

Planning for political transition in May 2024

A guide for Mayoral and Assembly candidates

February 2024

1. Introduction

- 1.1. It is the responsibility of Greater London Authority (GLA) officers to prepare, in an appropriately proportionate way, for political change as a potential outcome of the GLA elections on 2 May 2024. This is to ensure that the incoming Mayor and Assembly Members are supported to take office and start work as quickly as possible. Those elected on 2 May 2024 will serve a four-year term of office.
- 1.2. Planning for transition cannot impinge on the delivery of the incumbent Mayor's priorities; on support to the incumbent London Assembly or its Members; or on effective, transparent and accountable governance over the transition period.
- 1.3. This is the first of two guides for those seeking election as Mayor, or to the Assembly, in 2024. The second guide will be published in April 2024. This guide primarily covers:
 - principles applying to engagement between candidates and GLA Group officers
 - the role, duties and powers of the GLA, the Mayor and the London Assembly
 - the GLA's organisational structure.
- 1.4. The second guide will cover:
 - the activity that an incoming Mayor and Assembly Members can expect in the days immediately after the results of the elections are declared
 - proposed induction arrangements for the new Mayorality and Assembly Members
 - the process for appointments to be made by an incoming Mayor
 - staffing arrangements for both an incoming Mayor and Party Groups within the Assembly
 - key issues, decisions and diary pressures the new Mayorality will need to consider over the very first few weeks.
- 1.5. The new Mayor and Assembly Members are expected to come into office on Monday 6 May. We would expect the on-boarding of the Assembly Members (provision of IT equipment, security passes etc) to take place on Sunday 5 May. These dates may change if the GLA elections are combined with a general election on 2 May, or if the declaration of results are otherwise delayed.

2. Engagement with candidates

Principles applying to contact with all candidates

- 2.1. The GLA consists of the Mayor of London and the 25-member London Assembly. It has five 'functional bodies' that, with the GLA, make up the GLA Group.
- 2.2. The functional bodies are: Transport for London (TfL); the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC); the London Fire Commissioner (LFC); and two time-limited Mayoral Development Corporations (MDCs) – the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) in east London, and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) in west London.



- 2.3. Engagement between all Mayoral and Assembly candidates, and senior officers across the GLA Group, in the run-up to the elections will be subject to the principles of transparency; and the proper and proportionate use of each organisation's resources.
- 2.4. The websites of the GLA and its five functional bodies host summary and detailed information across the full spectrum of their activities. It is anticipated that the information freely available on these websites will provide a substantial amount of the information that Mayoral and Assembly candidates, and their campaign teams, will be seeking.
- 2.5. The GLA's website at www.london.gov.uk hosts summary and detailed information about the current [Mayor's priorities and programmes](#), and the work of the current [London Assembly](#). It also makes accessible a wide range of [publications](#) and hosts the [London Datastore](#), a portal to hundreds of datasets relating to London. The [GLA's governance, structure, finances and performance](#) are also detailed on the website. A set of specific links to data and analysis are included in Annex 1.
- 2.6. The websites of the five functional bodies are linked below:
 - [TfL](#)
 - [MOPAC](#)
 - [LFC \(London Fire Brigade \(LFB\)\)](#)
 - [LLDC \(Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park\)](#)
 - [OPDC](#).
- 2.7. The [GLA's Use of Resources guidance](#) operates at all times and is directly relevant to the contact between officers and candidates. One of its central tenets is that GLA staff must avoid any action or behaviour that is not politically neutral when on work-related time, or when using GLA-funded resources and facilities. In addition, politically restricted GLA staff cannot carry out restricted activities in their private time either. These principles apply across the GLA Group. To quote directly from the Use of Resources guidance:

'Requests to any of the GLA Group bodies for information from candidates and their parties will be dealt with in an even-handed, neutral and professional manner. Officers may provide factual information but must not (at any time) involve themselves or the Authority's resources directly in

the preparation of elections-related material or communications issues. Officers will not offer opinions on candidates' policies or proposals or be, as employees (noting that the rules on political restriction for relevant staff apply at all times [i.e., including outside of working hours]) in any way involved in the development of those policies.'

- 2.8. Engagement with candidates must be balanced with officers' work to continue to support the incumbent Mayor and Assembly. This engagement therefore has to remain proportionate and necessarily somewhat limited in scope.

Engagement with Mayoral candidates

- 2.9. Senior officers at the GLA, and organisations across the GLA Group, are available to engage with Mayoral candidates and their campaign teams in a proportionate and structured way in the run-up to the elections.
- 2.10. The GLA Chief Officer is offering candidates and/or their campaign teams a first meeting during February 2024. These meetings are an opportunity to learn more about the organisation; and to have early discussions about priorities, and preferred approaches to induction and future briefing material. The GLA values early engagement of this nature, and meetings can be organised by emailing the Chief Officer directly at mary.harpley@london.gov.uk.
- 2.11. Mayoral candidates seeking a first meeting with senior officers at the other organisations in the GLA Group should make contact with the relevant Chief Officer, or designated elections lead, via the following emails. All requests from candidates for contact with officers in these organisations need to be made by email to these contacts only:
- TfL: elections@tfl.gov.uk (Alex Williams, Chief Customer and Strategy Officer)
 - MOPAC: diana.luchford@mopac.london.gov.uk (Chief Executive, MOPAC)
 - LFC: andy.roe@london-fire.gov.uk (Commissioner, LFB)
 - LLDC: edstearns@londonlegacy.co.uk (Director, Communications, Marketing and Strategy)
 - OPDC: david.lunts@opdc.london.gov.uk (Chief Executive, OPDC).

The detail of discussions between candidates and officers will be kept confidential, except where it is agreed that information can or should be shared between senior leaders within the GLA Group, to aid overall planning and coordination. In addition, Mayoral candidates who would like to receive a briefing from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) can contact externalrelations@met.police.uk.

- 2.12. A further meeting with the GLA Chief Officer will be offered to the main Mayoral candidates only, once the second guide for candidates has been issued. This meeting will be for the purpose of discussing a candidate's early priorities, should they be elected; and to agree an approach to induction. GLA officers will identify these main candidates by reference to their electoral prospects according to published opinion polls at the time.
- 2.13. Requests by Mayoral candidates, or their teams, for additional meetings or information outside of, or as a follow-up to, the meetings described above should be directed to the GLA Chief Officer, or the named contact in each of the GLA Group organisations. Any request for information or briefing will be judged with reference to the principles above. Responses may include signposting candidates to existing information or refusing the request.

Engagement with Assembly candidates

- 2.14. The Chief Officer, the Executive Director of the Assembly Secretariat (Helen Ewen) and the Assistant Director, Committee Services (Rebecca Arnold), are available to answer prospective candidates' questions on the Assembly's work programme and operation. The detail of discussions between

candidates and officers will be kept confidential. Candidates should email helen.ewen@london.gov.uk and rebecca.arnold@london.gov.uk to make arrangements.

Preparing for potential policy and organisational change

- 2.15. Senior officers will consider the key priority policies of the main Mayoral candidates that fall within the purview of the GLA or the GLA Group. The focus will be on reviewing these at a high level, and assessing the potential implications for existing workstreams and initiatives, in preparation for very early discussions with the elected Mayor and their team. This will not include an evaluation of all commitments made by candidates in the course of the campaign or a full manifesto analysis. This approach will be informed by engagement with candidates ahead of the elections.
- 2.16. Changes in policies and programmes may, to a greater or lesser extent, affect the roles of teams that serve the Mayor and the Assembly – and, potentially, the wider organisational staff structure. In the run-up to the elections, senior officers will consider the case for not filling specific staff vacancies, and for recruitment freezes, in one or more business areas. This will be done in order to provide post-election flexibility, and while taking account of the ongoing focus on delivering the existing GLA work programme.

3. The role of the GLA and the Mayor

- 3.1. The GLA is the democratically elected strategic authority for London. It comprises two distinct parts: the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. It was established in 2000, following a London wide referendum. The GLA was established through the [Greater London Authority Act 1999](#) (the GLA Act).
- 3.2. The Mayor's three principal purposes in law are the promotion, in Greater London, of:
- economic development and wealth creation
 - social development
 - the improvement of the environment.
- 3.3. Section 30 of the GLA Act, as amended, gives a general power to the GLA, exercisable by the Mayor, to do anything that the GLA considers will further any one or more of these purposes. To do this, the Mayor's statutory powers and duties include:
- acting as the GLA's executive
 - appointing the 13-strong Mayoral team in the GLA
 - making appointments to senior roles in the GLA's five functional bodies
 - setting the GLA Group budget and the GLA council tax precept
 - setting London's transport fares annually
 - making planning decisions in respect of significant applications
 - producing a Police and Crime Plan that sets the direction for the MPS
 - publishing seven statutory strategies: the London Plan; the Mayor's Transport Strategy; the London Housing Strategy; the London Environment Strategy; the Mayor's Economic Development Strategy for London; the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy; and Culture for all Londoners.
- 3.4. The Mayor's general power is subject to several limits and conditions. For example, GLA expenditure generally cannot replicate things that TfL, MOPAC and the LFC can do. Nor can the Mayor fund education, social or health services – although certain aspects, such as academy schools and public health, can be GLA-funded. The Mayor's general power cannot be used to legislate or regulate third parties, or compel them to do things, without a pre-existing specific legal power to do so. Additionally, certain decisions require the Mayor to consult the London Assembly or obtain its consent. The Mayor retains a power of direction over TfL, the LFC, the LLDC and the OPDC; and acts as the sole member of MOPAC.
- 3.5. Beyond the requirements of the GLA Act, much of the Mayor's activity is discretionary and relies on the office's electoral mandate, status and influence. A central aspect of the Mayor's role is leadership, bringing together stakeholders (including London boroughs, national government, the healthcare sector, other public-sector organisations, businesses and civic society) to deliver policies, initiatives and programmes that benefit London and Londoners.

Accountability

- 3.6. The Mayor is accountable to the public and must:
- attend London Assembly Mayor's Question Time (MQT) meetings ten times a year to answer questions from Assembly Members
 - hold a State of London Debate in between April and June each year; and hold People's Question Time twice a year
 - publish an annual report in the run-up to the State of London Debate
 - publish an annual equalities report
 - follow transparency arrangements set out by the government.

Commencement of Office

- 3.7. The elected Mayor and Assembly Members take office on the second day after the day on which the final Mayoral and Assembly results are declared. They cannot undertake any actions in post until they have made their Declarations of Acceptance of Office. This is usually arranged for the day after the election results are declared. Until that time, the current Mayor and Assembly Members remain in office.

Governance and transparency

- 3.8. The GLA has a policy of openness and transparency, and complies with the government's Local Government Transparency Code. Decision forms (which record decisions taken by the Mayor, or by senior officers under powers delegated to them from the Mayor) are routinely published. Responses to Freedom of Information Act responses are publicly available.
- 3.9. All elected members are subject to a [Code of Conduct](#) that sets out the seven principles of public life, and ways in which they must act ethically and with integrity. Staff are governed by a corresponding Code of Ethics and Standards. There are a series of [Information Governance policies](#) that govern how we use data properly, protect privacy and manage our records.

The statutory officers

- 3.10. Under the GLA Act, the Authority is required to have the following statutory officers: the Head of Paid Service; the Chief Finance Officer; and the Monitoring Officer. These are appointed jointly by the Mayor and the Assembly.
- 3.11. The Head of Paid Service (known as the Chief Officer) assumes responsibility for the strategic management of GLA activity. Functions and responsibilities include:
- providing leadership to ensure the effective delivery of Mayoral priorities
 - providing strategic expertise to the Assembly to ensure it achieves its objectives of holding the Mayor to account
 - managing GLA resources effectively, ensuring a high-quality diverse workforce that provides world-class policy advice to the Mayor and Assembly.
- 3.12. The Chief Finance Officer develops the required financial strategy across the GLA Group, to ensure the Mayor's objectives are met through delivery of the Mayor's annual budget and group performance management. Their responsibilities include:
- leading the development of the consolidated budgets for the GLA Group
 - developing and supporting an integrated financial and performance monitoring regime for the GLA and GLA Group
 - securing greater efficiency and effectiveness across the GLA Group and the wider London public sector through collaboration and shared services.
- 3.13. The [Monitoring Officer](#)'s role is to promote, monitor and report on GLA members' compliance with the high standard of ethical conduct that is expected of them. Their responsibilities include:
- reporting on contraventions or likely contraventions of any enactment or rule of law
 - providing advice on vices issues, maladministration and probity
 - considering code of conduct complaints against the Mayor and Assembly Members
 - handling complaints on behalf of the Police and Crime Committee against MOPAC and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
 - setting guidance and maintaining registers associated with gifts, hospitality and interests.

4. The GLA Group budget

- 4.1. As this guide is being published, the annual cycle of setting the GLA Group budget and the GLA council tax precept is under way.
- 4.2. The [draft consolidated budget 2024-25](#) sets out the current revenue and capital spending plans for the GLA and functional bodies, along with expected income and receipts. It includes a Climate Budget, showing how members of the GLA Group might reach net zero by 2030. The total gross expenditure for the GLA Group for 2023-24 is £16bn revenue and £3.8 billion capital, after adjusting for any intra GLA Group expenditure
- 4.3. As part of the annual budget-setting process, it is the role of the Mayor to set the GLA council tax precept; and allocate council tax and business rates income across the GLA Group. The provisional funding allocations for each constituent body of the GLA Group were set out in the [2024-25 Mayor's Budget Guidance](#). This provides the context for organisations in the GLA Group to prepare their budgets for the financial year ahead. These provisional allocations are reviewed throughout the budget process to take account of several; factors, including: announcements made by government through the Autumn Statement; provisional local government and police finance settlements in mid-December, and final settlements in early February; and the tax base forecasts, from the 33 London billing authorities, for business rates and council tax income for 2024-25 (as well as their estimated outturn data for 2023-24) at the end January each year.
- 4.4. The Mayor's 2024-25 Consultation Budget was published on 19 December 2023 and the draft consolidated budget was published on 17 January 2024. A final draft consolidated budget will be published on 14 February 2024.
- 4.5. The London Assembly can amend the Mayor's budget with a two-thirds majority vote at its final budget meeting, provided it remains within parameters regarding the local government financial settlement and council tax referendums.
- 4.6. The Mayor has certain statutory duties that determine the use of large elements of the GLA budget. Responsibilities in respect of housing and adult education are funded by government and other agencies (approximately £350m annually for the Adult Education Budget (AEB), and up to £1bn capital annually for housing). However, some elements of the GLA's activity are discretionary, and reflect the priorities of the incumbent Mayoralty. This is broadly reflected by the net revenue budget, which is around £200m per annum. The portion of the discretionary budget required to maintain the central functionality of the GLA is referred to as "core" spend.
- 4.7. Various factors may affect the GLA's financial position over the medium term. These include: inflation and its consequent impact on pay and prices; the future state of London's economy and its potential impact on the GLA Group's income sources (such as taxation and fares); and the potential impact of future changes to the local government finance system.

5. Mayor's principal statutory duties and powers

5.1. This section provides information on the Mayor's principal statutory duties and powers.

Culture and sport

- 5.2. The Mayor has a statutory duty to publish strategies for and [sport](#). These are delivered through a range of policies and programmes, related to culture, media and sport, to improve social and economic outcomes for Londoners.
- 5.3. Under the GLA Act, the Mayor is required to convene the Cultural Strategy Group for London (known as the Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board). This Board is required to keep the Culture Strategy under review, and may submit proposed revisions of it to the Mayor.
- 5.4. Under the Museum of London Act 1965 (as subsequently amended) and the GLA Act, the Mayor has a statutory duty to provide revenue and capital funding to the Museum of London (including the Museum of London Docklands). This duty was devolved from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in 2008. The Mayor also appoints nine trustees to the Museum of London Board. The Museum of London will formally change its name to the London Museum following its move to a new location at West Smithfield.
- 5.5. The Mayor also has powers to appoint the Chair and three members to Arts Council England's London Area Council. The Chair sits on Arts Council England's non-executive board, the National Council.

Spatial development and planning

- 5.6. The Mayor has a statutory duty to prepare and publish a spatial development strategy known as the London Plan: a strategic plan setting out an economic, transport, environmental and social framework for development in London. The Mayor also has a duty to monitor this Plan, and to ensure that the Local Plans of London planning authorities are in general conformity with it. In March 2021, the Mayor formally approved [a new London Plan](#).
- 5.7. The Mayor has powers to intervene in applications of 'potential strategic importance' that are made to boroughs or development corporations as local planning authorities. These applications are defined in the Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008, and include developments: of 150 units or more; over 30 storeys high; and on Green Belt/Metropolitan Open Land. The Mayor can either: allow the local planning authority to determine the application; direct them to refuse it; or 'call in' the application for the Mayor's own determination. Applications referred to the Mayor can be found [here](#).
- 5.8. For the Mayor to 'call in' applications, they must have a significant impact on the London Plan, and significant effects on more than one London borough; and there must be sound planning reasons for intervention. Where an application is called in by the Mayor, there is a [published procedure](#) setting out the process that will be followed. In addition to any call-in by the Mayor, the majority of the applications referred to the Mayor must also be referred to the Secretary of State, who may also choose to call an application in for their own consideration. This is subject to a [separate process](#).

Business and economy

- 5.9. The Mayor has a statutory duty to publish an [Economic Development Strategy](#). This includes an assessment of the economic conditions of Greater London; and policies and proposals for economic

development and regeneration. These specifically include: promoting business investment, efficiency and competitiveness; promoting employment; and promoting the development of skills relevant to employment.

- 5.10. Under the Localism Act 2011. The Mayor has the power to set up MDCs for regeneration purposes, covering a specified area or areas of land. The Mayor may make an MDC the local planning authority for its area; and it may provide infrastructure, widely defined to include roads, utilities, health and educational facilities, and community and recreational facilities. An MDC can acquire land, and may do so by compulsory purchase if authorised by the Secretary of State. To date, two MDCs have been established: the LLDC and the OPDC. The Mayor appoints their Chairs and board members to reflect specific stakeholders.
- 5.11. London & Partners (L&P) is the business growth and destination agency for London. Its mission is to create economic growth that is resilient, sustainable and inclusive. It is currently co-located, with the GLA, at the Union Street office. Its Articles of Association state that L&P is strategically aligned with the Mayor's policy objectives, but operationally independent. The Mayor has the power to appoint and terminate the appointment of the L&P Chair and one non-executive director. The L&P Chief Executive and the Finance Executive Director can only be appointed or dismissed by the directors with the Mayor's approval. The Articles list company activities that require the Mayor's written consent. These include forming any subsidiary of the company, and altering provisions of the company's Articles. L&P's business plan, and GLA grant-funding for its core activities, are subject to formal annual approval by the Mayor.

Skills

- 5.12. In line with the GLA's general duty to promote economic and social development, the Mayor can take a strategic view over adult skills in London, as set out in the [Skills Roadmap for London](#). The Mayor can also convene stakeholders (e.g., through the Skills for Londoners Board), and aim to influence national policymakers. The Mayor can use GLA budgets to deliver bespoke London projects.
- 5.13. The AEB supports the provision of various non-apprenticeship adult skills. Control over London's share of the AEB was delegated to the Mayor in 2019. This represents the Mayor's largest direct delivery lever in skills, and the GLA's single largest revenue budget. As a result of the delegation conditions, all decisions relating to AEB policy and processes in London must be signed off by the Mayor.

Fire and resilience

- 5.14. The Mayor is responsible for overseeing the work of the LFC, who leads LFB. The Mayor appoints the LFC directly, and significant strategic documents (such as the Community Risk Management Plan) and spending decisions are signed off by the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience (who is appointed by the Mayor, and to whom the Mayor can delegate powers).
- 5.15. LFB is undergoing a period of significant change in response to the Grenfell Tower fire; the recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry phase 1 report; the conclusions of the inspection in 2022 by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services; and an independent review of LFB culture.
- 5.16. The Mayor also has a key role in London's wider resilience work as convenor of the London Resilience Forum. This forum brings together key representatives from the wider London Resilience Partnership, which includes over 170 organisations. Each of these have specific responsibilities for preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Environment

- 5.17. The Mayor has a statutory duty to publish an [Environment Strategy](#). This sets out the Mayor's policies and proposals in relation to: biodiversity; municipal waste management; climate change mitigation and energy; adaptation to climate change; air quality and ambient noise; and any other pertinent environmental matters. It must include a general assessment of London's environment, as relevant to the Mayor's and the GLA's functions.
- 5.18. Under the Environment Act 1995 the Mayor has supervision, in the Greater London area, of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process, which requires London boroughs to monitor and review air pollution. Where air-quality standards are exceeded, boroughs must declare an Air Quality Management Area and have an associated action plan. Boroughs must have regard to the air-quality provisions in the London Environment Strategy when exercising their LAQM functions. The Mayor has the power to require boroughs to take action.
- 5.19. The Mayor also has the power to require local authorities to act in general conformity with the provisions of the London Environment Strategy on municipal waste. Powers held by the Mayor to guide London's spatial development through the London Plan, and to manage London's transport through TfL, are also directly relevant to their powers around the environment.

Health

- 5.20. The Mayor has a statutory duty to produce and deliver a [Health Inequalities Strategy](#) to improve the health and wellbeing of Londoners and to address the root causes of ill health and health inequalities. The Mayor has also published an [implementation plan](#), which outlines current priorities.
- 5.21. The Mayor has no direct control or responsibility over the NHS or local authorities for delivery of health services and/or social care. However, some of the Mayor's other powers and duties can have a significant effect on the determinants of Londoners' health. In addition, the Mayor can work alongside the NHS in London; the London regional team of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID); local councils; and others to improve the health and wellbeing of Londoners. The regional lead of OHID acts as statutory health adviser to the Mayor.
- 5.22. The Mayor chairs the London Health Board, and is a signatory to the delivery of the Health and Care Vision for London. This sets out the priorities for joint and shared action for health and care in London. These include: some specific health issues, such as suicide prevention and mental health, childhood obesity, and sexual health; a range of social policy issues, such as violence reduction, homelessness and improving air quality; and structural issues, including securing the right workforce for health and care in London.

Housing

- 5.23. The Mayor has a statutory duty to prepare, publish and keep under review a [Housing Strategy](#). This must set out an assessment of housing conditions in London; and the need for further housing provision, policies and proposals to meet needs and improve housing conditions, as well as measures other bodies are to be encouraged to take.
- 5.24. The Mayor's direct housing delivery powers were expanded under the GLA Act 2007 and the Localism Act 2011. The Mayor inherited powers from central government related to housing investment programmes, and land and property assets, to support the building of affordable homes, job creation and regeneration. These include the power to acquire land by compulsory purchase; and the ability to receive grants from central government.
- 5.25. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 conferred on the GLA (and other tier-one authorities in England)

duties (with funding) related to safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. These include assessing the need for support in such accommodation; developing a provision strategy; commissioning services; and assessing effectiveness.

Policing

- 5.26. The Mayor is responsible for: setting the strategic direction for policing in London; agreeing the annual police budget; overseeing the performance of the MPS on behalf of Londoners; appointing the MPS Commissioner with the Home Secretary; and commissioning key crime-reduction projects and services for victims of crime.
- 5.27. MOPAC supports the Mayor in delivering these responsibilities, providing specialist expertise on commissioning; community engagement; professional standards and police complaints; governance and oversight; finance; and policy and communications. The Mayor can appoint a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, to whom the Mayor can delegate powers. The current Police and Crime Plan is [here](#).
- 5.28. The Violence Reduction Unit builds on existing partnerships to bring together specialists to work together in reducing violence in the capital, via a public health approach.

Transport

- 5.29. The Mayor has a statutory duty to develop a [Transport Strategy](#) and TfL plans. The Mayor delivers, and is responsible for, the operation of most of London's transport services within the framework set out in this Transport Strategy. TfL's annual Business Plan sets out a five-year programme of spending to achieve the goals set out in the Transport Strategy.
- 5.30. The Mayor can decide to chair the board of TfL personally. The Mayor appoints its board members to ensure a diverse range of skills and experience, in line with statutory requirements. The Mayor may issue general directions, under the GLA Act, as to the manner in which TfL is to exercise its functions; and specific directions as to the exercise of TfL's functions.

6. Role of the London Assembly

- 6.1. In May 2024, 25 Assembly Members will be elected. There are 14 single-member constituencies, and 11 additional-member London-wide seats. Voters have one vote for their constituency member; and one vote for the additional-member seats. The London-wide seats are allocated based on the additional-member votes cast, but this takes into account constituency seats won by the relevant party. Parties must win at least 5 per cent of the top-up vote to be entitled to a London-wide seat.
- 6.2. The role of the London Assembly is to hold the Mayor to account and raise issues of importance to Londoners. Under the statutory requirements set out in the GLA Act, the Mayor must:
- submit budget proposals for the GLA Group to the London Assembly annually, which the Assembly can amend at the final stage by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting
 - submit drafts of the seven statutory strategies to the Assembly, which the Assembly can reject by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting
 - submit nominations for certain appointments to the Assembly, for which the Assembly can hold confirmation hearings (and – in the case of the nominations for the LFC, the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime – can reject by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting, in certain circumstances)
 - report significant decisions to the Assembly in the run-up to each of the ten MQTs held every year; and attend all ten sessions, and answer questions posed at these
 - attend scrutiny sessions, and provide documents, if summoned by the Assembly
 - appoint one of the Assembly Members as the Statutory Deputy Mayor.
- 6.3. The Assembly scrutinises the work of the Mayor through several sector-specific committees, as well as via Plenary and MQT meetings. Assembly Committees meet several times throughout the year, undertaking a range of thematic investigations or question-and-answer sessions. These are overview and scrutiny processes, covering matters that are internal to the GLA and the GLA Group; and those that lie outside the GLA's responsibilities. Section 59 of the GLA Act permits the Assembly to investigate "any other matters which the Assembly considers to be of importance to Greater London". Committees produce a range of outputs throughout the year, making recommendations to the Mayor, the GLA, the government and other stakeholders.
- 6.4. Assembly Members play an important constituency role, dealing with varied casework. They are supported in both their constituency and scrutiny functions by GLA officers within Party Group offices. Each Party Group within the Assembly appoints a Group Leader and Deputy Leader for the Assembly year. Group Leaders meet regularly to support the effective operation of the Assembly, and its interaction with the Assembly Secretariat and the wider GLA.
- 6.5. The Assembly holds an Annual Meeting every May to appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair; and to agree Committee structures and membership (following strict proportionality requirements). Under the terms of the GLA Act, the Assembly must hold its Annual Meeting within 10 days of the elections. It is anticipated that the next meeting will happen on Friday 10 May 2024; and will provide the focus of activity for Members in the days immediately after taking office.

7. The GLA

7.1. The GLA is London's strategic authority. Our responsibility is to the Mayor and the Assembly; and to the people, businesses and communities of the city. Our mission, as set in the GLA Act, is to promote Greater London's economic development, wealth creation and social development, and to improve its environment, always seeking to find the right balance between these. In doing so, we take account of the need to improve Londoners' health and reduce health inequalities; to promote sustainable development; and to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. This work is delivered through the seven Directorates that make up the GLA.

7.2. The **Housing and Land Directorate** is staffed to deliver the five priority areas set out in the Mayor's London Housing Strategy:

- building homes for Londoners
- delivering genuinely affordable homes
- high-quality homes and inclusive neighbourhoods
- a fairer deal for private renters and leaseholders
- tackling homelessness and helping rough sleepers.

It also includes a substantial Building Safety team, which operates programmes to fund the removal of unsafe cladding from high-rise buildings in London.

7.3. The **Good Growth Directorate** supports the Mayor's vision of good growth. Units in the Directorate deliver this in two ways:

- through policies to improve the built and wider environment – this includes programmes around: air quality; green spaces; the climate and ecological emergencies; improved local places and high streets; cultural and creative opportunities; public realm; and infrastructure
- through interventions to grow London's economy and to ensure it is fairer and more inclusive – this includes programmes and policies around: London's business environment; attracting investment and supporting businesses; promoting London as a 24-hour city; and ensuring employees across London feel the benefit of a successful economy through better working standards and wages.

7.4. The **Communities and Skills Directorate** works through and with partners to ensure that the Mayor can fulfil the elements of the GLA Act relating to the promotion of social development and the tackling of health inequalities. It also plays a key role in contributing to economic growth through the imparting of skills and training. Programmes of work include:

- supporting financially challenged Londoners and those with other vulnerabilities
- tackling structural inequalities and promoting inclusion
- supporting children and young people to achieve their potential
- strengthening civil society and participation in community sport
- ensuring that Londoners and the capital's economy have the skills needed to thrive (especially through the delegated AEB)
- constructively supporting the capital's health and care system, with an emphasis on tackling health inequalities
- ensuring that Londoners can have their say in the running of the capital.

7.5. The **Strategy and Communications Directorate** brings together teams with organisation-wide remits and supporting functions. The work of these teams includes delivery of major events; designing and leading public affairs and marketing campaigns; providing data, evidence

and analysis to support policy development; and, with the Digital Experience Unit, delivering digital transformation and products to support the organisation and Londoners.

- 7.6. This Directorate also includes the **London Resilience Unit**, which will formally be established in April 2024 with the merger of the London Resilience Group and the GLA's City Operations Unit. This will bring together key functions that make up the GLA's Category One Responder status, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The new unit will ensure we continue to plan for, and can respond to, emerging events or emergencies in our city, bringing all our expertise into one place.
- 7.7. A range of corporate functions sit within **the Resources and Business Improvement Directorate, Chief Finance Officer Directorate, and Chief Officer Directorate**. These include finance, governance, facilities management, the People Function and GLA Group Collaboration.
- 7.8. Officers in the **Assembly Secretariat** support the work of the Assembly in the administration of the meetings of the Assembly and its committees; research; and other activity to support the Assembly's scrutiny. Their work lies in supporting Members and Assembly Committees directly, and engaging with and communicating to Londoners.

Improvement and change

- 7.9. The GLA came into being in 2000. Over more than two decades it has, by necessity, grown significantly, and its role has matured. In recent years, we have focused on modernising the design and delivery of our corporate services, systems and processes, in keeping with how much we have developed as an organisation. Our change and improvement plans are overseen by an internal Improvement and Change Board, which connects the Corporate Management Team with some of our key corporate specialist leads, from areas such as People, Digital, Communications and GLA Group Collaboration.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

- 7.10. The GLA Inclusion Programme looks strategically at workforce equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across the organisation; and consolidates all workforce EDI activity into a single programme of work. The ambition is to make sure the GLA's workforce, in all teams and at all levels, is representative of the city it serves; and that all members of GLA staff have the same positive experience of working, progressing and feeling they belong in the GLA.

The GLA estate

- 7.11. The core GLA estate is managed by the Facilities Management Team, and is made up of the following sites:
 - **City Hall** is the headquarters of the GLA, where the Mayor, the London Assembly and their staff, as well as other teams, have dedicated office accommodation. This is also the location of all statutory and public meetings. City Hall is leased from GLA Land and Property Limited, a subsidiary of the GLA, on a 25-year lease until 2046.
 - **169 Union Street** is LFB's headquarters, and also functions as secondary office space for the GLA. This also provides some contingency space for the Mayor and the London

Assembly. The GLA space is held on licence from LFB until 2027. The GLA recently announced its intention to move from Union Street to TfL's Palestra site in late 2026.

- **Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square Gardens** are under the care, control and management of the Mayor of London under the GLA Act. Both are listed parks and gardens of special historic interest, with a range of listed monuments. The spaces are used for rallies, events and public enjoyment. The GLA provides heritage wardens 24/7 to welcome visitors across both squares, and ensure the enforcement of the GLA bylaws and other site-specific legislation.

8. GLA partnership working

- 8.1. The Mayor has a significant convening role, bringing together partners across the city to address significant policy areas; share insight; and deliver on joint objectives. There are formal and informal structures where this convening power is exercised, including the London Partnership Board and the London Policing Board.

Group collaboration

- 8.2. GLA Group Collaboration seeks to deliver against the Mayor's expectation that the GLA Group works together, on key areas, to operate in ways that are more effective; drive delivery of Mayoral priorities; and harness the efficiencies of collaborative working. Group collaboration work is delivered in three main ways:
- discrete collaboration project delivery (e.g., electric vehicle infrastructure delivery)
 - collaborative professional communities – groups of subject-matter experts who come together to identify improved ways of working and share best practice
 - ongoing collaborative or shared services (e.g., TfL provides the GLA and the OPDC with HR services)

London Partnership Board

- 8.3. The London Partnership Board, co-chaired by the Mayor and the Chair of London Councils, comes together to address London's key challenges – providing strategic advice to policy and decision-makers across the capital and beyond. It meets four times a year, with the chair for each meeting alternating between the Mayor and the Chair of London Councils.
- 8.4. Board members include representatives from: London Councils; the All-Party Parliamentary Group for London; HM Government; TfL; the MPS; NHS England; trade unions; businesses; the voluntary and community sector; and others. A full list of members can be found [here](#).
- 8.5. The Board builds on the experience of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling the city to respond to current and future cross-cutting challenges. It helps ensure a coordinated response to these challenges, fostering collaboration between partners at local, sub-regional and city levels to achieve shared goals. It advocates for London, bringing together experts to represent the diversity of London's communities – and empowers partners to take action together, and within their own organisations.

GLA's work with government/boroughs

- 8.6. The GLA works with the government and parliament to influence legislation and policy that may have an impact on London and Londoners. The GLA engages directly with ministers, parliamentarians and civil servants through the Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships team.
- 8.7. The GLA also works closely with all London boroughs, and with London Councils, where there are structures in place to provide joint responses to policy developments; and to agree shared objectives. These include regular meetings between the Mayor and the London Councils Chair, executive leads and the Leaders' Committee.
- 8.8. The Mayor and the GLA participate in the M10 network, made up of the mayors and senior officials from the Mayoral Combined Authorities and the GLA. Members of this cross-party group work together and press government on strategic policy such as transport, climate, skills, funding and devolution.

Annex 1: Analysis and data for London

The City Intelligence Unit produces a range of published outputs that provide useful analyses and datasets. These enable a transparent evidence base for the Mayor and Londoners. These outputs are published on the [London Datastore](#); highlights are also promoted on [london.gov](#).

A selection of **regularly updated and topical outputs** are linked below:

Overall state of London

[State of London](#) report and dashboards

[Overviews](#) for the London Partnership Board (and previously London Recovery Board)

[Wellbeing](#)

Economy

[London's Economy Today](#) – a monthly e-bulletin of London's economy

[London's Economic Outlook](#) – six-monthly forecasts of London's economy

[Labour market analyses](#) – monthly analyses of London labour market statistics and in-depth reports

[Reports and other publications](#) – variety of business and economy publications, in date order

Demography

[Demography home page](#)

[Population projections](#)

Social analysis

[Social Evidence Base](#)

[Economic Fairness measures](#)

Opinion polling

[Poll results](#)

Housing data and analysis

[Housing analysis](#)