as Commissioner.

Reviewing the Mayor's draft Budget 2022-23

The Budget and Performance Committee reviewed and reported on the Mayor's £19 billion spending plans for 2022-23 and closely examined an additional £556 million in the GLA Group budget that was added after the budget consultation was carried out. The Committee also questioned the Mayor's senior team on the impact of his 250 election manifesto commitments on the finances of the GLA.

London's ageing river crossings

The Transport Committee highlighted a number of issues with London's river crossings and their resilience as ageing assets. Its report made recommendations to avoid another Hammersmith Bridge scenario and focused on maintenance, collective funds, and conditions to deal with London's £241 million bridge maintenance backlog.

Improving London's loos

Our public toilets survey asked how easy it is for people to find a public toilet, and received a staggering 3,500 responses from Londoners. The report 'The Toilet Paper: The London Assembly Health Committee's three principles for improving public toilet provision in London' highlighted the importance of provision, directions and better data. It was widely covered in the media across broadcast, print and radio.

Engaging with high-profile campaigners

The Environment Committee report on air pollution was launched at Trafalgar Square, with pollution readings taken by Imperial College London during a major air pollution alert. The report launch was supported by a number of campaigners, including Rosamund Adoo Kissi-Debrah.

Rebuilding London's night-time economy

A roundtable discussion on London's night-time economy was well attended by representatives from a range of businesses such as nightclubs, casinos and theatres with evidence gathered for the report 'Night Vision: Rebuilding London's Night-Time Economy'. The report underlined the importance of attracting more people to work in this important sector and it was launched at the Southbank Centre.

Surveying Londoners on housing post-pandemic

The Housing Committee survey on housing and financial health in the wake of the pandemic gained national attention, including being retweeted by Martin Lewis to his 1.4 million followers. The survey found that 13 per cent

of participants who own or rent their property felt more at risk of losing their home in January 2022 than they did before the pandemic.

Trade missions

The GLA Oversight Committee questioned Jennifer Arcuri, other beneficiaries of London & Partners (L&P) grants and senior L&P officers on the governance procedures at the GLA and L&P following allegations that Boris Johnson overruled GLA officials to take Jennifer Arcuri on Mayoral trade missions.

Reviewing the 2021 London elections

A review of the 2021 GLA Elections recommended to Government that any changes to the Mayor of London and London Assembly voting system should be subject to a London-wide referendum, in the same way as the current system was established in 1999.

Examining plans for railway transformation

The Transport Committee questioned Keith Williams, joint author of the 'Great British Railways: Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail', and gathered passenger groups to hear their views on issues such as ticketing and fares, accessibility and Crossrail. The Committee made recommendations to the Department for Transport, including the need for robust consultation with passengers and railway staff ahead of any changes to the railway industry.

Scrutinising the City Hall move

An investigation into the relocation of City Hall concluded that the Mayor had overstated the level of savings. The GLA Oversight Committee established that staying at old City Hall on a new lease would have saved £24 million compared to the original lease terms. This revises downward the anticipated savings from the relocation from £61 million to £37 million over five years.



MOTIONS

These are agreed statements put forward by individual Assembly Members and agreed by the whole of the Assembly, sometimes unanimously, but sometimes by majority.

Among the highlights this year...

Urgent call for Building Safety Bill amendments

Assembly calls for a strategy to tackle anti-Semitism

End the domestic HIV epidemic in London by 2030

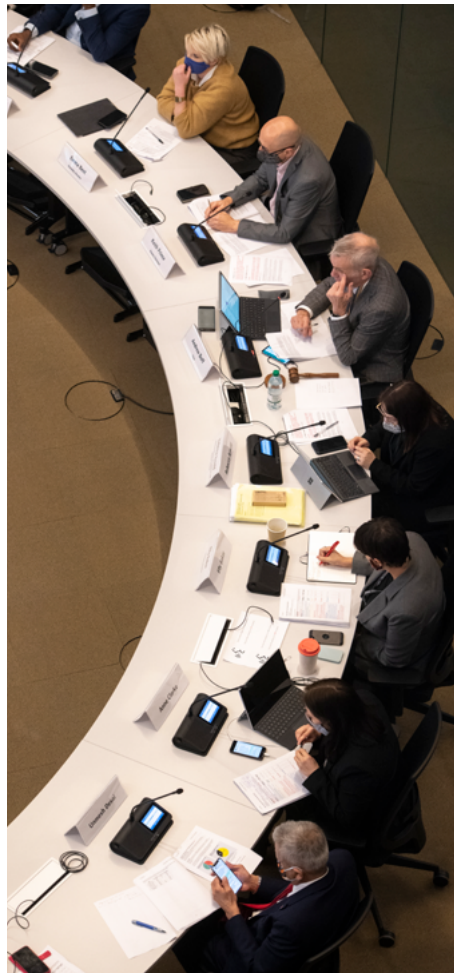
Assembly wants 'temporary' travel restrictions removed

Time to recognise the impacts of air pollution from wood stoves

Assembly urges Met to stop sharing knife images

Assembly wants more support for women leaving prison

Assembly calls for National Living Wage increase



TOXIC AIR

Treat toxic air in same way as smoking, says mother of girl killed by pollution (The Times)

Treat toxic air in same way as smoking, says mother of girl killed by pollution

Continued Editor
17 2021, 4:05pm



Illustration: Alison Cook. The mother of a girl who was exposed to high levels of pollution on the South Circular Road in London. BBC NEWS FOR THE 19TH OF FEBRUARY

Crossrail opening could be delayed by Omicron, London Assembly fears



CROSSRAIL DELAYS

Crossrail opening could be delayed by Omicron, London Assembly fears (Evening Standard)

NEWS

Home World Business Politics Tech Science Health

Politics Parliament London

Police to investigate Downing Street lockdown parties

10h 45min



UPDATES FROM THE MET

Police to investigate Downing Street lockdown parties (BBC News)

News 1:08 (18 Feb 2021)

Cressida Dick says Met Police will now investigate Downing Street parties held during lockdown

'I can confirm the Met is now investigating a number of events that took place at Downing Street and Whitehall in the last two years'

Security Lockdown Political Commentator • Tuesday 26 January 2021 15:16 • 7 Comments





TRANS ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

NHS failing trans patients across the board – not just in gender-affirming care, report finds (Pink News)

TRADE MISSIONS

Jennifer Arcuri: officials knew about affair with Boris Johnson (The Times)



PUBLIC TOILETS

London's public toilets a serious concern, report finds (BBC News)

REDUCING DRUG DEATHS

London Assembly suggests installing drug-testing facilities at nightclubs (Mixmag)





Health

The Health Committee reviews health and wellbeing issues for Londoners with a particular focus on the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy.

This year the Health Committee focused on key issues relating to health inequalities in the capital: namely access to public toilets and access to health services for trans and gender-diverse people.

During the summer, the Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on a number of issues relating to COVID-19, with recommendations on topics including: vaccination boosters, preventing transmission in schools, clear messaging on the use of face coverings on public transport, and reviewing the support provided for self-isolation.

Going to the toilet is a basic universal need and the Committee highlighted the importance of improving access to public toilets. Evidence was gathered from organisations such as Crohn's and Colitis UK, the British Toilet Association and Transport for London (TfL). A survey of 3,504 Londoners conducted by the Committee revealed that 91.3

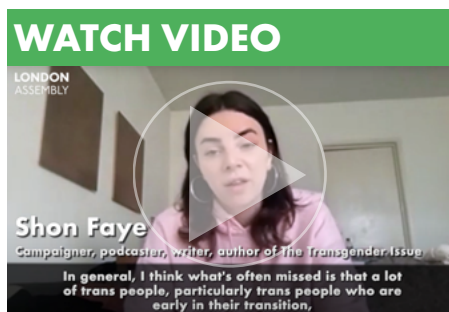
per cent of respondents do not feel toilet provision is adequate to meet their needs. The results revealed that finding a toilet was even harder if you had a disability or long-term health condition. The report made a series of recommendations in three key areas: provision, directions and data.

In January, the Committee focussed on COVID-19 and the impact of the Omicron variant, as well as the impact of the pandemic on waiting lists for elective and outpatient procedures. The National Health Service (NHS), the Office for Health Improvement



and Disparities, and the London Ambulance Service (LAS) all gave evidence. The Committee later wrote to the Mayor and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the issue.

Trans and gender-diverse people often face significant challenges when it comes to accessing healthcare, with experiences of discrimination and unequal treatment including inappropriate diagnoses and denial of treatment. The Committee launched an investigation into access to healthcare for trans and gender-diverse people and gathered evidence from organisations including Pride in Practice, Gender Identity Clinic (Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust), cliniQ, and TransActual UK.



The Committee heard that training of NHS staff is patchy. This can lead to barriers that prevent some people from even booking a GP appointment

because they have faced misgendering, microaggressions, and misunderstanding. The overarching principle of the report's recommendations is that solutions should be co-designed, co-delivered and led by the needs of trans and gender-diverse people.

The Health Committee then published a report into preventing drug deaths, focusing on three potentially lifesaving interventions: wider provision of naloxone, drug consumption rooms, and drug testing services. Evidence was provided by a range of organisations, including The Loop, Release, and Change Grow Live. The Committee heard strong evidence that naloxone, a drug that temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose, saves lives. However, at present, it is not as readily available as it should be.

The Committee urged the Government to introduce a national naloxone programme in England, bringing it in line with Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. It also called on the Mayor to work with the MPS so that officers routinely carry nasal naloxone spray, enabling them to quickly help people who have had an opioid overdose.

Economy

The Economy Committee investigates economic issues that matter to Londoners.

This year the Economy Committee focused on issues surrounding employment and skills and how to rebuild London's night-time economy and tourism industry.



The Committee met to discuss the contribution of skills and training to London's economic recovery from the pandemic, asking how Mayoral skills programmes will meet the diverse needs of all Londoners and get Londoners back into good work. The investigation also assessed London's careers advice offer, to identify gaps and areas for improvement.

London's night-time economy makes our city one of the most sought-after places to live globally. However, COVID-19 had a major impact on the sector and measures need to be put in place to ensure its short-term survival and long-term prosperity. The Committee launched an investigation into London's night-time economy, focusing on workforce challenges and how to increase footfall and custom.

The Committee held a public meeting with guests including London's Night Czar and the CEO of the Night Time Industries Association. It also organised a roundtable with industry stakeholders from a range of businesses vital to London's night-time economy, including nightclubs, casinos, and theatres. The Committee wrote, in collaboration with the Police and Crime Committee, to the Met Commissioner, asking how the MPS was working with licensees, local authorities and communities across London to build relationships

in the context of the policing of the night-time economy.



In December, the report 'Night Vision: Rebuilding London's Night-Time Economy' was launched. It made a series of recommendations to the Mayor, including working alongside employers and skills providers to improve perceptions and working conditions of jobs such as door supervisors and other roles in hospitality, in order to encourage more people into the sector. The report was launched at the Southbank Centre, with roundtable participants attending.

The Committee also looked at the state of London's tourism industry, another sector blighted by the pandemic. It focussed on the Let's Do London campaign, and how to rebuild the tourism industry from 2022 and beyond. A wide range of guests from the tourism sector

took part in the discussion and the meeting was followed by a site visit to the Tower of London and Tower Bridge, to find out about the impact of the pandemic on their businesses and hear about their future plans. The report 'London Calling: Rebuilding London's Tourism Industry' was published in March.

Financially insecure Londoners, including those working in the gig economy, were looked at by the Committee, along with the future of London's financial and professional services to understand how the sectors have responded and adapted to the pandemic and Brexit. Following the evidence sessions, the Committee wrote to the Mayor on the gig economy calling for him to lobby the Government to set out a timetable to introduce an employment Bill and to make improvements to the Good Work Charter. The Committee also wrote to the Mayor on the future of

WATCH VIDEO



London's financial and professional services and called on him to set out an action plan for how he intends to champion emerging professional and financial services like fintech.

To end the year, the Committee published its report into apprenticeships. It looked into improving access to apprenticeships,

the impact of the apprenticeship levy and whether reform of the apprenticeship system is required. Apprentices at Newham College shared their views and experiences at a site visit with the Committee, which explored the campus' facilities in Stratford.

Budget and Performance

The Budget and Performance Committee examines the Mayor's draft budget before it is voted on by Assembly Members. The Mayor's budget totals over £19bn, so the Assembly's work is crucial in ensuring that the best spending decisions are made for the city.

The Budget and Performance Committee investigated 2022-23 budget plans for the whole GLA Group, which encompasses the core GLA, TfL, the MPS, LFB, LLDC and the OPDC.

The annual budget scrutiny process started in November with the Committee's response to the draft budget published at the end of January.

Following line-by-line detailed analysis of the Mayor's proposed budget, the Committee recommended that:

- TfL should look at a range of options to increase income for the longer term and not just those required to achieve financial sustainability for 2023-24. TfL should provide more detail on the specific road user charging





proposals under consideration to bridge the £373 million budget gap. TfL should be transparent with its presentation of budget gaps and TfL should review the options of raising external funding to complete the Elephant and Castle station fit out, in addition to continuing to lobby the Government.

- MOPAC should continue to lobby the Government for longer-

term funding settlements for the MPS and further funding for police officers in London. However, it should base its budget and plans on expected funding. MOPAC should detail the financial impact of the projected increased capital borrowing on its structural budget gap in its final 2022-23 budget and conduct a review of the funding and delivery of its capital programme.

- The London Fire Commissioner (LFC) should develop a plan to recruit and retain staff, where there are key shortages, such as fire safety officers. A reliance on borrowing should be limited and demonstrable progress is needed on plans for the development of the Albert Embankment site

- If the LLDC requires further funding from the GLA then this should be in the form of a loan that should increase to the amount that the LLDC can expect to repay and not be arbitrarily capped, in order to ensure that as much of the GLA's investment is returned to the GLA. The LLDC should also improve levels of affordable housing across the remaining developments on publicly owned land and make progress towards securing a naming rights

deal for the London Stadium that reflects good market value.

- The OPDC should publish its outline business case for government support. The OPDC must work with Network Rail and the Department for Transport to prioritise the agreement for the transfer of public sector land holdings in 2022-23 and report progress in its quarterly performance reports.

The whole Assembly then considered the Mayor's 2022-23 Draft Consolidated Budget in January. At this meeting two budget amendments were approved:

- The Liberal Democrat Group proposal for a new Building Support Safety Hub to support Londoners in leasehold properties

and building owners who have been severely impacted by the building safety crisis.

- The Green Group's proposal for a resident empowerment reserve fund to help residents across London engage with processes that affect their homes and communities.

Both of these amendments were rejected by the Mayor. At the same meeting two budget-related motions were approved calling on the Mayor to fund public realm improvements for Londoners and visitors, by providing new free public toilets and new pedestrian crossings; and to provide a broad estimate of the cost of immediately cancelling Silvertown Road Tunnel.

The whole Assembly then considered the Mayor's 2022-23 Final Draft



GLA Budget and formal budget amendments were presented on behalf of the City Hall Greens Group, the GLA Conservatives Group and the Liberal Democrat Group. These amendments were debated, but did not receive the requisite two-thirds majority to amend the Mayor's budget proposals.

The Assembly voted against approving the Final Draft Consolidated Budget 2022-23. However, as no budget amendments had been agreed, the Assembly was deemed to have approved the Final Draft Consolidated Budget 2022-23 without amendment.

The Budget and Performance Committee later met to review the changes that had been made to the Mayor's 2022-23 budget since it was issued for consultation in December 2021. The Mayor included an additional £556 million of expenditure in his Final Draft 2022-23 Budget that had not been included in his Consultation Budget, so it was not subject to the Committee's earlier scrutiny.

These changes included £86 million to support a new GLA Green Bond programme, which the Mayor

hopes will unlock over £500 million of investment on projects such as making social housing and public buildings energy efficient. There was an additional £49 million contribution towards the Crossrail funding gap and the establishment of a £383 million Transport Services Funding Reserve. The Committee raised concerns that the contribution to the Crossrail funding gap would be too small given the latest estimate for the cost of completing Crossrail.



The meeting also reviewed the impact of the 25 February financial support agreement for TfL on the Mayor's 2022-23 budget, the Mayor's Capital Spending Plan for 2022-23 and the funding required for the London Assembly to deliver effective scrutiny of the Mayor's spending plans.



Police and Crime

The Police and Crime Committee raises policing concerns from around the capital with the Mayor, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).



The Police and Crime Committee holds regular scrutiny sessions with senior representatives from the MPS and MOPAC. During these monthly question and answer sessions, key news agenda-setting topics are discussed. This year, topics included the policing of demonstrations in London, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), and the findings of an investigation by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), which shone a light on misconduct and inappropriate behaviour predominantly by officers at Charing Cross Police Station.

The Committee has carried out a great deal of work following the

publication of the report of the Daniel Morgan Independent Panel (DMIP). Senior MPS representatives provided a statement following the publication of the report, apologising to the family of Daniel Morgan for the MPS' failure to bring those responsible for his murder to justice. They stated that the MPS has continually tried to find justice for Mr Morgan and his family and will continue to do so. However, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the MPS' denial of the Independent Panel's finding that the MPS is institutionally corrupt. The Committee also met with Alastair Morgan, brother of Mr Morgan, to explore the failings identified in the Panel's report and how the MPS' many investigations and reviews of the murder had impacted the Morgan family.

As part of the investigation, the Committee met with Baroness O'Loan, Chair of the DMIP, Dr

Silvia Casale, Independent Panel Member, and Nick Hunt, Secretary to the Panel. Baroness O'Loan told the Committee that the Panel found the MPS to be institutionally corrupt and that it was disappointed by the MPS' response to the publication of its report.

In a letter to the Director General of the IOPC, the Committee asked for an update on the possible investigation of misconduct of Dame Cressida Dick, (now former) Commissioner of the MPS, in her dealings with the DMIP. The Commissioner had declined to answer questions from the Committee about issues raised by the Panel in its report, stating that this might prejudice an investigation by the IOPC and a pending decision from MOPAC on whether to refer her for investigation. In a reply to the Committee in March the IOPC said they were not investigating the Commissioner and there was no reason for her to decline to answer questions about her conduct in relation to the Panel.

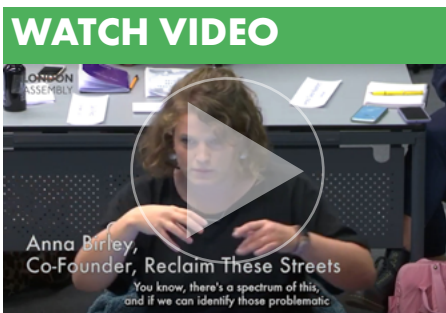
Another significant piece of Committee work has been on violent crime in London. A public meeting explored the current level of violence in London and the challenges

posed by London's emergence from lockdown. Assembly Members heard from the MPS, DIVERT (a programme delivered in six police custody suites in London that aims to divert young adults between 18-25 years old away from crime) and the local MyEnds programme in Croydon, which brings together organisations in the local community and the local police to work cooperatively in tackling violence.



Counter-terrorism policing is essential for keeping Londoners safe. The Committee held a session with MOPAC and the MPS to consider London's approach to counter-terrorism following lockdown, the rise in online radicalisation and its impact on young people, and future challenges and priorities, including

the implications of the Independent Review of Prevent. The meeting also considered the emerging findings from the Manchester Arena Inquiry and those from the inquests into the Fishmongers Hall terrorist incident, including what lessons were learned. The Committee visited the new Counter Terrorism Operations Centre, which brings together the various organisations dealing with counter terrorism under one roof, to receive a briefing from key staff.



The Committee also discussed the findings of a report on child sexual exploitation (CSE) by organised networks by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The report highlighted failures by local authorities and police forces that show they are struggling to keep pace with the changing nature of CSE by organised networks. The report stated that children are being sexually exploited by networks in all

parts of England and Wales in the “most degrading and destructive ways”, with many exploited children raped or sexually assaulted repeatedly, over a period of months or even years. Tower Hamlets was one of six areas included in the study. The Committee asked questions about the report, the MPS’ child safeguarding processes and practices, training and lessons learned.

The Committee also held several themed meetings on support for victims and the role and progress of London’s Victims’ Commissioner, and online fraud and its impact on Londoners. The Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy asking for an update on Government action to address fraud committed under its Bounce Back Loan Scheme.

The Committee wrote to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice asking him to take urgent action to address the backlog of serious cases awaiting trial in the Crown Court. The delays cause victims added trauma and contribute to many withdrawing from court proceedings. He responded to the Committee acknowledging the

impact on victims and set out his plans to extend court sittings and provide more funding.

The Committee published its response to the Mayor's draft Police and Crime Plan, a statutory responsibility of the Committee. This followed a series of consultations on the content of the draft Plan. The Committee's report set out sixteen recommendations for improvements to be made to the Plan, including the need for more reference to fraud, given its prevalence, amendments on VAWG, and the need for an action plan for delivery of the Plan.

It also published two reports on violent crime, one on partnership working and local programmes and the second which found that the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) needed to demonstrate better clarity and transparency in how and where it spends its resources. The Committee urged the VRU to publish its long-overdue comprehensive performance framework by June 2022. A further report into VAWG included fourteen recommendations for action by the Mayor, MOPAC and the MPS aimed at ensuring the safety of women and girls in the capital.

Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning (FREP)

The Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee reviews the London Fire Commissioner's (LFC) priorities and objectives.

The FREP Committee has focused its attention this year on the impact of the building safety crisis.

The Committee held an early meeting to seek an update on the progress of the actions taken by the Mayor and LFB in respect of building safety. The Committee also used the meeting to explore delays that the LFB is facing regarding various targets and recommendations in



terms of its performance. It also looked at inclusion and equality within the workforce, including

the experiences of women and ethnic minority firefighters, and staff retention.

The Committee wrote to Tom Copley, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, asking how the Mayor is protecting people in shared ownership properties from costs associated with the cladding crisis and other fire safety defects.

The Committee held a meeting in September to discuss building safety, including cladding, and to discuss diversity, inclusion and equality in the LFB. The Deputy Mayor for Housing attended the meeting to answer questions from the Committee on building safety, progress with removal of dangerous cladding under the Government's Building Safety Plan and other

building-related fire safety issues.

The risk of flooding for Londoners is another key safety issue and the Committee met to discuss recent flooding events in London as a result of heavy downpours. The Committee considered the impact of flooding on the LFB and its resources and London's resilience to flooding issues.

During a question and answer session with Deputy Commissioner Richard Mills, the Committee asked about recruitment and retention, co-working with LAS, staff sickness levels, union facility time, and affordable housing for firefighters. The Committee also looked at the Brigade's Independent Review into Culture, which will commence shortly, and sought an update on progress



with consultation and development of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), which will replace the existing London Safety Plan. The Deputy Commissioner also gave an update on the implementation of the Brigade's new high-rise firefighting policies, the delivery of new training in this area, and deployment of the new 32 and 64-metre platform appliances.



The Committee wrote to the Mayor and the London Fire Commissioner with recommendations for action on building safety, including what progress has been made on removing dangerous cladding from high-rise residential buildings. The Committee also wrote to the Minister for Building Safety in December asking the Government to extend its Waking Watch Relief Fund to all high-rise residential buildings that require a waking watch. It also asked the Minister to consider providing funding to London Councils which have been asked to undertake building safety audits of residential buildings between 11 metres and 18 metres in height to establish how many have dangerous cladding.

The Committee also discussed progress with the Brigade's Transformation Programme, including enacting the recommendations made by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (GTI) Phase One report and the report subsequently published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, and building safety.

The Committee reviewed the Brigade's National Framework documents at this meeting as

required under section 3271 of the GLA Act 1999, including the extension of the London Safety Plan for a year due to a delay in drawing up the new CRMP, and wrote to the Mayor on 7 February to make comment. In its letter the Committee asked for reassurance that the LFB would complete all the GTI Phase One recommendations, that it should stop relying on its financial reserves to cover its budget and that the delayed CRMP should be delivered within a year.

Following the February meeting the Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, urging him to provide an update on Government action in response to the following recommendations from the GTI Phase One report. The letter also asked about the Government's plans to address the financial costs that could still fall to leaseholders to pay for building safety defects in buildings under 18 metres in height.

The Committee and the Environment Committee jointly wrote to Thames Water asking about the action it was taking to address flash flooding in London and concerns about the potential for increased flooding due

to climate change. Thames Water provided an update on prevention and mitigation plans for future flooding and on improvements they have made to dealing with customers needing guidance and assistance.



To end the year, the Committee visited Paddington Fire Station to see a high-rise building fire exercise using new equipment such as smoke hoods, a 32-metre aerial platform and a drone. It also learned about the latest technological developments to support high-rise fire-fighting, including an application introduced the day before the visit – a recommendation made by the GTI Phase One report - that enables firefighters to view fire survival guidance calls when en-route to a fire and during the firefighting process.

YOUR TRANSPORT

Transport

The Transport Committee presses the Mayor for improvements to the capital's transport network.

A key priority of the Transport Committee has been considering the impact of TfL's financial situation on the transport services that it provides for the capital. The Transport Committee met at the start of the year to discuss the financial situation and the different challenges around the TfL funding package at the time. The Committee published two letters as a result, one to the Mayor asking him to focus his efforts in finding a solution post-2021, and one to the Department for Transport emphasising the need to find a long-term funding agreement for TfL.

The Committee later met with Seb Dance, the new Deputy Mayor for Transport, Simon Kilonback, the TfL Chief Financial Officer and Andy Byford, the Commissioner for TfL in February to further discuss the latest position on TfL finances. The Committee wrote to the Treasury before another funding agreement was decided upon, setting out the impact of the different funding agreements with central government



and the need for long term sustainable solutions for London's transport network.

London's river crossings are a crucial and integral part of London's infrastructure, so the Committee carried out work highlighting a number of issues with crossings and their resilience as ageing assets. Different stakeholders, including TfL, City of London's Bridge House Estate, experts from the private sector and representatives from the City of New York and Milan gave evidence. The Committee discussed the different management models in other cities for river crossings, and explored how to best coordinate,

manage, fund and maintain London's extensive network of river crossings in a coordinated manner. The report 'London's River Crossings – Bridging the Thames' made recommendations centred on



maintenance, collective funds, and conditions. The report called for the Government to devolve London's portion of Vehicle Excise Duty, currently worth around £500 million per annum, to TfL and make national roads funding schemes available to London boroughs to allow funding to be spent on the future maintenance of London's river crossings, as well as dealing with London's £241 million crossing maintenance backlog.

The Committee also met to discuss the Williams-Shapps Review, launched by the Government under the name: 'Great British Railways: Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail'. The White Paper sets out a plan for a revolution on railways in Great Britain. The

investigation sought to understand what the recommendations of the Williams-Shapps Review would mean for London, and to explore the future objectives for London's rail network and its passengers. As part of the investigation, the Committee gathered passenger groups to hear their views on issues such as ticketing and fares, accessibility and Crossrail. The Committee published its response to the Review in February and recommended the need for robust consultation with passengers and railway staff ahead of any changes to the railway industry.

The Committee visited the new Northern Line stations at Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station, ahead of their official opening, along with a trip on the central section of Crossrail and a visit to the new Overground station at Barking Riverside to get



an update on building progress. These visits enable the Committee to see first-hand how projects are developed and delivered for the benefit of Londoners.

The Transport Committee has kept a watching brief on progress with Crossrail. In November the Committee put questions regarding future developments of the project to Andy Byford, the Tfl Commissioner, and Mark Wild, Chief Executive of Crossrail, who agreed to provide the Committee with more information on revenue and passenger number assumptions. The Committee then wrote to Mark Wild, flagging a number of issues that need to be tackled and recommended that Tfl carry out a review of Crossrail's new governance arrangements once the Elizabeth Line central section has opened. He agreed that Tfl will write to the Committee within three months of the opening of the central section to provide an update.

Vision Zero is Tfl's flagship safety policy to reduce deaths on London's roads and the Committee looked into progress of the strategy to date. The Committee put questions to guests including Tfl, City of London Corporation and the MPS to

understand the impact on road users as Tfl moves towards its Vision Zero targets.



To end the year, the Committee held a question and answer session with the Commissioner of Tfl. This session covered a diverse range of topics including Tfl's funding and financial sustainability after the current funding agreement ends on 24 June 2022, the latest developments on Crossrail, river crossings in London, Tfl's capital projects, e-scooter trials and Tfl's thinking on micro-mobility in London, and longer-term priorities for London's transport network.



YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Environment

The Environment Committee investigates key environmental issues including the impact of poor air quality on Londoners, access to green spaces and the Mayor's Environment Strategy.

The Environment Committee's work has focused on air pollution in the capital, what more the Mayor can do to clean up London's toxic air, and the importance of a circular economy to reduce waste in the capital.

The Committee started the year discussing the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26) and London's role around it. With representatives of the GLA, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, City of London Corporation and civil society, the meeting explored how London can best use the opportunity of COP26 to accelerate its own decarbonisation and Net Zero work in the city. The outputs were two letters, one to the Mayor, asking him to use COP26 as an opportunity to negotiate more powers with central government to accelerate London's climate work, and a second letter to the Deputy Mayor for the Environment asking for a final date for publishing the review

of the London Environment Strategy. The Chair and Deputy Chair both attended COP26.

The Environment Committee held a number of meetings to discuss climate adaptation and climate risks, hearing from experts about the increasing climate and weather-



related risks in cities, especially in London, such as flash flood episodes and heatwaves. It also invited London boroughs to speak about the reality of how the management and response to such climate risks works, and what they are doing to include a climate adaptation lens in their planning.

Later in the year another meeting was held with the Deputy Mayor for Environment and a range of experts and different stakeholders to look at the progress report of the London Environment Strategy, the Mayor's and London's role at COP26 in Glasgow and other initiatives such as the Mayor becoming the global Chair of C40, the global network for cities working on climate affairs. The meeting looked at other examples in UK cities which could be useful for London's climate adaptation work. The Environment Committee and the FREP Committee then jointly wrote a

letter to Thames Water to ask about its role in preventing flooding in the capital. The letter made several requests for flood prevention plans and information held by Thames Water. A further report into climate adaptation and climate risks will be published in the summer of 2022.

London, like many major cities, has a significant waste problem, so the Committee investigated the circular economy, waste and recycling and looked at a number of areas ranging from London's zero waste targets and recycling, to repair shops and incineration. It brought together a range of experts from civil society and the GLA and considered international examples from other cities that London could learn from. The report 'Too Good to Waste' highlighted that a waste strategy for London that pursues a circular economy, incorporating a culture of preventing waste, as well

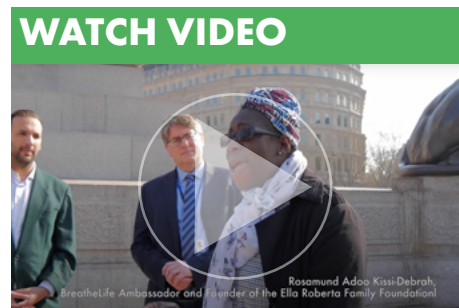


as reusing, recycling and repairing, can offer a solution. Among its recommendations, the report called for a review of London's waste management targets, higher targets for recycling in flat developments, and policies to reduce the volume of waste burned in incinerators.

Tackling air pollution was the Committee's most extensive investigation. The first meeting focused on the impact of air pollution, particularly on children and the Mayor's plans for tackling air pollution. Guests included the campaigner Rosamund Adoo Kissi-Debrah, whose daughter Ella was the first person to have air pollution listed as the cause of death on her death certificate. The next meeting focused on reducing levels of air pollution from London's transport network, including the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone, School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. That meeting also discussed the impact of construction vehicles, freight and online deliveries on London's air pollution and what the Mayor of London is doing to help reduce air pollution in these areas.

The Committee launched its report 'Clean Air for all Londoners' at

Trafalgar Square with a number of stakeholders. The report made several recommendations to the Mayor to reduce air pollution in London, including further action to monitor London's red routes, evaluation of the Mayor's scrappage scheme in terms of changing behaviour, and a review of the timeline for the Zero Emission Zones.



The Committee ended the year with a site visit to Lee Valley Regional Park to discuss the benefits of London's wild spaces, which encompass ecological or green corridors to enable the movement of animals and more biodiversity in London. Committee members met employees, who explained the history and priorities of the Park, as well as the role of the Mayor and the GLA in supporting it. This topic will be investigated further in the next Committee year.

YOUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

Housing

The Housing Committee examines matters relating to housing in London and looks into the Mayor's housing delivery record.

The Housing Committee has focused its attentions on the quantity and quality of housing in London by looking at the Mayor's housing record, alternative methods to increasing social housing and issues like overcrowding.

At the beginning of the year, the Housing Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to express ongoing concern about no-fault evictions of tenants in the Private Rented Sector, and to request an update on the Government's plans for reform.

The Housing Committee investigated the challenge of retrofitting London's existing homes for decarbonisation.

The Committee heard evidence from the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, as well as representatives from a local authority, a housing association and an industry body. The discussion focussed on the scale of the challenge, the barriers and the costs which will likely be associated with any major programme of retrofitting in London. The panel also discussed the retrofit initiatives established by the Mayor and the Government. The Committee wrote to the Mayor and to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, making recommendations on how to accelerate the retrofit of existing homes in London.



Next, the Committee held an informal meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development to discuss the Mayor's Affordable Homes Programme and the data on this programme that is collected by the GLA. The Committee publishes the annual Affordable Housing Monitor which tracks the Mayor's progress in providing affordable housing against the targets. The Monitor was published in October and found that in 2020-21 the Mayor started 13,318 affordable homes, exceeding the minimum target of 10,300 for the year, in comparison to 17,256 starts in 2019-20 when the target was 17,000-23,000. The Committee

recommended that the Mayor and the GLA should work with partners to improve reporting on the number of bedrooms in homes delivered under the Affordable Homes Programme. All homes should be accounted for in the published data and comprehensive information on relative losses and gains of all affordable housing in London, including affordable housing not funded by the Mayor, should be published.

Later in the year, the Housing Committee held the first of two meetings on the topic of housing costs and financial health. The purpose of this formal meeting was to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on incomes, how rising housing costs relate to these and the potential impact that this has on Londoners, as well as helping the Committee identify which groups may be most impacted by changes to their level of housing security. Guests included representatives from Generation Rent, Trust for London, the Royal College of Nursing, Toynbee Hall and the London School of Economics and Political Science. The Committee also held an informal meeting on housing costs and financial health

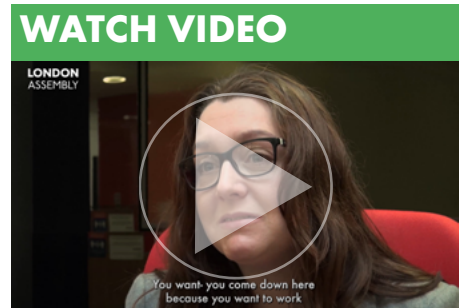


with a number of Londoners who talked about their own situations. The Committee heard about the experiences of these Londoners, the ways in which their financial wellbeing and housing security has been impacted by COVID-19, and the nature of the housing challenges that those households who may have experienced rising costs or reduced income have endured.

The Committee commissioned YouGov to carry out a survey, which found that 13 per cent of participants who own or rent their property felt more at risk of losing their home in January 2022 than before the pandemic. Across London, this could mean around 750,000 Londoners are currently feeling more at risk of losing their home. The survey results, along with Londoners' views gathered in a Talk London online discussion forum were published in a report.

The Committee also highlighted the serious issue of overcrowding in London and how this has been impacted by COVID-19. An informal briefing was given to the Committee by Shelter to provide background information for the investigation. The Committee then

held a meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Housing, and a number of boroughs. The investigation found that overcrowding worsened during the pandemic, with estimates that the rate rose to as high as 15 per cent in London. Following the findings, the Committee wrote to the Mayor calling for an action plan to tackle overcrowding in the capital. The plan should include measures for improved data collection, so that the true extent of overcrowding in London is known and interventions can be targeted to the people and areas that need it most.



To expand current levels of social housing, existing homes and buildings can be acquired or converted by social housing providers to increase numbers, for example through methods such as buying back former council homes and buying on the open market. This can complement the construction of new homes. If each local authority in

London purchased 200-250 homes a year through these alternative, non-construction methods for social housing, it would make a significant difference with around 6000-8000 extra social rented homes across London. To put this into context, the 2021 Affordable Housing Monitor showed that in 2020-21 there were 6,162 new homes started at social or London Affordable Rent and 2,208 new home completions at these tenures.

The Committee wrote to the Mayor of London and recommended ways that the Mayor can utilise these options to provide more affordable housing for Londoners. Although newly-built social housing is a key

priority, to meet existing and future demand for housing, existing homes need to be part of the equation.

To end the year the Committee held a meeting discussing the regulation of the Private Rented Sector, which has the worst conditions of any tenure, with homes less likely to comply with minimum safety standards and properties more likely to be classified as non-decent. Issues such as quality and standards, enforcement and the powers of redress available to tenants were all discussed along with what more the Mayor of London can do to support London's private renters.

Planning and Regeneration

The Planning and Regeneration Committee leads the London Assembly's responses to the Mayor's London Plan, the capital's key strategic planning document which promotes the economic, social and environmental development of the capital, as well as setting the direction for planning of properties, high streets and land.

A key theme in the Planning and Regeneration Committee work is the importance of community involvement in planning processes and this issue has been highlighted in a number of pieces of work this year.

The Planning and Regeneration Committee began the year by questioning the Deputy Mayor for Planning and his team on a number of planning and regeneration issues, including how the Mayor will deliver on his manifesto commitments,

implement the new London Plan, engage with Government as it undertakes significant reform of the planning system and respond to the impacts of, and support the recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic.

A key piece of Committee work has been to look at community involvement in the Mayoral planning call-in process. Forty applications have been determined by the Mayor of London since 2008, and all except two have been approved by the relevant Mayor, which raises concerns that the call-in process has predetermined outcomes in favour of the applicant. The investigation found that there is a mismatch between how community groups feel about the opportunities they have to influence the call-in process, and what opportunities the GLA feels groups have. Community groups

feel locked out of the process and the Mayor's sphere of influence.

The report 'Open Planning? Community engagement and transparency when the Mayor calls in planning applications' made a number of recommendations to the Mayor to help improve and increase community involvement in the planning process, including: the Mayor should conduct a review of the call-in process to pinpoint increased opportunities for community engagement and information sharing. For example, case officers sometimes meet with residents on an ad hoc basis to discuss views and concerns and this arrangement should be made face-to-face and mandatory. The Committee also investigated a key Mayoral regeneration programme: Opportunity Areas. Opportunity



Areas are identified in the London Plan as significant locations with development opportunities to accommodate new homes, jobs and infrastructure of all types. They are linked to existing or potential improvements to public transport and typically have capacity for at least 5,000 new jobs or 2,500 new homes, or a combination of the two.

and can ultimately displace these communities. The Committee wrote to the Mayor with a number of recommendations for improvement, including working with boroughs to ensure that residents, businesses and community groups are engaged and involved in the planning process within Opportunity Areas from the outset.



The GLA has not carried out a full evaluation of each Opportunity Area, to assess how they are performing, how the current approach could be improved and possible alternatives. Community groups have argued that development in Opportunity Areas does not meet the needs of local residents and businesses



GLA Oversight

The GLA Oversight Committee leads the Assembly's scrutiny of issues not covered by the other committees. It also monitors scrutiny expenditure and oversees the programming of the Assembly's business.

The GLA Oversight Committee's first meeting established an Election Review Working Group to assess the delivery of the 2021 Mayoral and London Assembly elections.

The Committee then began an investigation in response to the reports in the Sunday Times in September 2019, claiming that the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, failed to declare a series of potential conflicts of interest over a close friendship with Jennifer Arcuri during the time that he was Mayor of London. The investigation looked at how processes relating to the Mayor, GLA and London and Partners (L&P) could be improved.

The Committee held three public meetings as part of the investigation. The first covered the Code of Conduct for GLA Members, including the Mayor, with guests including two independent Code of Conduct experts. The second reviewed trade

mission procedures from a GLA and L&P officer perspective, and the third meeting covered trade mission procedures from a beneficiary perspective and included a number of L&P trade mission attendees, including Ms Arcuri.

The Committee used its power of Summons to obtain the unredacted documentation submitted by L&P to the IOPC's Operation Lansdowne Investigation. The Committee will be producing a report in the next year summarising its findings and recommendations.

Procurement practices within the GLA Group have also been investigated by the Committee, encompassing procurement of the Silvertown Tunnel, the Garden Bridge, the Crossrail Bond Street Station, the Royal Albert Dock development, the Silvertown Quays development and the East Bank construction at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The Committee held question and answer sessions with Mayoral Advisers. It met with David Bellamy, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Felicity Appleby, Mayoral Director for Political and Public Affairs, Sarah Brown, Mayoral Director for Communications and Ali Picton, Mayoral Director of Operations. The Committee sought to understand the roles and responsibilities of the posts and how their respective positions determine and influence



agenda setting, policy and strategy. The Committee wrote to the Mayor with recommendations of potential improvements in how his Advisers

operate. The Committee separately explored increased spending in the External Relations team and what this increase is supposed to be delivering for Londoners.

The relocation of City Hall has been a major piece of work for the GLA and the Committee met in March 2022 to consider the impact on Londoners, particularly residents of Newham and Southwark, and the impact on the London Assembly and effective democracy in London. It also discussed the management and delivery of the capital programme, the impact on the organisation and staff, the costs of the project and the savings that will be delivered through the relocation and the rationale for the moving decision.

According to the Mayor, savings from the relocation will amount to £61 million over five years, when compared with staying at the former City Hall at Queen's Walk on the original lease terms. However, the Committee established that the effective 'do nothing' option already saves £24 million compared to the original lease terms. This makes the anticipated savings from the relocation £37 million at most over five years.



WHAT DOES THE LONDON ASSEMBLY DO?

The **London Assembly** is a crucial check on the powers of the Mayor of London. As the most powerful directly elected politician in the UK, it is important the Mayor is held publicly and democratically accountable.

The Assembly examines the decisions and actions of the Mayor to ensure promises to Londoners are delivered and the money he controls, collected from Londoners, is wisely spent.

The **25 London Assembly Members** are elected every four years at the same time as the Mayor of London. The 2020 election was suspended until 2021 due to the pandemic. There are 11 Assembly Members who represent the whole capital and 14 who are elected by

constituencies. The Assembly holds the Mayor and mayoral advisers to account by publicly examining policies and programmes through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.

In addition, the Assembly questions the Mayor ten times a year at Mayor's Question Time.

The Mayor must also consult Assembly Members before producing statutory strategies and the multi-billion-pound budget for the GLA Group. The



Assembly can reject the Mayor's strategies and amend the draft budget if a majority of two-thirds agrees to do so.

Assembly meetings are open to the public so Londoners can stay informed about the activities of the Mayor and the Assembly.

As well as examining the Mayor's actions and decisions, Assembly Members act as champions for Londoners by investigating issues that are important to the capital.

Assembly investigations are carried out by cross-party committees which cover vital areas like budget, emergency services, transport, policing, housing and planning, the economy, health and the environment. The Assembly can press for changes to national, mayoral or local policy.



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