

LONDON ASSEMBLY



ELECTED BY YOU – WORKING FOR LONDONERS
The London Assembly Annual Report 2016-17

Holding the Mayor to
account and
investigating issues
that matter to
Londoners

LONDONASSEMBLY

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Mayor's Question Time in the Chamber at City Hall, 25 May 2016

Tony Arbour AM

Chairman of the London Assembly 2016—17



The transition from one Mayor to another could have been difficult; however the Assembly has been fortunate that the transformation from Johnson to Khan has been as seamless as the transmogrifications of Dr Who.

The influx of new members has given a new energy to our task of holding the Mayor to account whilst he seeks to ensure that London has a fair deal.

This has been a year of highs and lows for the capital when unspeakable atrocities have been matched by astonishing heroism. Truly the spirit of London is as inspirational and unquenchable now as it has ever been.

On a more quotidian level, the Assembly has been more formal and sober than before, which has, I think, led to our reports and proceedings being taken more seriously.

For the first time a Minister of State has been questioned by Members and I look forward to such an event becoming routine.

It is a commonplace for us to be criticised as pointless. However, as Brexit is being negotiated London does need to make its views known and I find it astonishing that, although our contribution to the nation's economy dwarfs that of the devolved administrations, there is no proper platform for us. It is my hope that we can build on the foundations laid this year, for the greatest city in the world to have its words not only listened to, but acted upon.

“Truly the spirit of London is as inspirational and unquenchable now as it has ever been.”

HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2016 – 17



The Met is investigating historical allegations of **electoral fraud** at the 2014 **Tower Hamlets Mayoral Election** following the work of the Police and Crime Committee.



The Economy Committee's work on **Brexit** led to joint talks at the Scottish Parliament with the European committees of the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales, the London Assembly, and officers from the Northern Ireland Assembly.



The Police and Crime Committee's investigation on **safety at Notting Hill Carnival** created the impetus for MOPAC to commission a major review of crowd management arrangements.



The GLA Oversight Committee's work on **the procurement of the proposed Garden Bridge** contributed to the Mayor commissioning a review from Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge MP.



TfL announced it would significantly increase its **Taxi and Private Hire enforcement team**, as recommended by the Transport Committee in its 2014 report, **Future Proof**.



The Health Committee's work on **mental health for marginalised groups** has influenced the development of the Mayor's flagship mental health initiative, Thrive LDN.



Following the Transport Committee's investigation into the **pedestrianisation of Oxford Street**, TfL announced a 40 per cent cut in buses along the street.



The London Finance Commission report, published in January 2017, promoted a **land value tax** as recommended by the Planning Committee.

HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2016 – 17



Following the Budget and Performance Committee's work on the implications of councils withdrawing **funding for CCTV**, MOPAC and the Met committed to consider whether a pan-London funding approach was needed.



The Mayor's draft Good Practice Guide to Estate Regeneration incorporated many of the recommendations from the 2015 Housing Committee report, **Knock it Down or Do it Up?**



The Mayor committed to action on **development viability assessments** to improve transparency and hasten the delivery of **affordable housing** in line with Planning Committee recommendations.



TfL announced further reform of **door-to-door services**, including a proposal to drop the five-mile limit on Dial-a-Ride journeys, as recommended by the Transport Committee in 2015.



In line with Environment Committee recommendations, the Mayor agreed to **accelerate ULEZ implementation in the central zone** (by a year to 2019) and to extend it in 2020.



In October 2016, the Mayor confirmed he would adopt a 'Vision Zero' approach to **road safety**, as recommended in the 2014 Transport Committee report on pedestrian safety, **Feet First**.



To avoid future confusion about the cost of **TfL's fares freeze**, the Mayor has agreed to publish a set of transparent basic fare income data and assumptions in advance of the 2020 Mayoral Election.



Following the **Mayoral and Assembly election** in May 2016, the Assembly made a series of suggestions to improve the process next time and to avoid the disenfranchisement issues experienced in Barnet.

About us

The London Assembly is your voice at City Hall—holding the Mayor to account.

Who we are

The London Assembly is part of the Greater London Authority (GLA) and is based at City Hall. The Assembly is made up of 25 Members who are elected by Londoners at the same time as the Mayor of London.

Eleven Assembly Members represent the whole of the capital and 14 represent constituencies which comprise of two or three London boroughs. A full list of your representatives for 2016—17 is available on page 60.

During 2016—17 the Assembly consisted of twelve Labour Members; eight Conservatives; two from the Green Party; two from the UK Independence Party; and one Liberal Democrat Member.

Assembly Members are supported by a Secretariat, which includes a Scrutiny Team to assist with policy research development and to ensure the public is made aware of the activities of the Assembly and its committees. In addition, a Committee Services team manages the administration and governance of this work. The Secretariat also includes staff who support each Assembly Member with their wider representative activities on behalf of constituents and Londoners.

Our role

The Mayor has to answer to Londoners at the ballot box every four years, but the job of the London Assembly is to ensure the Mayor is held accountable every day.

We hold the Mayor and Deputy Mayors to account by publicly examining the policies, activities and decisions that affect Londoners.

We question the Mayor's plans and actions directly at Mayor's Question Time and our committees examine issues that matter to Londoners through public meetings and investigations.

The Mayor is also required to consult Assembly Members ahead of producing statutory strategies and the £16 billion a year budget, which includes the GLA portion of your Council Tax.

In addition to City Hall duties, some Assembly Members also represent Londoners on the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA).

Mayor's Question Time

Mayor's Question Time—held ten times a year—is when the Mayor answers questions directly from Assembly Members. This is the most visible example of our scrutiny. Questions are asked on the full range of matters within the Mayor's remit, including housing, policing, transport and the environment.

Londoners can get involved in Mayor's Question Time by watching at City Hall, tuning in via webcast or YouTube, or by submitting questions for Members to ask the Mayor. In the last year 4,630 questions were asked of the Mayor.

Like all Assembly meetings, these sessions are held in public and broadcast online to ensure the maximum level of transparency and accountability. All questions and answers are published on our [website](#).



Mayor's Question Time at City Hall, May 2016

Motions and petitions

Assembly Members propose and vote on motions about issues of importance to the capital at Plenary meetings. Members can also agree to petition the Mayor or organisations within the GLA Group on behalf of Londoners.

Examples of Assembly motions this year include: urging the Mayor to fight homophobia and promote community cohesion following the mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando; offering to assist with investigations into the Croydon derailment; supporting a campaign for a national HIV memorial; and calling on the Mayor to write to the Chancellor to protect London from severe business rate rises.

Our committees

Our committees and how to get involved

Assembly Members are champions for London. They investigate issues that affect those who live, work and visit the capital and find ways to improve our city. The Assembly publishes reports recommending action by the Mayor, the GLA Group—including Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), the Old Oak Common and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and London & Partners (L&P)—central Government, local authorities and others.

The majority of London Assembly meetings are held in public and broadcast on the [London Assembly website](#) and [YouTube](#), so Londoners can see and hear what is being done on their behalf. The [BBC Parliament channel](#) also broadcasts our meetings.

The GLA has an active programme of engagement with schools, colleges and universities, encouraging students, as well as interested community groups, to come to City Hall to learn about London government and watch it in action at sessions like Mayor’s Question Time.

Members of the public who wish to attend Assembly meetings can find times and locations on our [public meetings calendar](#).

Other ways to get involved include:

- [Contact](#) Assembly Members directly to raise issues of concern.
- Tweet us [@LondonAssembly](#) or e-mail us at: LondonAssemblyNews@London.gov.uk
- Follow specific committee activity or join in the conversation on Twitter using: #AssemblyBudget, #AssemblyEconomy, #AssemblyEdu, #AssemblyEnv, #AssemblyOversight, #AssemblyHealth, #AssemblyHousing, #AssemblyPlanning, #AssemblyPolice, #AssemblyRegeneration #AssemblyTransport and #EUExit
- [Share](#) your views on current London Assembly investigation topics.
- [Suggest](#) a question for Mayor’s Question Time.

- Attend People’s Question Time—the bi-annual public event held at different locations across the capital, where Londoners can put their questions directly to the London Assembly and the Mayor.
- Watch our public meetings online via the [London Assembly website](#) or [YouTube](#).

In addition to the committees scrutinising the Mayor’s work—see a full list on page 17—we also explore the internal work of the GLA:

The **Audit Panel** focuses on the security and monitoring of financial systems. It helps promote good practice and ensures an anti-fraud culture within the GLA. It liaises with external auditors and the Mayor, as appropriate, to approve the annual internal audit programme. It considers reports on expenses incurred by elected Members and senior officers and gifts and hospitality received by elected Members and senior officers.

The **Confirmation Hearings Committee** examines Mayoral appointments. The Mayor must notify the Assembly when making important staff appointments and the Assembly has three weeks to respond with a recommendation as to whether the appointment should be confirmed. The Assembly may request that a candidate attends a Confirmation Hearing to answer questions about the appointment before making a recommendation.

During 2016—17, the committee met to approve Chairs for the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA); the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB); the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC); the Cultural Leadership Board; and the Deputy Chair of Transport for London (TfL).

Improving transparency

Transparency is one of our main priorities. Assembly committees scrutinise policy areas of GLA functional bodies and City Hall projects, so Londoners get the best value for money from their services.

The **GLA Oversight Committee** is responsible for scrutinising the internal processes of the GLA and monitoring City Hall budgets and procurements, and bringing this information into the public domain. The committee met nine times in 2016—17.

In November 2016, the Mayor appointed Ms Amy Lamé as London’s first Night Czar. Following this announcement, concerns were raised by Assembly Members about how Ms Lamé was recruited to the post. The GLA Oversight Committee examined the recruitment process to confirm the appointment was undertaken in line with the GLA’s processes and procedures and to

highlight concerns with the content of Ms Lamé's social media. Following that meeting and in response to questions raised, the Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries wrote to the committee to confirm that the relevant Twitter posts had been deleted and to clarify the legal basis for the recruitment process.

Other significant work on transparency was undertaken by the Budget and Performance and Regeneration Committees which revealed the escalating costs of the transformation of the Olympic Stadium.

With a new Mayor in post, the GLA Oversight Committee also played a role in reviewing the many proposals to restructure, expand or reduce teams in the GLA's establishment. A series of 'proposed changes to the GLA establishment' papers were considered and questions were raised about grading of roles and the costs of accommodating further teams at City Hall, Union Street or elsewhere.

Diversity and inclusion

In order to accurately reflect London's diversity and ensure a variety of perspectives inform our investigations, Assembly committees aim to attract a diverse range of guests to appear at formal meetings. Committees also strive to ensure that guests have a positive experience of the Assembly and are able to contribute fully to its work.

The Assembly continued to survey committee guests during 2016—17 to collect information on diversity characteristics and to invite feedback on the experience of appearing at a committee meeting. Since May 2015, the survey has been sent to all guests appearing before all Assembly committees.

There has also been a significant body of work undertaken in committees to ensure that London's public services serve the whole of its community. For example, our Health Committee looked at access to mental health services for marginalised communities including LGBT+ people; Deaf and disabled Londoners; and offenders. And in November 2016, the Transport Committee questioned TfL over the closure of ticket offices and raised a number of concerns relating to those with mobility support needs.

You can see further examples of the Assembly's work on equalities issues as part of the Mayor's [Annual Equality Report for 2016—17](#).

Events

As well as formal committee work, the London Assembly hosts a range of events to engage, celebrate, remember and challenge.

Engaging

Twice a year, Assembly Members and the Mayor hold People's Question Time, known as PQT. This evening event is open to all and gives Londoners an opportunity to ask their elected representatives what they are doing to improve life in their area. This year's events took place in Brent and Sutton.



People's Question Time in Brent, chaired by Navin Shah AM

In November 2016, over 600 Londoners attended the event at Brent Civic Centre. The most discussed topics on social media on the night were transport, crime and housing in London, and specifically, ticket office closures, hate crime, FGM and expenditure on the Garden Bridge. Watch the video of [Brent PQT](#).

During March, in Sutton, Assembly Members and the Mayor were joined by 680 Londoners and the venue reached full capacity. During the event, the topics of most concern to members of the public on social media were transport, environment and housing, and specifically the Croydon tram derailment, rail devolution, air pollution, Heathrow expansion and affordable housing. Watch the video of [Sutton PQT](#).



People's Question Time in Sutton, chaired by Steve O'Connell AM

Celebrating

The Chair of the London Assembly, who is elected by Assembly Members each year, is given the opportunity to host an annual reception to raise the profile of an issue of their choosing.

The 2016—17 Chairman, Tony Arbour AM, hosted an evening reception in February to celebrate the work of the thousands of volunteers who keep London's uniformed youth organisations running. The Chairman recognised the work of the volunteers who transform the lives of many young Londoners and noted that their dedication helps deliver four million hours of activities per year.

Around 200 adult volunteers, young people and stakeholders were invited to the event, which brought together representatives from the Air Training Corps, the Army Cadet Force, Girlguiding, the Boys' Brigade, the Girls' Brigade, the Fire Cadets, the Scouts, St John Ambulance, the Volunteer Police Cadets and more.



Assembly Chairman Tony Arbour AM with volunteers from London's uniformed youth organisations and the young people they serve

Remembering

The London Assembly has an important formal role in commemorating significant events.

On 23 March 2017, the London Assembly condemned the terrorist attack on Westminster during an emergency meeting at City Hall. The motion stated that terrorists will not change London's democratic way of life or undermine Londoners' tolerance and solidarity. The motion extended condolences to those affected by the attack and expressed the Assembly's gratitude to the emergency services.

In January, the Chair of the London Assembly, the Mayor of London and Assembly Members joined Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers, survivors of the Holocaust and the Cambodian genocide, and other Londoners at City Hall's annual Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony. Organised to remember victims of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide, and marking 72 years since the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, this year's theme was 'How Can Life Go On?' which considered the aftermath of such crimes.

View [photos](#) from the ceremony.

Each November, City Hall hosts an Annual Service of Remembrance for London's war dead. Representatives from the armed forces, the Royal British Legion, the emergency services and faith groups joined Assembly Members and the Mayor, as Chairman Tony Arbour AM opened the proceedings, before wreaths were laid at the City Hall War Memorial.



The Assembly's Remembrance Day Service, November 2016

In June, Assembly Members joined war veterans and representatives from the armed forces, military trusts and charities to mark Armed Forces Day with a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall. The ceremony is held each year to honour the bravery and commitment of London's past and present service personnel.

Challenging

In January, Deputy Chair Jennette Arnold OBE AM hosted the *London Assembly Tackling FGM Conference: an event for London's frontline practitioners*. The event included speakers from across the education, health and social care sectors as well as the Met Police and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. Roundtable sessions allowed practitioners from across London to hold open discussions about how they can work collaboratively to tackle Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).



The Tackling FGM Conference brought together London's frontline practitioners, helping them to work collaboratively to end FGM

The work of our committees

This section details more about the activities of the London Assembly committees during 2016—17.

Some committees, such as the Transport Committee, have a clearly defined role looking at a specific area of the Mayor’s remit, where he has statutory powers. Others, such as the Health or Economy Committees, look at some of the less formal powers of the Mayor, including the ability to influence Government.

At its annual meeting in May each year, the Assembly establishes its committee structure, memberships and terms of reference. During 2016—17 the London Assembly formed the following committees:

- Audit Panel
- Budget and Performance Committee
- Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee
- Confirmation Hearings Committee
- Economy Committee
- Environment Committee
- GLA Oversight Committee
- Health Committee
- Housing Committee
- Planning Committee
- Police and Crime Committee
- Regeneration Committee
- Transport Committee

The following were also formed:

- Devolution Working Group
- Education Panel
- Election Review Panel
- EU Exit Working Group

You can find a summary of London Assembly achievements this year on pages 6—7 and our plans for 2017—18 on pages 58—59.

1. Money, money, money

The **Budget and Performance Committee** scrutinises how the Mayor spends the £16 billion budget for London. This important work is supported by the specialist Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee. The two committees examine the expenditure and performance of the main areas of spending within the GLA and its functional bodies including: Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

Scrutinising the budget for London

The Budget and Performance Committee has the responsibility of examining the Mayor's draft budget before it is voted on by the whole of the Assembly.

As part of this scrutiny, the committee publishes its [Pre-Budget Report](#) every year. The report sets out the key financial issues facing the Mayor as he prepares the budget for London. In its report, the committee highlighted concerns over TfL's finances, uncertainty over business rates income, and a perceived lack of transparency from the Mayor's team in agreeing the budget for the next year. It also examined the thinking behind the Mayor's increase in Council Tax, the first such increase since 2008.

In January 2017, the committee concluded its scrutiny of the Mayor's budget proposals, publishing its [Response to the Mayor's draft consultation budget 2017–18](#). This made a final round of recommendations for the Mayor and flagged any outstanding issues, such as the terms of West Ham United Football Club's lease for the London Stadium.

In addition, the committee expressed concerns over the finances of the LLDC and the OPDC and stressed the ongoing challenging financial positions of the Metropolitan Police Service and TfL. It also reiterated a lack of transparency in certain elements of the budget process, particularly with regards to the inconsistent presentation of savings and efficiencies, as well as a 40 per cent reduction in funding for the OPDC.

In his response to the report, the Mayor provided additional information about funding for the police and committed to providing further information about funding for environmental priorities. The Mayor also confirmed that he was doubling contingency funding for the OPDC from £1 million to £2 million.

TfL finances and the fares freeze pledge

In September, the committee published the findings of its investigation into TfL's financial position. The committee had examined how TfL planned to do more with less—reduce costs and generate additional income whilst passenger numbers increased and service expansions went ahead. It also looked at the implications of the Mayor's manifesto commitments, including the pledge to freeze fares for four years.

The report, [Transport for London's financial challenge](#), concluded that the Mayor's commitments to freeze fares, protect concessions and introduce the bus hopper ticket have put extra pressure on TfL's finances, already under strain because of government funding cuts and the fallout of the failed signalling contract with Bombardier. The committee was particularly concerned about the risks to TfL's capital investment programme, and challenged TfL to provide more detail on its savings plans.

Fighting crime without CCTV

Following Westminster Council's decision to withdraw its funding for CCTV in the borough, the Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee and the Budget and Performance Committee held sessions with the Metropolitan Police Service to discuss the funding of CCTV systems across London and the implications for fighting crime around the capital if other councils follow suit. In the October 2016 session, MOPAC and the Met committed to working together to find an immediate solution to Westminster's funding issue and consider whether a pan-London approach was needed to fund CCTV across the capital.



The Met has already made £1 billion of property sales, and is planning for more

Policing London with no increased budget

In October 2016, the committee assessed a drive by the Metropolitan Police to find efficiency savings. The Met needs to identify a further £400 million of savings by 2020, having already taken £600 million of costs out of its budget. The committee examined the Met's progress with its estates, information technology, and commercial strategies.

London Stadium spiralling costs

The Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee examined the rising costs of the London Stadium with the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) in December. Media reports suggested that the costs of the stadium had risen by an additional £51 million—a figure confirmed by the LLDC's Chief Executive during the meeting. The LLDC told the committee this would be the final cost increase for the stadium, and that the additional costs were primarily the result of having to appoint a new contractor after the previous contractor went bankrupt.

2. Watching the wheels in London

Tubes, trains, buses, trams, taxis and minicabs, walking, cycling and roads all make up the complex transport structure in London.

The **Transport Committee** examines all aspects of the capital's transport system in order to press for improvements for Londoners. The committee pays particular attention to how the Mayor's Transport Strategy is being implemented, and looks closely at the work of Transport for London and other transport operators.

Grid-locked London – the congestion question

In 2014–15, central London traffic experienced a total annual delay of 4.9 million minutes per kilometre of road. After a long period of stability, traffic volumes have increased in all areas of London.

As part of its investigation, the committee commissioned a survey of Londoners to learn about their experience of congestion and hear their views on charging for road use. The survey showed there is strong support for road pricing, bringing significant new evidence to the debate.



Transport Committee Members toured the Surface Traffic Control Centre on a visit to the TfL Palestra offices

In January, the Transport Committee published its report, [London Stalling](#), which called on the Mayor to reform the Congestion Charge and ultimately replace it with a road pricing scheme and introduce measures to reduce delivery van traffic and the impact of roadworks.

The report encouraged widespread debate in the media. The Mayor and Transport for London (TfL) have confirmed that a number of the committee's recommendations are being taken forward. This includes a restriction on staff receiving personal deliveries at TfL premises, efforts to establish more delivery consolidation centres, and moving toward partnerships with multiple retailers for 'click and collect' services at stations. Subsequently the draft Mayor's Transport Strategy set out the Mayor's intention to consider a new road pricing scheme, as recommended by the committee.

Both Steve O'Connell AM of the GLA Conservatives and David Kurten AM of UKIP have minority views on this report.

Oxford Street – a feet only street?

Every hour, 270 buses travel along Oxford Street. Between January 2012 and September 2015 a pedestrian was involved in a collision on Oxford Street approximately every seven days.



500,000 pedestrians walk Oxford Street every day

During its investigation, the committee explored how the Mayor could fulfil his manifesto commitment to pedestrianise Oxford Street, looking at the implications for road users and retailers and factoring in pedestrian safety and road congestion.

Committee Members discovered that the Mayor is planning to pedestrianise Oxford Street by 2020, setting out detailed timings that had not been made public.

Having met with representatives of local businesses, residents, road users, TfL and Westminster City Council, in September 2016 the committee published [a letter](#) to the Mayor spelling out what it believed needed to be done to make the pedestrianisation plan achievable. It recommended innovative changes to bus routes and service patterns, including an immediate priority for TfL to reduce the number of buses on Oxford Street without creating additional congestion elsewhere.

Holding TfL to account

Increasing passenger numbers, rising congestion, Tube station staffing issues, the need to make £4 billion of savings over the next five years—the committee recognised the mounting pressures on London’s transport system and questioned TfL Commissioner, Mike Brown, in March to find out how TfL is responding, to ensure the system continues to function efficiently for Londoners.

Committee Members questioned the Commissioner about a range of strategic transport issues, including TfL's emerging approach to the regulation of the private hire industry, priorities for new cycling infrastructure, delays in the Tube upgrade programme, and future plans for the staffing of Tube stations.



Transport Committee Members took a look behind-the-scenes at the major upgrades of London Bridge station

London's buses

The committee investigated London's buses in early 2016, considering both safety and the planning of the bus network. The work on safety explored the causes of a rise in collisions involving buses, with the committee speaking to victims of collisions, bus drivers and operators. In a forthcoming report, the committee will recommend ways TfL can incentivise safety. For network planning, the committee identified the need to increase bus capacity in outer London and offer passengers faster services on major corridors.

Night Tube, ticket office closures and Heathrow expansion

During November and December 2016, the committee scrutinised major new developments in transport when Committee Members questioned TfL about the initial rollout of the Night Tube, highlighting concerns from some residents about noise, and the effects of the Tube ticket office closure programme.

In December 2016, the committee examined the Government's plans for expanding Heathrow Airport, raising concerns about the lack of planning and investment in new surface transport schemes to accommodate a large growth in passenger numbers, staff and freight movements.

3. Law and order

The **Police and Crime Committee** examines the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) - which oversees the Metropolitan Police and produces London's Police and Crime Plan, the four-year blueprint for tackling crime in the capital.

The committee meets formally, in public, twice a month. One of these meetings is used for a question and answer (Q&A) session with representatives from the Metropolitan Police and MOPAC on current issues; the other is to consider a particular topic or aspect of policing and crime in greater detail, hearing from a range of guests and often resulting in a report with recommendations for the Mayor.

Tackling electoral fraud after Tower Hamlets

During 2015, there were 481 recorded cases of electoral fraud across the UK—111 of these related to London.

In the run up to the 2014 Tower Hamlets Mayoral election, 164 allegations of electoral fraud were made. Following an election petition alleging corrupt practices, the High Court ruled that there had been a variety of corrupt and illegal practices and the election was made void, but no criminal prosecutions followed.

In response to public concern, the committee investigated the difficulties involved in tackling election fraud and malpractice in London. Following its review, the committee [wrote to MOPAC](#) to request further investigation into the work carried out by the Met in relation to the Tower Hamlets Mayoral Election.



The Committee found that investigations into electoral fraud in London were not undertaken to the highest possible standards

In a significant move, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime implemented the committee's recommendation and wrote to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to request an independent investigation. In addition, the committee's work prompted the Met to launch its own investigation, Operation Lynemouth, to look at whether there is sufficient evidence to mount criminal prosecutions related to the 2014 Tower Hamlets Mayoral Election.ⁱ

ⁱ The Met is carrying out a four strand investigation, overseen by HMIC, with a team of specialist investigators looking at the totality of alleged criminal offending, including examining 27 files arising from the Election Court to ascertain whether those files contain anything that changes the previous advice from the Crown Prosecution Service, changes the decisions made by the Metropolitan Police Service, or requires further investigation.

Policing Europe’s largest street carnival

Notting Hill Carnival hits the headlines every year, but often for the wrong reasons. Following reports that arrests at Notting Hill Carnival had reached record levels, the committee carried out an urgent piece of work looking at the existing policing and security arrangements to identify any improvements that could be made to keep people safe.

The committee was concerned to find that while the number of crimes at Carnival has risen over recent years, what is most significant is the rise in serious and violent incidents. The Met Police recorded 151 offences of violence against the person at Carnival in 2016, an 86 per cent increase on 2010. Overcrowding also poses a significant safety risk, with the Met Police warning of a potentially “catastrophic public safety incident” which could result in loss of life. Putting these two issues together, the report, [*Notting Hill Carnival: safer and better*](#), concluded that there is a very real threat of serious harm to a large number of people.

The investigation created the impetus for MOPAC to commission a major review of crowd management arrangements at Carnival and of how the Carnival is run.



The cost of policing and stewarding Notting Hill Carnival exceeded £8 million in 2016

The rise of serious youth violence

The number of victims of serious youth violence in the capital has increased by over 20 per cent in just four years, to over 6,000 in 2015—16. Half of all reports of youth violence involved a knife. A key reason for the increase, particularly of knife crime, is the belief among young people that they need to be prepared to defend themselves.

The committee investigated the issue of serious youth violence and in particular the increase in knife crime among young people. Its report, [Serious Youth Violence](#), was published in September 2016.

The report concluded that if a serious incident occurs, there needs to be a concerted effort by the police and other agencies to reassure young people that they are safe and to tackle the immediate sense of danger. This may be through intelligence-led stop and search, more visible patrols, or by agencies working with local youth clubs and schools.

The report received widespread media interest—and helped to bring the rise of serious youth violence to the attention of the public and policy makers.



Police and Crime Committee Chairman Steve O'Connell AM speaks to BBC London about the rise in serious youth violence

Violence against Women and Girls

Through its investigation into how Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) can be better addressed and victims better supported, the committee found that reports of VAWG in London are rising, as victims gain confidence to come forward. This is to be welcomed, but increased reporting has not translated into increased action against alleged perpetrators.

The low level of action against perpetrators suggests that the Met has struggled to keep up with the increase in reports. In the year to September 2016, for example, there were over 70,000 domestic offences reported, but only 28 per cent of these resulted in a charge, caution or other outcome. This compares to 41 per cent of the 48,000 offences reported in the year to September 2012.

The committee's report, [Violence Against Women and Girls](#), published in November 2016, concluded that while the increase in reporting should be seen as a success, there is a risk that public confidence will be lost if the resources available cannot meet demand. The report called on the Mayor to provide visible leadership on the issue and to ensure that services meet demand.

The Mayor has committed to a refresh of the current VAWG strategy, and to a campaign to raise awareness of the issues and tackle unacceptable attitudes towards women and girls.

London's Police and Crime Plan

In February 2017, the committee published its response to the Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan.

The response made a number of recommendations asking the Mayor to amend parts of the plan, or consider certain issues in more detail. It stressed that the final plan, and subsequent strategies, should build and inspire confidence both of the police in its leadership, and of the public in the police's ability to respond to their needs.

The Mayor's final plan, which was published at the end of March, adopted many of the suggestions made by the committee. For example, it committed to specific work in the areas of custody healthcare and mental health—issues that the committee has been raising concerns about for some time.

Getting answers from the Met

Once a month, the committee publicly questions the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and a senior representative from the Met at City Hall—this is often the Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner.

The Q&A sessions are a platform for the committee to publicly hold the Mayor's Office and the Met to account and ask topical questions in a public forum. The committee is in a unique position to do this and the meetings are regularly broadcast on TV and attended by journalists.

Issues raised during Q&A sessions this year have included: moped and motorbike-enabled crime; neighbourhood policing; the use of spit guards in custody suites; the rise in hate crime; and the appointment of a new Commissioner.



The Committee publicly questioning former Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe; Deputy Commissioner, Craig Mackey; and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden

4. In residence

The **Housing Committee** scrutinises the Mayor's role and record in delivering the homes London needs.

The Mayor has specific responsibilities for strategic housing, regeneration and economic development. These include producing a statutory housing strategy, providing new affordable homes, improving existing social rented homes, managing a portfolio of public land and delivering regeneration projects.

In the hot seat: the new Deputy Mayor for Housing

London experiences a lack of genuinely affordable homes, rising rents, a growing number of empty properties, increasing homelessness, and a population growing by 100,000 every year. London's housing crisis became the focus of the Mayoral election debates in 2016 and continues to dominate news in the capital.

In June, the committee publicly questioned the newly-appointed Deputy Mayor for Housing—one of the most high profile roles in the new administration—to gain an early insight into his thinking. Although his policies were still embryonic, two hours of public discussion so early in his term of office were of great interest to the London housing community.

Housing vulnerable adults

Supported housing provides homes for some of the most vulnerable people in our society—these include people with physical or learning disabilities, frail and older people, people at risk of domestic violence, young people leaving care and homeless people.

As the Government reviews how supported housing is funded, the committee took the opportunity to investigate the current supply and demand for supported housing in the capital and the implications of changes to rent levels and Housing Benefit.



Supported housing offers vulnerable people security and choice in their accommodation

In November, the committee published its report, [Supported Housing in the Balance](#), which assessed the challenges facing supported housing in the capital. It highlighted worrying concerns that hundreds of the most vulnerable Londoners will face an uncertain future, unless the Mayor and the Government act immediately to rectify the situation. The report discovered an

underspend of £23.4 million in the Mayor's Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund (MCSSHF) which funds supported housing.

A home for the birds and the bees

The Housing Committee's report, [*At Home with Nature: Encouraging biodiversity in new housing developments*](#), explored how new housing can be provided in London without losing green spaces and damaging natural wildlife habitats. The report was a rapporteur investigation undertaken on behalf of the committee by Leonie Cooper AM. It recommended that the Mayor amend the London Plan to ensure biodiversity is enhanced and created, not just protected, in new housing developments. It was launched with a tour of the viewing platform at the One Tower Bridge development, where beehives on the roof can be observed.

The Mayor has agreed that London will trial a Green Space Factor, one of the report's recommendations.



Beehives on the roof of One Tower Bridge – a successful example of incorporating biodiversity initiatives in new housing developments

Affordable housing and estate generation

The Housing Committee issued a joint response with the Planning Committee on behalf of the Assembly to the Mayor's Draft Affordable Housing and Viability Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) Consultation. The response noted that the Draft SPG contained a number of policy recommendations put forward by Assembly Committees over the period 2011–2016.

In March 2017, the committee published its response to the Mayor's draft Good Practice Guide to Estate Regeneration. The draft contained a number of

policy recommendations put forward by the Housing Committee in 2015 and the committee recognised that the guidance made a positive contribution to estate regeneration best practice.

A voice for London's hidden homeless

There are thousands of homeless people in London, but official figures only tell half the story. Some estimates suggest that as many as one in five 16 to 25 year olds in the UK have been 'hidden homeless' in the past year.

The 'hidden homeless' remain under the radar and uncounted because they often do not approach local councils or support services, relying instead on friends or family and 'sofa surfing' because they have no secure accommodation and nowhere to call home. During the March meeting, the committee gave a voice to some of these vulnerable Londoners, providing a public forum for them to tell their story and highlight a growing problem in the capital. Experts and practitioners also gave their views and answered questions from the committee.

5. The big picture

The Mayor of London also has a significant strategic role in planning—producing the London Plan, which sets out the framework for how London will develop over the next 20—25 years, and making a final decision on many large-scale developments. The **Planning Committee** has an ongoing role in evaluating the Mayor's changes to the London Plan and his use of planning powers.

Planning for London's growth

London faces a number of complex infrastructure challenges arising from population growth. Demand for energy supplies in the capital is set to increase by 20 per cent by 2050. Thames Water projects demand for water will exceed supply by 10 per cent by 2025. It has been predicted that London's population will exceed 10 million by 2036 and will require infrastructure investment of around £1.3 trillion from now until 2050.

The Planning Committee met in October to discuss London's infrastructure challenge to find out what infrastructure London needs in energy, water and broadband, in the medium—long term (2020—30) to meet demand. In March the committee examined sustainable ways to provide housing without compromising on quality.

The London Plan

In June, the Planning Committee examined how the Mayor expected to revise the London Plan to reflect London's growth, and to what extent he will incorporate his own housing, employment and infrastructure policy priorities within it.

Building homes off-site

London needs another 49,000—80,000 homes per year to cope with the projected population growth of a million in the next ten years. Yet, London is delivering less than half, and some years only a quarter, of the new homes it needs annually.



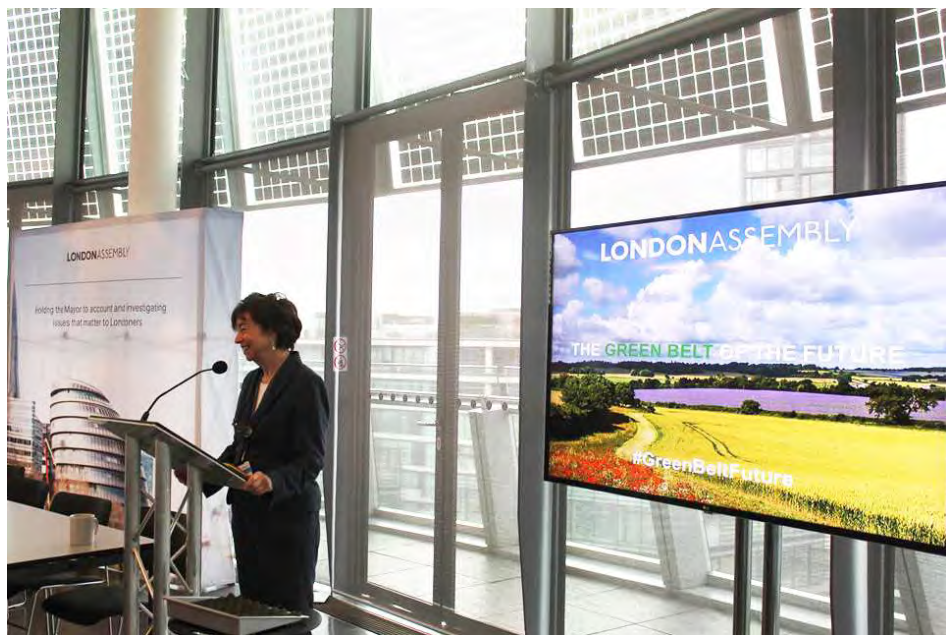
Modular housing in Mitcham

A number of studies have sought to identify the barriers to housing production, with one of the prominent factors being the capacity of the 'traditional' housebuilding industry to delivery.

This year, the committee began a rapporteur review of the potential of off-site manufactured housing to help solve London's housing crisis and to identify the factors that have prevented, and are still preventing, the adoption of this type of housing more widely.

The Green Belt of the Future

London's Green Belt is an issue that divides opinion across the country. With an increasing need to balance population growth while ensuring quality of life, the value of the Green Belt to Londoners is increasingly under pressure.



Planning Committee Chair, Nicky Gavron AM, hosting the Green Belt of the Future seminar at City Hall

In February 2017, the Planning Committee hosted a seminar at City Hall about the future of the Green Belt. Speakers, panellists and delegates reaffirmed a commitment to protect the Green Belt and share ideas about how we can improve the value of London's Green Belt land so that its benefits are shared by all Londoners.

[Watch the seminar video](#)

6. Getting down to business

The **Economy Committee** scrutinises the work of the Mayor relating to economic development, wealth creation, social development, culture, sport and tourism in London, including the Mayor's role as chair of the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP). This year, the committee has also been keeping a close watch on the impact of Brexit to ensure London's voice is heard over the course of the debate and during the negotiation process.

Setting the economic scene

In June, the committee discussed the current state of London's economy with a panel of experts, focusing on the key economic challenges and priorities for the new Mayor.

Guests set out what they considered to be key challenges and priorities for the new Mayor, including low pay and in-work poverty, flexible working including temporary and zero-hour contracts, addressing the skills gap, the cost and supply of workspace and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



Economy Committee Members visited Pullens Yards to discuss the main challenges facing SMEs in accessing workspace

The Brexit effect

Twelve per cent of London's population are from EU countries and 13 per cent—or 600,000—of the five million jobs in London are held by workers born in EU countries.

Responding to the outcome of the EU referendum, the committee recognised that Brexit presented both threats and opportunities for London along with an immediate period of volatility and uncertainty. The committee adjusted its work programme to create space to examine this vital issue by looking at key themes and sectors.

Continuing this work with a series of four meetings from October to December, the committee first took a more in-depth look at the impact of Brexit on the financial services sector and SMEs; before examining workers' rights; the impact on big businesses; and finally, the short and long-term

effects on migration and migration policy. This large body of work culminated in three reports:

- **Financial services** – the report, [EU exit and financial services](#), set out the key asks for London, in order to ensure the continued success of this vital part of the UK economy.
- **Labour market** – the Committee’s February report, [EU exit: workers’ rights and the London labour market](#), set out robust approaches to support low paid workers in a post-Brexit London.
- **EU migration** – later in February, the committee identified the risks and opportunities that might come from changes to immigration policy post-Brexit in its report, [EU migration](#).



Economy Committee Chair, Fiona Twycross AM, speaking to London Live about the Committee’s work on the impacts of the UK leaving the EU

Improving apprenticeships

A number of worrying trends have emerged about how London’s apprenticeship numbers stack up in terms of ethnicity, gender, disability and age groups.

Furthermore, despite having the second largest apprenticeship population in England, London is consistently among the worst performers in numbers of apprenticeship starts regionally. Last year, London had the second lowest number of apprenticeship starts across England with 45,550, compared to the best performing North West region with 79,310.



16 per cent of women said they were out of work at the end of their apprenticeship – compared to 6 per cent of men

Recognising the need for change, the committee published its report, [*Apprenticeships: an un-level playing field*](#), in January. The report flagged that more than a quarter of all apprentices fail to finish their training and achievement rates are declining more quickly for apprentices from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. It also highlighted that BAME and female apprentices tend to be clustered in low level, low pay apprenticeships.

Local news provision in London

Falling print readership and a decline in advertising income has led to a sharp fall in newspaper revenues, and local news groups struggle to hold on to local advertising revenues, leading to some newspaper owners restructuring and making staff cutbacks. In March, the committee looked at local news provision in London, how it has changed over the past decade, what is driving the changes and what impact this will have on the civic engagement and local accountability.

7. Talking about regeneration

The **Regeneration Committee** was established in 2013 to examine the Mayor's regeneration plans and spending decisions, including oversight of the Mayor's Development Corporations—the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

Culture-led regeneration

Culture accounts for one in six jobs in the capital and London has seen many impressive examples of areas that have been turned around through a process of culture-led regeneration.

The Cultural and Education District within the Olympic Park, for example, is set to deliver 3,000 jobs, 1.5 million additional visitors and £2.8 billion of economic value.

The Mayor has said he wants to embed cultural objectives into all his regeneration interventions in order to improve community participation and bolster social integration.



The Economy Committee met with Creative Barking and Dagenham to learn about their work with local artists and the community. Photo credit: Jimmy Lee Photography

The committee's report, [*Creative tensions: Optimising the benefits of culture through regeneration*](#), published in March, found that regeneration programmes, which now cover large areas of London, can put the capital's cultural offer at risk and that rising property prices—due to the regeneration of an area—are forcing some communities out, when they are part of the reason for that regeneration. It recommended that the Mayor should develop a bold programme to create and promote sustainable culture in the capital.

Crowd-funding for regeneration

In 2015, it was estimated that US\$34 billion worldwide was raised through crowdfunding to support local good causes. In October, the committee looked at the potential for crowdfunding to deliver locally-led regeneration programmes and reviewed the Mayor's Civic Crowdfunding Programme. The Programme offers local groups the opportunity to propose and crowdfund

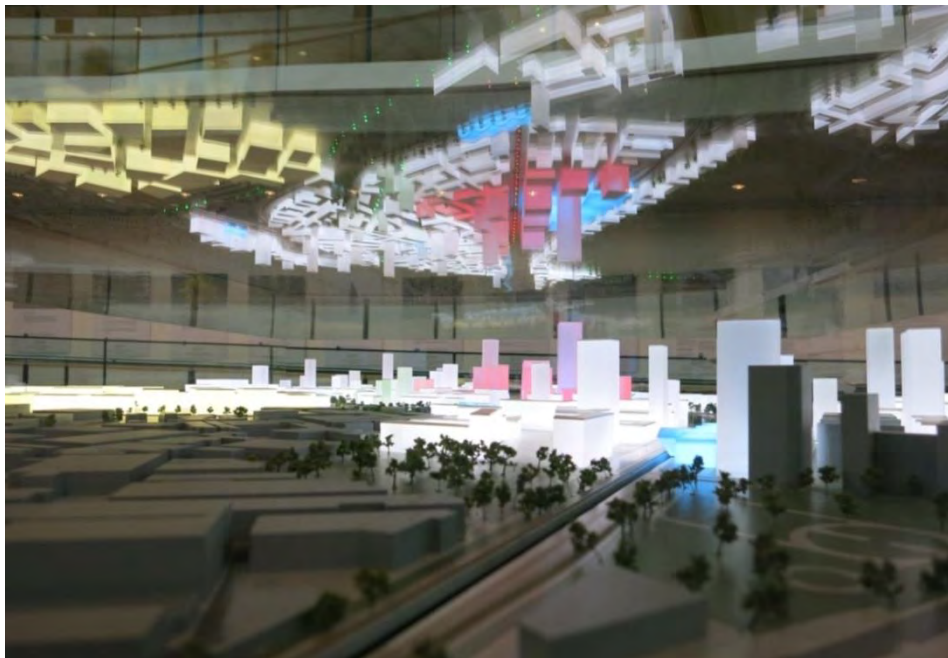
projects that will ‘improve their neighbourhood for the benefit of the wider community’.

Monitoring London’s major regeneration projects

Visiting major regeneration projects to keep a check on Mayoral spending and to identify lessons for other projects across London is an important part of the committee’s work.

Some of the most significant and wide ranging regeneration powers the Mayor has are exercised through his two Mayoral Development Corporations, and so these are an important focus of the committee’s ongoing scrutiny work. Over the past year the committee continued its scrutiny of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), as they lead on regeneration in their respective areas in East and West London.

Formed in April 2012, the LLDC’s purpose is to use the opportunity of the London 2012 Games to drive growth and investment in East London. The OPDC was launched on 1 April 2015 to secure the benefits of the regeneration and development of Old Oak and Park Royal. Both are Mayoral Development Corporations, and therefore are directly accountable to Londoners through the Mayor.



A model of the Old Oak and Park Royal development area

At a meeting in December 2016, the committee sought to hear why the Mayor had commissioned a review of the OPDC, which had stalled progress on the planned development.

At a meeting in January 2017, the committee reviewed the progress and finances of the LLDC, with a focus on long-term vision and its collaboration with surrounding areas.

Members frequently visit the sites to monitor progress and ensure Londoners are receiving value for money. For example, the committee visited the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in November to receive an update on the work of the LLDC. Senior officers gave Members an update on controversial issues in the Park—including escalating costs linked to the transformation of the Olympic Stadium, the financial viability of the ArcelorMittal Orbit and proposals to locate concrete batching plants in the Park. More than 10,000 Londoners had signed a petition objecting to the plans. In January 2017, as part of the committee’s investigation into culture, the committee met with artists and residents of Hackney Wick, Fish Island and Stratford to discuss the regeneration of the Olympic Park as seen from their neighbourhoods.

8. In good health

The **Health Committee** examines health and wellbeing across London, with a particular focus on public health issues and reviewing the progress of the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy.

Mental health inequalities

This year the committee launched a major investigation into mental health inequalities in London, focusing on the experiences and needs of three marginalised groups: LGBT+ communities; disabled people and Deaf people; and offenders and ex-offenders. The committee will draw on this work to influence the London Health Board's mental health review.

LGBT+ mental health

Gay and bisexual men are four times more likely to commit suicide than the rest of the population and 40 per cent of LGBT+ people experience a mental health issue, compared with 25 per cent of the wider population.



The Health Committee's LGBT+ mental health event featured speakers from Mind, Metro charity, Public Health England, CliniQ and London Southbank University

In October 2016, the committee hosted an LGBT+ mental health event at City Hall. Over 60 delegates from health providers, LGBT+ organisations and mental health services heard from speakers on issues facing these communities and how the Mayor could support better mental health for all Londoners. The event generated significant interest on social media and was very positively received by stakeholders. The findings were delivered to the London Health Board to assist in the development of the Mayor's mental health roadmap.

On 1 February, at the beginning of LGBT History Month, the Health Committee published its report, [LGBT+ Mental Health](#).

Disabled people and Deaf people

Deaf people are twice as likely to suffer from depression as hearing people and one in three people with chronic physical impairment experiences a mental health problem, compared to one in four in the wider population.



The Health Committee visited Springfield Hospital in Tooting, which provides specialist services for Deaf adults and children with mental health needs

In January, the committee discussed with a panel of experts the ongoing challenges faced by disabled and Deaf people and how the wider determinants of health—employment, education, housing and transport—contributed to social isolation and increased the risk of mental ill health in these groups.

In March, the Health Committee visited Springfield Hospital and the National Deaf Mental Health Service, to find out about specialist support for Deaf people. The committee met with service users and the team that supports them, to discuss access to local mental health services and new innovations.

Diagnosing HIV

London is currently home to 40 per cent of the UK's diagnosed HIV population, with over 2,500 new cases diagnosed each year. The committee discussed the importance of early diagnosis with a range of experts, and heard that almost four in ten diagnoses in London were late, with significant implications for illness, mortality and onward transmission.

Following the meeting, the committee [wrote](#) to the Mayor, welcoming his manifesto commitment to focus on HIV prevention and screening, and making a number of suggestions for further action. In particular, the committee urged the Mayor to use his position to increase awareness of HIV and encourage more people to get tested.

The Mayor responded by thanking the committee for helping to raise the profile of one of London's most pressing public health issues, and committed to supporting the pan-London Do It London HIV prevention campaign and to using the profile of City Hall to help bolster the campaign.

TfL's role in promoting healthy transport

Transport is one of the key determinants of good health, and the Mayor and TfL have significant potential to improve Londoners' health by supporting them to choose active travel options. The committee examined TfL's role in promoting health in London, urging the Mayor to ensure that healthy transport was available across the capital, and ambitious targets set for increasing active travel. The committee [wrote](#) to the Mayor in November to help inform the development of the Mayor's Transport Strategy, which has included healthy transport as a central component.

London's suicide spike

Every week, an average of 14 Londoners end their own lives. Between 2014 and 2015, the number of deaths by suicide in London increased by 33 per cent from 552 to 735 incidents – the highest figure recorded by the ONS since records began in 2002.

In February, the committee published its findings and recommendations to the Mayor of London on how he can provide better support for suicide prevention in the capital. The [letter](#) recommends that London should become a 'zero-suicide' city (first adopted in Detroit), preventing suicide by creating an open environment for people to talk and find out where they can get help.

The future of the NHS

The NHS and local councils have formed partnerships in 44 areas covering all of England, with the aim of improving health and social care.

Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) could bring significant changes to how health and social care services operate in London. In response, the committee looked at how STPs are being developed and delivered across the capital, and their potential impacts, to ensure that health inequalities are not increased by the proposed changes. The committee will be writing to the Mayor to help inform his further work in this area.

9. Our environment

The **Environment Committee** examines all aspects of the capital's environment by reviewing the Mayor's strategies and action on air quality, water, waste, climate change and energy. It also considers what additional measures could be taken to help improve Londoners' quality of life.

The air pollution crisis

During 2016—17, tackling air pollution has gained recognition as potentially London's greatest challenge. With 9,500 Londoners dying prematurely each year due to the capital's poor air quality, and numerous other impacts, the need to clean up London's dirty air is acute.

Following recommendations from the Environment Committee, the Mayor has taken forward his manifesto commitments to consult on measures to tackle air pollution in London—specifically on improvements to the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and a new Emissions Surcharge (known as the T-Charge).

The committee has been consistent in encouraging the Mayor to bring in the ULEZ sooner and expand it to cover a wider area. The Mayor has heeded these recommendations and in 2016—17 consulted on bringing forward the central ULEZ (to 2019, in the main proposal) and expanding it (to within the North and South Circular roads for light vehicles, and London-wide for heavy vehicles, in the main proposal).

Burst water-gate

During the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017, London was hit with a spate of water mains bursts and leaks across many areas including Islington, Blackheath, Stoke Newington, Downham, South Kensington, Ickenham and Bexley High Street, to name a few. The problem caused anguish and financial strain for home owners, renters and businesses, as premises in the affected areas were evacuated and millions of pounds worth of damage was reported.

In January, the committee adjusted its work programme to accommodate this current issue. It publicly questioned Thames Water and representatives from affected boroughs about the causes of the flooding, the response to incidents and how warning signs are dealt with, as well as water mains maintenance and investment, and flood risk from other sources such as rainfall.

Senior representatives from Thames Water told the committee that they “didn't respond quickly enough to assess and resolve the situation” following a high-profile incident in Stoke Newington and admitted their maintenance was “not good enough.”

Influencing the Mayor's environmental agenda

The committee has sought to influence the incoming Environmental Strategy to ensure it addressed the appropriate priorities for London. Air pollution levels and accommodating population growth of 100,000 annually are key challenges. The committee discussed a number of key issues with guests including; managing waste; carbon reduction, energy and London's built environment; green space and water management.

It also met with the newly-appointed Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, in October, to learn how the environmental priorities of the current Mayor differ from those of the former Mayor.

Londoners feel the noise

In March, the committee learned about the negative environmental impacts of noise from the Tube, and in particular, the Night Tube. Members heard testimony from Londoners who have been affected, as they spoke about the financial implications of being unable to rent their homes, having to move into temporary accommodation and the ill health caused by Tube noise. The meeting explored how complaints are handled, mitigation by maintenance and engineering and how this previously-neglected issue can be addressed.

The committee also discussed the environmental impacts of the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport with guests from Heathrow Airport Limited and environmental campaigners.

Park life

The capital's green spaces offer environmental, physical, mental, social and economic benefits for Londoners. Due to cuts in local authority budgets, however, the quality and accessibility of our green spaces, and their associated benefits, are now at risk.

In December 2016 and January 2017, the committee heard evidence towards its review of green spaces in London. The committee also received a huge number of contributions from organisations and individuals on the topic, including over a thousand submissions through the campaigning organisation, 38 Degrees. This is the highest number of submissions for an Assembly contribution on record.



The Environment Committee visited St. Mary's Secret Garden in Hackney, a community garden for vulnerable people and members of the local community

10. London's learning and the votes are in

The role of the **Education Panel** is to review and investigate the development and delivery of the Mayor's education policies.

Following each Mayoral and Assembly election, the Assembly reviews the process to learn lessons to better improve the voter experience and to ensure the electoral process runs efficiently. This is the role of the **Election Review Panel**.

The school places crisis

Through a series of meetings, the Mayor's role in the rapidly changing schools landscape was examined. The Education Panel assessed how the sector is coping with current challenges, including the need for over 47,000 new secondary places in the next five years and the risk of losing funding under a proposed new National Funding Formula.

In July 2016, the Chair wrote to the Mayor urging him to address the ongoing school places crisis, ensuring that London receives a fair funding settlement from the Government, maintaining a strong regional identity in both schools and the Further Education sector to help drive improvements in pupil attainment and teaching quality.

Teacher shortage

In November, the Panel flagged the teacher shortage facing schools in London and examined the increasing challenge of training and retaining teachers.

Under the Government's new National Funding Formula for schools, it is estimated up to 70 per cent of London schools will see their funding reduced over the next two years. The formula, proposed for introduction April 2018, will see significant re-allocation of funding from London to other parts of the country. In February, the Panel highlighted the likely impact of the proposals on London schools and sent a cross-party response to the Secretary of State, setting out measures that needed to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts on London's schools.

London elects

The Election Review Panel's report, [*The 2016 Mayor and London Assembly Elections*](#), was published in November 2016 and highlighted that nearly two thirds (64.6 per cent), or over 32,000 of rejected first-choice votes, were due to people voting for too many candidates as their first choice. The report recommended that guidance/explanation options should be tested with voters in order to improve clarity and reduce rejected votes.

In response to the problem of incorrect electoral registers being sent out to polling stations in Barnet, the Panel also recommended that for the 2020 GLA election, every polling station should be prepared to record any incident in a log book, including any person's name and address if they are unable to vote for any reason.

11. A voice for the capital during Brexit

The **EU Exit Working Group** was established to examine the effects of the referendum result on London and Londoners and to ensure that the capital's voice is heard in the negotiations.

The UK's exit from the EU

Brexit is arguably one of the most urgent and pressing issues facing London and the UK economy.

Following the referendum result in June 2016 there has been deep uncertainty surrounding the UK's future relationship with the European Union.

The EU Exit Working Group was established to co-ordinate the work of the Assembly on the issue of Brexit and to provide a contact point for sectors and other bodies seeking to contribute to the debate.

The Working Group held a meeting in public in November to discuss the prospect of a regional visa for London. It has also hosted several meetings with other assemblies and parliaments including the Scottish Parliament, Flemish Parliament and the EU's Committee of the Regions.



In January, the EU Exit Working Group and other Assembly Members met with Members of the European Committee of the Regions—the European Union's assembly of regional and local representatives

On 3 March, the Working Group attended joint talks at the Scottish Parliament, with Members of the European committees of the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and the London Assembly and officers from the Northern Ireland Assembly.

These discussions centred on areas of common concern including the free movement of people, the replacement of European funding and inter-governmental relations. The particular issues facing the different parts of the UK were highlighted with the London Assembly communicating the risks around London's significant reliance on EU workers.

How much the London Assembly costs and how we allocate your money

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is paid for through a levy on London Council Tax bills—commonly known as the GLA precept—central government grants, and income from interest, sales, fees and charges.

The London Assembly directly controlled a budget of £7.2 million for 2016—17, equating to £1 a year to the average Band D taxpayer. These resources are focused on scrutinising the Mayor’s budget of £16 billion.

Just over half the Assembly budget (£3.9 million) funds the work of the 25 Assembly Members and their staff. Another £2.2 million is spent on officers who support the work of the Assembly by arranging its public meetings, researching and drafting its reports, promoting its work and organising events.

The remaining £1.1 million is spent on London TravelWatch, which is the statutory watchdog for transport users in and around London.

	<i>2015—16 £m</i>	<i>2016—17 £m</i>
<i>Assembly Members</i>	1.8	1.8
<i>Member Services</i>	2.1	2.1
<i>Scrutiny & Investigations</i>	1.5	1.5
<i>Committee Services</i>	0.5	0.5
<i>Director/ Business Support</i>	0.2	0.2
<i>London TravelWatch</i>	1.1	1.1
<i>Net revenue expenditure</i>	7.2	7.2

Source: [GLA Budget 2016—17](#), page 19

The year ahead

With a newly-elected Government, the progress of EU-UK Brexit talks, ongoing terrorism challenges and the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire, 2017—18 will be another important year for the London Assembly.

- The **EU Exit Working Group** will scrutinise how London is faring during the Brexit negotiations, with work on EU nationals, European funding and the Mayor's lobbying efforts.
- The **Transport Committee** will investigate emerging transport technologies such as driverless cars and drones, known as 'future transport'; motorcycle safety; pedicabs; and road junctions in outer London.
- The **Budget and Performance Committee** will continue to scrutinise how the Mayor spends the £16 billion budget for London, in addition to looking at funding for the Metropolitan Police Service.
- As well as scrutinising the Met and MOPAC on issues such as counter-terrorism, hate crime and neighbourhood policing, the **Police and Crime Committee** will investigate gun crime; antisocial behaviour in the capital; and women offenders.
- The **GLA Oversight Committee** will assess the future of Emergency Services communications in London and will look at the Mayor's role in relation to resilience after the Grenfell Tower fire.
- The **Economy Committee** will investigate the Mayor's plans to establish London as a 24-hour city and global destination for culture and entertainment; and the role of the Mayor in promoting financial inclusion.
- The main area of focus for the **Environment Committee** will be waste management, as it examines waste reduction and the circular economy; recycling; and the role of energy from waste.
- An investigation into providing quality special needs education in London will be the primary area of work for the **Education Panel**.

- The **Health Committee** will explore eye health and preventing sight loss in London and will look at how the Mayor can support better health in early years.
- The **Housing Committee** will scrutinise the Mayor's new housing strategy, explore the role of property guardianship and review different models of community-led housing.
- The **Planning Committee's** main priority for the coming year will be scrutiny of the Mayor's review of the London Plan.
- The **Regeneration Committee** will look at what is needed for the regeneration of town centres across London; examine convergence in London's Growth Boroughs and continue to scrutinise the progress of the Mayor's Development Corporations.

Your representatives at City Hall 2016—17

Below are the London Assembly Members who worked for Londoners in 2016—17.



Meet your Assembly for 2017—18



Tony Arbour – GLA Conservatives – Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames and Richmond upon Thames

Tony has been involved in London politics since he was first elected a councillor for Hampton Wick in 1971. He served as Chairman of the London Assembly in 2016—17. A former senior lecturer and Honorary Visiting Fellow at Kingston University Business School. He hunts down first editions at car boot sales.



Jennette Arnold – Labour Group – Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest

Jennette, a nurse by profession, has been a member and periodic Chair of the London Assembly since 2000. Jennette is also a member of the Committee of the Regions, an EU advisory body representing Europe’s City, Regional and Local Authorities. She is also a mentor for women and young Londoners. In 2010 Jennette was awarded an OBE for services to London and Local Government.



Gareth Bacon – GLA Conservatives – Bexley and Bromley

Gareth is the Leader of the GLA Conservatives. Before being elected to the Assembly in 2008 he was a councillor in the London Borough of Bexley for 10 years. Gareth is married with one daughter. He is a keen squash player and a season ticket holder at Manchester United.



Shaun Bailey – GLA Conservatives – London-wide

Newly elected to the Assembly in May 2016, Shaun has dedicated his life to being a community worker and activist in London. He previously served as the Prime Minister's Special Adviser on Youth and Crime from 2010 until 2013, when he moved to the Cabinet Office to become the Government’s “youth and engagement champion”. He is married with two children.

Sian Berry – Green Party – London-wide



Green Group Leader Sian Berry was elected to the Assembly in 2016 and has been a councillor for the Highgate ward in Camden since 2014. Sian is passionate about securing council housing and affordable rents, making sure young people can thrive in London and promoting equality. Sian worked mainly in the policy area of transport before joining the Assembly. She was a founder of the Alliance against Urban 4x4s, and worked as a roads and sustainable transport campaigner for the charity ‘Campaign for Better Transport’ for five years. She is also the author of a number of books on green issues.

Andrew Boff – GLA Conservatives – London-wide



Andrew Boff has been active in London politics since the 1970s. Born in Hillingdon, he was elected a councillor there in 1982 and was leader of the Council between 1990 and 1992. He was elected a councillor for Hackney in 2005. While in Hackney he helped run Broadway Market’s Saturday market and published a local magazine. Before being elected to the Assembly in 2008, Andrew ran his own IT support company.

Leonie Cooper – Labour Group – Merton & Wandsworth



Elected in 2016, Leonie is the first Labour Member for Merton & Wandsworth. Leonie serves on the Environment and Housing Committees. She is a member of the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority and has served as a Wandsworth Councillor since 2006. She is a National Executive member of SERA, Labour’s Environment Campaign, a member of the Co-operative Party, and serves as a governor of Eardley Primary School. She is a founder member of the Friends of Tooting Common.

Tom Copley – Labour Group – London-wide



Prior to his election to the Assembly in May 2012, Tom worked for the Searchlight Educational Trust—an anti-fascist, anti-racist charity that works with communities to fight racism and hatred. He has also worked for the Labour Party and the Health Protection Agency. Tom is a patron of LGBT Labour, sits on the Board of the New Diorama Theatre and is an elected trustee of the British Humanist Association.

Unmesh Desai – Labour Group – City and East



Unmesh Desai was elected to the Assembly in May 2016. He has lived in East London for over 30 years, and been a councillor in Newham since 1998; where he was the Cabinet member responsible for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Unmesh studied Economics at the London School of Economics and is passionate about supporting local businesses, boosting local services and delivering local jobs for the East End.



Tony Devenish – GLA Conservatives - Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, City of Westminster

Tony was elected to the Assembly in 2016, but has been active in local politics for over a decade as a long serving Westminster City Councillor for the Knightsbridge and Belgravia ward. He is currently Policy & Scrutiny Chairman, Business, Planning & Transport for Westminster City Council.



Andrew Dismore – Labour Group – Barnet and Camden

Andrew has been an Assembly member since 2012. Before the Assembly he was the MP for Hendon from 1997 to 2010. Whilst in parliament he built a reputation as an expert in private members' legislation and chaired the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights. Prior to entering Parliament, he was a partner at a law firm specialising in personal injury and trades union law.



Len Duvall – Labour Group – Greenwich and Lewisham

Labour Group Leader Len Duvall has been an Assembly Member since 2000. He was councillor for the London Borough of Greenwich from 1990 until 2001, and in 1992 became the Council Leader, a position he held until his election to the Assembly. Before becoming a politician Len worked in local government and the voluntary sector. In 1998 he was awarded an OBE for services to Local Government in London and to the Thames Gateway Partnership.



Florence Eshalomi – Labour Group – Lambeth and Southwark

Florence Eshalomi has been a Lambeth councillor for 10 years and was elected to the Assembly in 2016. Outside politics she has worked for the Runnymede Trust—the UK's leading Race Equality Think Tank—and leading communications agency Four Communications. Florence is a member of the London Regional Arts Council UK and whilst at Lambeth Council was responsible for the hugely popular Lambeth County Show.



Nicky Gavron – Labour Group – London-wide

Nicky has been an elected politician since 1986 and has a track record in urban policy development at every level of government. In 2000, she became the first statutory Deputy Mayor of London, a post she held for seven years. In this role, she set up the Greater London Authority's working processes and policy frameworks, with particular responsibility for the London Plan and climate change.



Susan Hall – GLA Conservatives – London-wide

Susan was elected as a Harrow Councillor for Hatch End Ward in 2006. She was given a Cabinet position responsible for the Environment and Community Safety in 2007 and became Deputy Leader of the group in 2008. Susan became Leader of the Conservatives in 2010 and Leader of the Opposition. She took over as Leader of the hung council in 2013, returning to opposition Leader in 2014.



David Kurten - UK Independence Party (UKIP) – London-wide

David Kurten was a Chemistry teacher for 15 years before his election in 2016. He has taught in both state and private schools in Hampshire, Botswana, London, Bosnia-Herzegovina, New York and Bermuda. In 2014 he visited over 100 schools in 15 countries performing Chemistry lectures and demonstrations to enthuse young people to study and engage with science on the ‘Einstein on the Road Tour’. He has been UKIP’s Education and Apprenticeship spokesman since 2016 and writes regularly for Breitbart London, Westmonster and Conservative Woman.



Joanne McCartney – Labour Group – Enfield and Haringey The recently appointed statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney was elected as the London Assembly Member for Enfield and Haringey in June 2004. Before the Assembly, Joanne served as a local councillor in Enfield from 1998—2006; chairing Enfield’s Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. She practised as a barrister specialising in employment law, and also worked as an adjudicator for the Housing Ombudsman. She has three children.



Steve O’Connell – GLA Conservatives – Croydon and Sutton

Steve has been a Croydon councillor for Kenley since 2002 and is a former Deputy Leader of Croydon Council. He has been an Assembly Member since 2008 and is Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee. A South Londoner, who studied at Brockley Grammar School, he is a lifelong Crystal Palace supporter and Trustee of the Crystal Palace Football Club Foundation. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and also has a keen interest in animal welfare.



Caroline Pidgeon – Liberal Democrat – London-wide

Caroline was elected to the London Assembly in May 2008. She was a Councillor in Southwark between 1998 and 2010, during which time she held several posts, including Deputy Leader of Southwark Council and Executive Member for Children’s Services and Education. She is a Trustee of Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE). Caroline was awarded an MBE in the 2013 New Year Honours List.



Keith Prince – GLA Conservatives - Havering and Redbridge

Keith Prince has been a councillor in Redbridge since 2003, serving as Leader of the Council from May 2009 to June 2014. He was previously a councillor for Gidea Park ward between 1990 and 1995 and was a non-executive advisor to Stephen Greenhalgh, the former Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime. The father-of-three previously worked as a marketing manager for LBC Radio.



Caroline Russell – Green Party – London-wide

Caroline was elected to Islington Council in 2014 and the London Assembly in 2016. Caroline studied Fine Art at Oxford and at Goldsmiths, and worked as an artist and college lecturer for ten years, after which she retrained as a civil engineer at City University. She has been a committed walking and cycling campaigner since the 1990s.



Dr Onkar Sahota – Labour Group – Ealing and Hillingdon

Dr Sahota was elected as the member of the London Assembly for Ealing and Hillingdon in May 2012. A practising GP, Onkar has been a family doctor in West London since 1989 and maintains GP surgeries in Hanwell and Southall serving some 12,000 patients. As well as his doctorate, he holds an MBA from the London Business School and attended the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.



Navin Shah – Labour Group - Brent and Harrow

An architect by profession, Navin was elected as a Harrow Councillor for Kenton East Ward from 1994—2014, leading the Council from 2004 to 2006. He is a founder member and trustee of the Harrow Anti-Racist Alliance. He lives in Harrow with his wife and his two grown-up children. In his spare time, Navin enjoys art, music, travel and photography. He was elected to the Assembly in 2008.



Fiona Twycross – Labour Group – London-wide

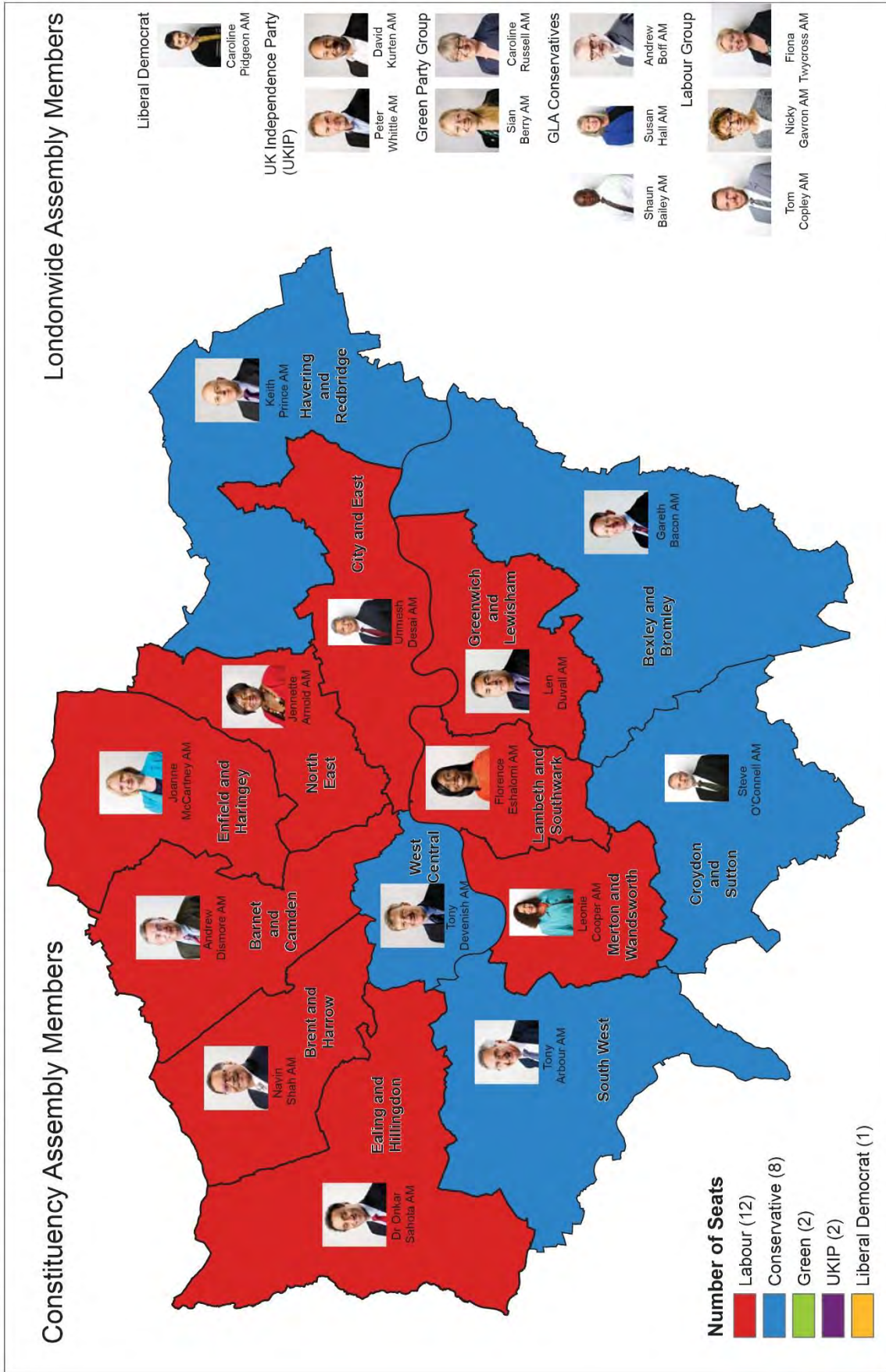
Fiona Twycross was elected to the London Assembly in May 2012, and over the past four years has campaigned particularly on the issues of food poverty and low pay. Prior to her election, she worked for Diabetes UK, as Head of Governance, having previously worked as the charity's Head of Campaigns and Volunteer Development. She was born in South London and has a PhD in contemporary Scandinavian literature.



Peter Whittle - UK Independence Party (UKIP) – London-wide

Peter was elected to the Assembly in 2016, but has been UKIP's national Culture spokesman since 2013 and Deputy Leader since 2016. He has had a 15-year career in the media as a TV producer and subsequently in print journalism. As well as being the author of a number of books, he writes monthly columns for Standpoint magazine and Breitbart London. He founded the New Culture Forum think-tank in 2006, and grew up in Shooters Hill, SE18.

London Assembly - as of June 2017



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Chinese

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Vietnamese

Nếu ông (bà) muốn nội dung văn bản này được dịch sang tiếng Việt, xin vui lòng liên hệ với chúng tôi bằng điện thoại, thư hoặc thư điện tử theo địa chỉ ở trên.

Greek

Εάν επιθυμείτε περίληψη αυτού του κειμένου στην γλώσσα σας, παρακαλώ καλέστε τον αριθμό ή επικοινωνήστε μαζί μας στην ανωτέρω ταχυδρομική ή την ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση.

Turkish

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Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਅਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਉਪਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਡਾਕ ਜਾਂ ਈਮੇਲ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Hindi

यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज का सारांश अपनी भाषा में चाहिए तो उपर दिये हुए नंबर पर फोन करें या उपर दिये गये डाक पते या ई मेल पते पर हम से संपर्क करें।

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই দলিলের একটি সারাংশ নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে ফোন করবেন অথবা উল্লেখিত ডাক ঠিকানায় বা ই-মেইল ঠিকানায় আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کا خلاصہ اپنی زبان میں درکار ہو تو، براہ کرم نمبر پر فون کریں یا مذکورہ بالا ڈاک کے پتے یا ای میل پتے پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

Arabic

الحصول على ملخص لهذا المستند بلغة،
فارجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو الاتصال على
العنوان البريدي العادي أو عنوان البريدي
الالكتروني أعلاه.

Gujarati

જો તમારે આ દસ્તાવેજનો સાર તમારી ભાષામાં જોડતો હોય તો ઉપર આપેલ નંબર પર ફોન કરો અથવા ઉપર આપેલ ટપાલ અથવા ઇ-મેઇલ સરનામા પર અમારો સંપર્ક કરો.



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