

# LONDON ASSEMBLY



**HOLDING THE MAYOR TO ACCOUNT EVERY DAY**

The London Assembly Annual Report 2015-16

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

**LONDON**ASSEMBLY

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# Jennette Arnold OBE AM

## Chair of the London Assembly 2015-16



It has been an incredibly busy year at the London Assembly.

As well as scrutinising the Mayor and a range of organisations that provide some of London’s key services—Transport for London, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (as well as the Metropolitan Police Service), the London Fire and Emergency Planning

Authority—our committees have produced 29 reports covering topics addressing issues as diverse as night-time policing, student accommodation, motorcycle safety and childcare provision.

Much of the detailed work this year has focused on supporting vulnerable groups of people. This is important work for London, with its diverse communities and contrasts of wealth and poverty. We’ve reviewed work to protect vulnerable children, to tackle youth re-offending, sought ways to improve access to healthcare services for d/Deaf people, and assessed how best to support the mental health and wellbeing of young Londoners from minority backgrounds.

I am particularly proud of the work of the Education Panel, which I chair, and which has provided oversight of the Mayorality’s growing influence on the education sector. London has the best performing primary and secondary schools of any region in the country, but with school funding likely to be cut over the next four years the challenges are clear.

On page 53, you can see our accounts for this year. Our direct budget totals £7.2 million—down from £8.7 million in 2010-11. The cost of the Assembly and support staff equates to just £1 per year for the average Band D taxpayer: good value for holding a £17 billion budget to account.

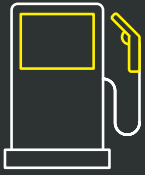
As well as committee work and investigations, Assembly Members also act as ambassadors for Londoners at events and as campaigners for good causes. Looking back over this term, my most memorable visit took me abroad to Auschwitz-Birkenau, as a guest of the Holocaust Educational Trust. The trip formed part of their Lessons from Auschwitz project which we

**“Much of the detailed work this year has focused on supporting vulnerable groups of people.”**

commemorated at our annual Holocaust Memorial Day. I was also honoured to represent the Assembly alongside members of the City Hall Royal British Legion as part of our annual Remembrance Day Service in November.

Alongside this work, we have also held elections for the Assembly and Mayor on 5 May, and welcomed ten new colleagues into the London Assembly, as well as a new Mayor. At the Annual Meeting following the election, I stood down as Chair and Tony Arbour was voted in as the new Chairman for the coming year. It was a privilege to serve as Chair, and I know under Tony's Chairmanship, the Assembly will continue to ask the important questions in the year ahead. You can read more about our upcoming work for the new Assembly year on page 54.

## HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2015-16



Highlighted concerns over the **robustness of emissions testing**, before the Volkswagen "**dieseldgate**" scandal broke and the true extent of the problem became a global issue.



The Budget and Performance Committee highlighted a 5 year delay to the **TfL Sub-Surface Upgrade Programme (SSUP)** and the £900 million impact on TfL's budget.



In 2014, the Assembly concluded the Met had not made a convincing case for **water cannon**. Subsequently, the Home Secretary blocked their use and the new Mayor announced they would be sold.



A Night Time Commission investigation was launched into **protecting and managing the Night Time Economy** after the Police and Crime Committee found it was placing increasing demands on the Met.



The Mayor changed the **Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance** to prevent the system being manipulated for developer profits, in line with Planning Committee recommendations.



The House of Commons Communities and Local Government select committee **drew on the Housing Committee's work** in its report on housing associations and right to buy.

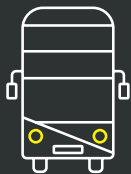


The GLA Oversight Committee produced a report highlighting a series of procedural breaches in the **Garden Bridge** procurement process.



The Transport Committee recommendations to halve the eligibility time for passengers to **claim compensation for train delays** were implemented.

## HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2015-16



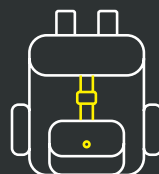
The Budget and Performance Committee influenced Transport for London's decision to retrofit **opening windows on new Routemaster buses**, following public complaints that the buses were too hot.



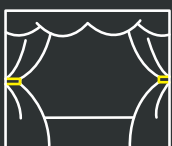
The Environment Committee report on diesel emissions contributed to the Mayor taking forward discussions with inner London boroughs on **extending the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)**.



TfL published findings of an external audit into its **complaint handling process**, as recommended by the Transport Committee's March 2015 report.



The GLA developed an online mapping tool to help local authorities to better respond to the **demand for school places**, recommended by the Education Panel.



The Theatres Trust launched the **London Theatre Small Grants Scheme** to support small theatres, a key recommendation of the Economy Committee report Centre Stage.



The Transport Committee encouraged support from key stakeholders – such as Kent and Surrey County Councils – for **National Rail services in South London to be devolved to TfL**.



The London Health Board will discuss **perinatal mental health** services as a priority as part of its ongoing work as a result of a Health Committee recommendation to the Mayor.



The Regeneration Committee successfully lobbied the London Legacy Development Corporation to release details on the **financial performance of Olympic venues**.

# About us

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



The Assembly votes on a proposed Motion during the October Plenary session

## Who we are

The Assembly is made up of 25 Members elected by Londoners at the same time as the Mayor.

The London Assembly is one part of the Greater London Authority (GLA), based at City Hall—the other part being the Mayor of London.

The Assembly is made up of 25 Members elected by Londoners at the same time as the Mayor.

Eleven represent the whole of the capital with 14 elected by constituencies, made up of two or three London boroughs. A full list of your representatives for 2015-16 is available on page 55.

In 2015-16 the Assembly consisted of twelve Labour Members; nine from the Conservatives; two from the Green Party; and two Liberal Democrat Members.

Alongside individual support, Members are supported by a secretariat made up of a scrutiny team that assists with policy research development and ensures the public is made aware of the work of the Assembly and its committees. In addition the committee services team organise the administration and governance of this work.



## Our role

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

We hold the Mayor of London and his advisers to account by publicly examining his policies, activities and decisions.

We hold the Mayor of London and his advisers to account by publicly examining his policies, activities and decisions. We question the Mayor's plans and actions directly at Mayor's Question Time and we also examine how the Mayor's policies will affect London through our various committees.

The Mayor is also required to consult Assembly Members ahead of producing statutory strategies and the £17 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).

There is a [short animated film](#) available on the London Assembly website which explains more about our role.

## Mayor's Question Time

The most visible example of our scrutiny is Mayor's Question Time, when ten times a year the Mayor answers questions from Assembly Members. In addition to the cross-examination during these sessions, Assembly Members submit written questions to the Mayor, often at the suggestion of their constituents. In this year, 4,125 questions were asked of the Mayor.

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

## Motions and petitions

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

Examples of Assembly motions this year include welcoming refugees from the Syrian conflict to London; urging the Government to maintain Universal Free School Meals for infant school pupils in London; supporting the Port of London Authority's Cleaner Thames Campaign; and welcoming the construction of sections of high quality cycle superhighway in central London.

# Our committees

## Our committees and how to get involved

Assembly Members are champions for London, investigating issues that affect everyday life in the capital to find ways of improving our city. The Assembly publishes reports recommending action by the Mayor, the GLA Family—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 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](#), so Londoners can see and hear what is being done on their behalf. The [BBC Parliament channel](#) also regularly 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 meetings like Mayor’s Question Time. Members of the public who wish to attend Assembly meetings can find the times and locations on the London Assembly website [public meetings calendar](#). Other ways to get involved include:

- Raise issues of concern with Assembly Members directly via email ([firstname.surname@london.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@london.gov.uk)) or Twitter via the individual Assembly Member Twitter account.
- Tweet us [@LondonAssembly](#) or email us [londonassemblynews@london.gov.uk](mailto:londonassemblynews@london.gov.uk) and follow committee Twitter conversations with #Assembly(Committee name) hashtag.
- Give your views to current Assembly investigations. Details can be found at <http://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assemblys-current-investigations>
- Suggest a question for an Assembly Member to ask at Mayor’s Question Time.
- Attend People’s Question Time.
- Come to an Assembly committee meeting at City Hall—guests are welcome.
- Watch our meetings live from your computer, mobile or tablet at <https://www.london.gov.uk/media-centre/london-assembly>.

The majority of London Assembly meetings are held in public and broadcast on the London Assembly website.

In addition to our main committees looking at the Mayor’s work—see page 16—we also explore the internal work of the GLA:

The **Audit Panel** contributes to good governance at the GLA. It is concerned with ensuring the security and monitoring of financial systems and promoting an antifraud culture probity and good practice within the GLA. It liaises with the external auditor over its annual programme and with the Mayor, as appropriate, to approve the annual internal audit programme.

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.

The committee met four times in 2015-16 to approve Chairs for the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC); the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) and the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC).

## Improving transparency and governance

The **GLA Oversight Committee** also has a role in scrutinising internal processes of the GLA and its functional bodies.

In February 2016, the Committee published a report on the transparency of the GLA Group and Family. This report examined progress since the committee’s last report on the subject in 2013, and assessed the transparency of organisations outside the GLA Group which are subject to the control of the Mayor (such as London & Partners and the London Waste and Recycling Board).

The [\*Transparency of the GLA Group and Family\*](#) report concluded that progress has been made by some organisations, such as TfL, but others—particularly MOPAC—needed to publish more information regarding how it makes decisions.

This year the committee was also made aware of a series of Freedom of Information requests—by journalists and Assembly Members—into the procurement process of the proposed Garden Bridge. This is a contract to design a “pedestrian footbridge” to be built from Temple to South Bank, which was awarded to Heatherwick Studio in spring 2013.

The committee held four meetings on the Garden Bridge topic with a range of guests; including the Mayor, the chair of TfL’s Audit and Assurance Committee and officers involved in the procurement of the contract. It published its report—[\*The Garden Bridge Design Procurement\*](#)—in March 2016. The

conclusions of the report included concerns about the way TfL's internal audit review was carried out and how it changed before final publication.<sup>i</sup>

## Equalities

In order to ensure that a variety of perspectives inform 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.

This year, the Assembly piloted a new survey of committee guests 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.

As part of our commitment to equalities, we have also undertaken committee-specific work to improve equalities in London's public services. For instance, our Health Committee undertook an investigation into tuberculosis (TB) in London which highlighted that certain boroughs have TB levels higher than the developing world. More information about this investigation is available on the London Assembly [website](#).

You can see further examples of the Assembly's work on equalities issues as part of the [Mayor's Annual Equalities Report for 2015-16](#).

## Events

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

### Engaging

Twice a year, Assembly Members and the Mayor hold People's Question Time.

Twice a year, Assembly Members and the Mayor hold People's Question Time. 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 Hillingdon and Croydon.

In Hillingdon, 478 Londoners attended the People's Question Time at the Beck Theatre. The most discussed topics on social media on the night included transport, crime and housing in London. The transcript is available on the GLA [website](#).

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<sup>i</sup> The report was the view of a majority of the committee. The GLA Conservatives produced their own minority report.



People's Question Time in Hillingdon, chaired by Dr Onkar Sahota AM

In March, the Assembly and Mayor were in Croydon with 812 Londoners. That night the most discussed topics on social media were the environment, health and the EU. You can read the transcript on the [GLA website](#).



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

### **Celebrating**

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

The 2015-16 Chair of the Assembly, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, hosted an evening reception in March 2016 to celebrate International Women's Day.

Jennette spoke passionately about the importance of getting young women to play sport, and was joined on stage by Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England; Julie Bentley, Chief Executive of Girlguiding UK; and Lawn Tennis Association President Cathie Saban.



Jennette Arnold OBE AM speaks to guests on International Women's Day 2016 at City Hall

The evening was also an excellent networking opportunity, with students from Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School and Girl Guides from the capital mixing with other guests including All Girls Rock, the grassroots organisation that connects young people with role models.

## Remembering

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

On 26 January 2016, the Chair of the London Assembly, the Mayor of London and Members of the Assembly joined MPs, Rabbi Raphy Garson, Holocaust survivors and other Londoners at City Hall's annual Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony. Marking 71 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the event was held to remember victims of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide, and this year's theme was 'Don't Stand By', emphasising the need to stand up to persecution.

Each November, City Hall hosts an Annual Remembrance Service for London's war dead. This year, representatives from the armed forces were joined by London governments past and present to lay wreaths at the City Hall War Memorial.



City Hall's 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony

In June 2015, Assembly Members joined the Mayor and representatives from the Armed Forces to mark the lead up to Armed Forces Day with a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall. This annual event honours the bravery and commitment of service personnel past and present.



Chair Jennette Arnold OBE alongside the Mayor and members of the City Hall Royal British Legion

# Committee work

This section gives more detail about the 2015-16 work of our committees, which scrutinise the Mayor's policies and priorities.

Some committees, like the Transport Committee, have a clearly defined role looking at an area where the Mayor has specific, statutory powers. Others, such as the Health Committee, look at some of the less formal powers of the Mayor, including the ability to influence government. Information on the GLA Oversight Committee, the Audit Panel and the Confirmation Hearings Committee can be found on page 11.

There is a summary of our achievements this year on pages 6-7 and our plans for 2016-17 on page 54.





# 1. Balancing the Mayor's books

The **Budget and Performance Committee** scrutinises the Mayor's £17 billion budget, across the Greater London Authority's (GLA) four main areas of spending: Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC). It is supported by a Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee.

## Mayor's budget for 2016-17

The Budget and Performance Committee has the responsibility of scrutinising the Mayor's draft budget before it is voted on by the whole Assembly. As part of this work, the committee publishes a [Pre-Budget Report](#) every year: this contains recommendations to the Mayor before he publishes the next draft of his budget, and highlights some of the key issues ahead of the Assembly budget debates. The committee also examines the impact of national policy changes on the GLA's finances, for example the implications of changes in business rates retention and cuts in Government funding to TfL.



In 2015, the committee examined the impact of the Mayor fulfilling his manifesto commitment to cut the GLA share of council tax, concluding that this was going to leave his successor with around £50 million less to spend in his first year. The 2015 Pre-Budget Report also highlighted the lack of commercial expertise at both the Met and TfL, and the risks this poses as they look to outsource (the Met) and make sound investment decisions (TfL).

## Transport for London

This year, as part of the ongoing scrutiny of investment decision making at TfL, the Budget and Performance Committee investigated the progress of the Underground Sub-Surface Upgrade Programme (SSUP) and the New Routemaster bus.

The committee also examined TfL property development plans and savings targets, making several recommendations. Indeed, TfL has already implemented the committee's request to reset the savings counter to zero each year in order to make it easier to monitor annual performance against savings targets.

## New Routemaster bus

The New Routemaster bus project was used as a case study for the committee's ongoing scrutiny of investment decision making at TfL. The

committee investigated all aspects of the project from concept through to design, development and manufacture. It also assessed the various investment decisions taken by TfL between 2008 and 2015—including the decision to purchase an additional 195 New Routemaster buses, despite continuing criticism of the vehicle.

Following the investigation, the committee wrote to TfL, setting out its views on the project, the additional work that TfL should carry out before it looks to make further upgrades to its bus fleet, and how TfL could improve its investment decision-making process to make it more transparent.

## Sub-Surface Upgrade Programme (SSUP)

In March 2016, the committee published its report [Transport for London's Signal Failure](#). This looked at the failed contract to upgrade the Underground Sub-Surface and Automatic Control Programme. The report represents a culmination of nearly three years' work scrutinising TfL's decision to award a signalling replacement contract to Bombardier Transport, and Bombardier's subsequent failure to deliver the required upgrade.

The report highlighted what this failed project means for underground travel in London in the near future, including a five-year delay to the SSUP programme and a £900 million increase in the budget. It was the lead story on BBC London News and was reported by several other media outlets in the UK and abroad.

## Metropolitan Police outsourcing

The committee published the results of its investigation into police outsourcing, [To Protect and Save](#), in September 2015. Using evidence from the National Outsourcing Association, local government, the Centre for Public Service Partnerships and MOPAC, the committee discovered the Met's plans to outsource finance procurement and HR services would result in almost 450 jobs leaving London.

The report warned that failing to improve commercial skills and expertise before implementing the commercial strategy could put the anticipated savings at risk. It also made a number of recommendations to MOPAC and the Met to secure better value from future contracts.

## European Structural and Investment Funds

In December, the Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee examined the European Structural and Investment Funds for London and how they are managed by the GLA's European Programmes Management Unit. London was allocated around €750 million for the 2014-20 programme, and the meeting was used to discuss lessons learned from the 2007-2013 programme, as well as governance arrangements for the 2014-20 programme.

The committee highlighted a five-year delay to the SSUP programme and a £900 million increase in the budget.

# 2. Transporting London—by road and rail

The largest part of the Mayor's annual budget is spent on London's transport. The **Transport Committee** particularly looks at the role of Transport for London (TfL) in delivering the Mayor's priorities across all forms of transport, including Underground, Overground, rail, bus, taxi and private hire vehicles, as well as cycling and walking.

## Devolving National Rail Services

Following proposals that National Rail services in South London would be devolved to TfL, in June 2015 the Transport Committee launched an investigation into proposals for the devolution of National Rail services to London.

Kent County Council engaged with the Transport Committee to support rail devolution.

Early on, it was clear that the committee's investigation had already made a direct impact on the debate. In 2012-13, previous proposals from the Mayor to devolve control of the South Eastern franchise to TfL were rejected by the Government, in part because of the opposition of Kent County Council. At the first committee meeting in June, Kent County Council engaged with the committee in a much more supportive position in relation to devolution, and laid the groundwork for further beneficial discussions during a visit to Sevenoaks District Council. A summary of this visit is available on the [London Assembly YouTube channel](#).



The committee visiting Sevenoaks District Council to discuss rail devolution

In July, the committee met with the Deputy Mayor for Transport and senior TfL representatives to press TfL on its strategy to address the political, practical and financial challenges of devolution. The meeting was a success: highlighting the consensus about the potential benefits of devolution with the Mayor's Office and TfL.

The committee published its report, [Devolving Rail Services to London: Towards a South London Metro](#) in October 2015. It set out the case for devolution and recommended ways TfL could strengthen its business case and

governance framework. The Mayor's response to the report was very supportive, and also set out details of positive discussions between the GLA and Kent County Council about arrangements for running devolved services, based on proposals first made by Kent at the committee's meeting in June 2015.

## Compensation for passengers

Staying with National Rail services, it was revealed in August that the Government was planning to implement changes to the system of compensation for passengers whose journeys were significantly disrupted.

The committee recommended to the Department for Transport that passengers should be eligible for compensation for delays of over 15 minutes, half the previous 30-minute threshold. This followed recent problems on London Bridge services; when passengers were unable to receive fair compensation despite severe disruptions. The Chancellor's Spending Review in the autumn confirmed that the Government would implement these recommendations: a big victory for London's commuters.

The committee proposed that passengers should be eligible for a refund for delays of over 15 minutes, half the previous 30 minute threshold.



The committee hearing first-hand about London Bridge issues with National Rail CEO Mark Carne

## Commercial traffic

As online shopping becomes more and more popular, the number of commercial vans on London's roads has increased dramatically in recent years. In February 2016, the committee wrote to the Commissioner of TfL following an investigation into the growth of light commercial traffic. The

committee recommended TfL renew its focus on tackling road congestion in London. It discussed encouraging businesses to re-time deliveries during peak-hours and potential changes to the congestion charge to reduce congestion. A larger investigation into London's congested roads is underway for 2016-17.

## Travelling with a sensory impairment

The report *Leading the Way* identified a number of practical measures to improve the travel experience for sensory impaired people.

Following a short investigation into travelling with a sensory impairment, the committee published a report in March 2016 setting out proposals for TfL to improve accessibility for people with a sensory impairment. As part of the investigation, the Chair accompanied passengers with a hearing impairment on a journey on a New Routemaster bus, to test out the hearing loop system, and visited Euston station to observe a demonstration of the Wayfindr app for visually impaired passengers.

The report—[\*Leading the Way: Travelling with a sensory impairment in London\*](#)—identified a number of practical measures which could be implemented by TfL to improve the experience for people with a sensory impairment. This included tougher enforcement against private hire drivers refusing to take assistance dogs, and a review of the experimental bus stop bypasses introduced on segregated Cycle Superhighways.



A visually impaired passenger discusses his experiences travelling on the Underground

## Taxi and Private hire services

Over the summer of 2015, the committee followed up its previous work on taxi and private hire services, which culminated in the 2014 report [\*Future\*](#)

[Proof—Taxi Hire Services in London](#). In July, the committee received confirmation that TfL was on course to implement the vast majority of the report recommendations. A month earlier, TfL had launched a public consultation on bank card payments in licensed taxis, also recommended by the committee.

TfL also conducted a Private Hire Regulations Review in 2015. The committee welcomed many of the conclusions of this report, which implemented further recommendations of the *Future Proof* report, including requirements for all private hire drivers to speak English and ensuring passengers speak to a real person in the event of problems with their journey.

## Motorcycle safety

The committee undertook an online survey on the safety issues facing London’s motorcyclists.

At the beginning of 2016, the committee undertook an online survey, which was responded to by 1,200 motorcyclists, on the safety issues they experience on London’s roads. Road safety experts, industry representatives and training providers came to a committee hearing and helped develop a number of recommendations on how to reduce motorcycle casualties.

The resulting report on motorcycle safety—[Easy rider: Improving motorcycle safety on London’s roads](#)—recommended that TfL update its Motorcycle Safety Action Plan and identify a dedicated funding stream for motorcycle safety. It built on positive media coverage of the committee’s work and was warmly welcomed by stakeholders: several of whom thanked the committee for raising awareness of this issue, which has received relatively little attention in recent years.



Chair Valerie Shawcross CBE AM speaks to BBC London about Motorcycle safety



## TfL Customer Service

Transport for London handles over 1,300 complaints per week—that's 70,000 a year. In March 2015, the committee produced a report on TfL Customer Service recommending a single customer charter and further changes to its customer telephone helpline, specifically by ensuring the option to make a complaint was on the main menu. TfL's response to the committee's report later in the year, was to fully implement these recommendations and it asked committee members to be involved in their development.

## Door-to-door transport

The committee continues to make a difference for London's transport network, passengers and commuters. The committee published a report on [Improving Door-to-Door Transport in London](#) in January 2015. It highlighted ongoing concerns with service performance and recommended a more coordinated approach between service providers.

Three months later, the committee received a response from TfL, accepting almost all of its recommendations. By October, TfL had published the findings of its [Social Needs Transport Review](#), which set out plans to implement these recommendations. This included an introduction of a single set of eligibility criteria for people applying to become members of all door-to-door services; a simplified process for booking journeys so all services can be accessed through one phone number or website; and a merged system for gathering customer feedback through surveys and complaints across all services.

TfL implemented almost all of the actions suggested by the committee in the *Door to Door Transport* report.

# 3. Law and order— policing the capital

The **Police and Crime Committee** investigates the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which oversees the Metropolitan Police (the Met), and sets the Police and Crime Plan for London. The committee can also examine anything which it considers to be of importance to policing and crime reduction in Greater London and make recommendations for improvements. The committee regularly questions the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime at City Hall.

The committee publicly questions senior members of the Met Police and MOPAC on a monthly basis.

## Policing the police

The committee publicly questions senior members of the Metropolitan Police and MOPAC on a monthly basis, holding them to account on behalf of Londoners and raising topical crime issues, such as counter-terrorism measures in the capital and the use of body-worn cameras.



Mayor Boris Johnson, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe and other officers

## Police and Crime Plan

The committee reviews MOPAC's performance in meeting the Mayor's commitments as set out in the [Police and Crime Plan](#) and the [Mayoral manifesto](#). In 2015, the committee challenged the Mayor and the Metropolitan Police about the likelihood of reducing neighbourhood crimes by 20 per cent by the end of the Mayoral term. It also highlighted the slow progress in improving public confidence in the police and asked whether the 'goalposts had been moved' as the prospect of meeting the three key crime targets became increasingly out of reach.

The committee's final session of the year was dedicated to reviewing the performance of the Metropolitan Police and MOPAC as set out in the Police and Crime Plan over the four year Mayoral term. The committee heard that only one out of three headline performance challenges set by the Mayor had been met. To coincide with the session, the committee published an [end of term monitoring report](#), enabling Londoners to see how successful the progress had been.

## Police funding

Funding of the Met is an ongoing concern for the committee. In the run up to the Chancellor's Spending Review (CSR) in 2015, the Metropolitan Police faced a potential 'triple effect' of funding pressures: a funding reduction as a result of the Spending Review; a reassessment of the overall formula for allocating

funding to forces; and a review of the National and International Capital City grant.

Following the Spending Review, which protected police funding in real terms, and the decision by the Home Office to delay the review of funding to forces, members continued to question the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner about the issue. This helped to represent the concerns of Londoners about the options for addressing any future funding reduction, including the possibility that officer numbers will fall.

Members continued to focus on operational changes, and have specifically scrutinised counter-terrorism funding arrangements; seeking assurances that sufficient resource is available to respond to attacks similar to those seen in Paris in 2015.



## Preventing extremism

Members examined the structures in place to tackle extremism in London.

The committee dedicated much of the first quarter of 2015-16 to its investigation into preventing extremism in London. Members examined the structures in place in London to tackle extremism, and heard about the obstacles and opportunities faced by communities and public services.

The report launched in December 2015—[\*Preventing extremism in London\*](#)—made a range of recommendations to MOPAC to strengthen its involvement in the issues, to improve communication with the public, and to help public services to work together more closely. At the following Q&A session, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime told Members that he welcomed the report and agreed with the majority of recommendations made.<sup>ii</sup>

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<sup>ii</sup> The report was the view of a majority of the committee. Jenny Jones AM produced her own minority report.

## Youth re-offending

The committee found that the number of people in the youth justice system in London is falling.

The committee published its report into youth reoffending in London, [Breaking the cycle: reducing youth offending in London](#), in July 2015. It found that the number of people in the youth justice system in London is falling, but the proportion that goes on to offend again is not. The report highlighted challenges faced by local authorities, the police and other agencies in working with young people with complex needs while managing cuts to resources.

The report recommended that MOPAC should publish more data about youth reoffending and deliver awareness campaigns for young people and families about the support available to them. It was well received. User Voice, a community organisation run by former young offenders, welcomed the recommendation that MOPAC engage more directly with former offenders in the development of its strategy.



## London: the 24-hour city

The Night-Time Economy (NTE) of restaurants, pubs, bars and clubs is a growing industry in London. A report published by the committee in March—[Policing the Night-Time Economy](#)—assessed the challenges associated with policing London’s growing NTE, in particular the extent to which crime linked to alcohol consumption puts pressure on policing resources.

The report found some indications that the NTE is placing increasing demands on the Met at a time of financial pressure and that more could be done, for example through licensing arrangements, to better share the responsibility of keeping safe Londoners who use or work in the NTE. This prompted the Mayor to announce the launch of a Night Time Commission, a six month investigation into what should be done to protect and manage the capital’s NTE.

## Crime on public transport

The report, [Crime on public transport](#) was published by the committee in March 2016. It examined the work of Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police and the City of London Police to tackle crime across London's public transport network.



The British Transport Police conducting searches at Aldgate East station

The *Crime on Public Transport* report sparked numerous media discussions, focussing on policing plans for the Night Tube.

It found that reported crime on public transport is relatively low and identified future policing challenges, including the introduction of the Night Tube service, fear of crime on public transport and an increase in reports of violence and sexual offences. The report received widespread media coverage, with a focus on the policing arrangements for the planned Night Tube, due to launch in August 2016.

## Rape cases in London

Shortly after the publication of an independent report into how the Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) handled rape cases in London, the committee met with stakeholders to discuss how the Met and the CPS provide support to victims, investigate offences and bring cases to court.

The Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC, who was commissioned to conduct the independent review, and Baljit Ubhey, Chief Crown Prosecutor in London, were invited to give evidence alongside MOPAC and the Met. The committee heard that the Met and the CPS accepted all of the 46 recommendations made in Dame Elish's review and are focusing on putting more resources into the investigation of rape.

# 4. Housing challenges—a roof over London's head

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

The Mayor of London also has a significant strategic role in planning—setting the London Plan and making a final decision on many large-scale developments. The role of the **Planning Committee** is to scrutinise the detail of the London Plan and the Mayor's use of planning powers.

## Affordable home ownership

Home ownership continues to be a problem in the capital, as house price rises continue to outstrip wage increases. The Housing Committee published its report into affordable home ownership, [First Steps on the Ladder](#), in June 2015. The report found that the rising price of shared ownership—‘part-buy, part-rent’ accommodation—means it is failing in its designed purpose to help low to middle income Londoners into full owner occupation.



Deputy Chair Andrew Boff AM speaks to BBC London about housing issues

## Right to Buy (RTB)

The House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee undertook an inquiry into the future viability of housing associations in July 2015. The Housing Committee submitted a response which drew upon evidence gathered in a committee session with Lord Kerlake, Chair of Peabody Housing Association, as well as representatives from London boroughs, homeless charities and the GLA. It discussed the viability of the Government’s proposal to extend the Right to Buy (RTB) to housing association tenants.

## Student accommodation

According to the National Union of Students, the average student rent in London was £157 per week in 2012-13, a rise of 26 per cent from £125 in 2009-10. The Housing Committee’s investigation into [Purpose Built Student](#)



[Accommodation](#) found that the type of student accommodation being built is too focused on catering for an affluent market—and not enough on building accommodation affordable for the wider student population. In November 2015, the committee wrote a letter to the Mayor requesting action, so families can continue to afford to send their children to London universities.



The committee visiting the Barking Linton Road Affordable Housing development in October 2015

## Affordable renting

The Housing Committee continues to consider options for developing affordable rented homes in London.

The committee continues to consider options for developing affordable rented homes in London. In November, the committee heard that the delivery of homes via the existing Affordable Rent (AR) model, in place since 2011, has become increasingly challenging. Housing associations, Genesis, Family Mosaic and Octavia Housing reported that lower levels of capital grant and an increased requirement to borrow under this model are reducing their ability to deliver rented homes.

After visiting a range of new developments in Barking & Dagenham and discussions with the borough and developers there, the committee heard in January 2016 from housing providers and investors developing innovative models to enable new rented homes to be delivered outside of the mainstream, grant-funded model.

This series of investigations resulted in a letter to the Mayor, sent in March 2016. The letter noted that the Mayor needs to continue to promote the development of affordable rented homes which will be accessible to Londoners priced out of ownership. It set out the challenges arising from the

AR model, but also indicated that a range of existing and new providers are innovating to support the development of affordable rented homes.



## Rent stabilisation

London's private rented sector (PRS) has grown significantly over recent years. A decade ago, 17 per cent of London's housing stock was privately rented, compared with over 26 per cent today. Despite the huge growth in the PRS, the regulations that govern it have remained largely unchanged since the 1980s.

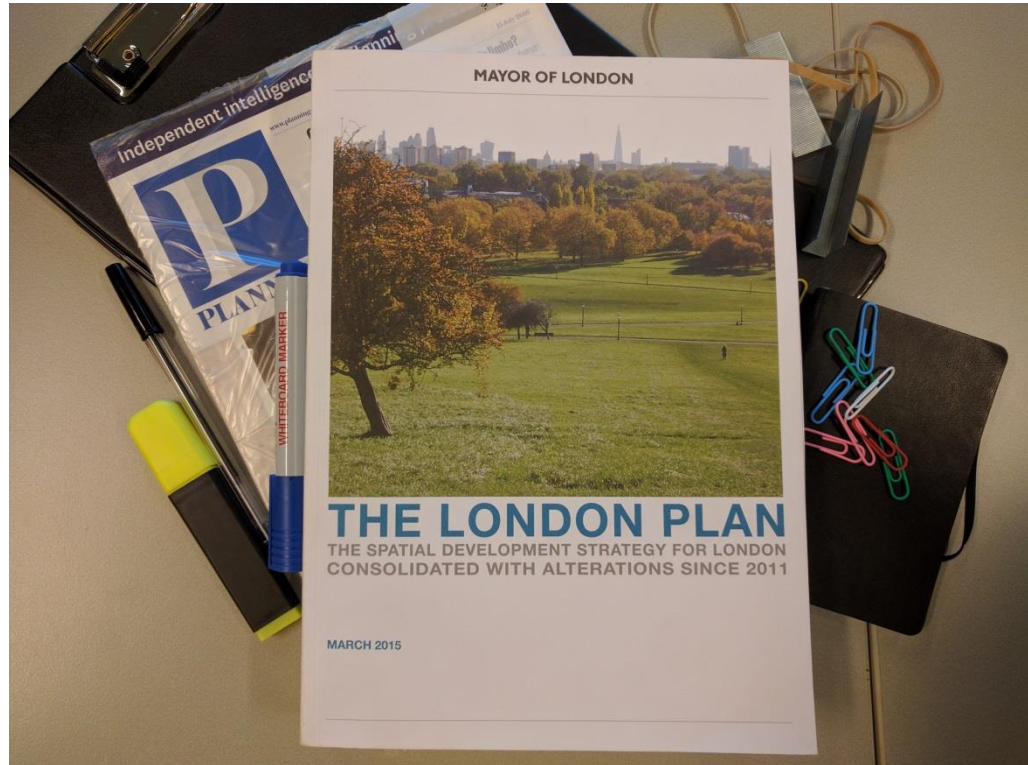
In March, the Housing Committee report [\*At Home with Renting: Improving security for London's private renters\*](#), recommended that the incoming Mayor should seek delegated powers from Westminster in order to introduce a new default rental contract of three years, with initial rents set by the market, and increases limited to consumer price inflation. It received considerable media attention, reaffirming the committee's place as an influential voice on London housing policy.<sup>iii</sup>

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<sup>iii</sup> The report was the view of a majority of the committee. The GLA Conservatives produced their own minority report.

## The London Plan

The Mayor produces a London Plan which sets out the framework for how London will develop over the next 20-25 years. All London borough plans must 'conform' to the overall strategic policies contained within the London Plan.



The Planning Committee has an ongoing role in evaluating the Mayor's changes to the London Plan. The Mayor proposed changes to the Plan in summer 2015 to bring it in line with new national housing standards and car parking policy. The committee responded to these proposals, requesting that the new standards reflect the specific housing design and quality requirements needed in London, and highlighting how parking spaces near homes in areas with poor transport accessibility would be affected.

## Supplementary Planning Guidance

There is a growing concern among campaigners, boroughs and the Assembly that viability assessments are being used by some developers deliberately to reduce the size of planning obligations. In February 2016, the Chair wrote to the Mayor to express concern that the planning system in London is too easily manipulated to maximise developer profits over other objectives. In response to considerable support for this initiative, the Mayor said his new Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance would be changed to reflect many of the committee's recommendations.

The Planning Committee has an ongoing role in evaluating the Mayor's changes to the London Plan.

## London's Growth

Managing London's record growth continues to be a key strategic task for the Mayor. In February 2016, in its report [Up or out: A false choice](#). *Options for London's growth*, the committee warned that the next Mayor must immediately start planning the next 25 years' of London's growth. At its final meeting of the Assembly Year, the committee built on the work in the report to discuss progress on developing more effective arrangements for co-ordinating strategic policy and infrastructure investment between City Hall in London and the wider South East of England.

## Land Value Tax

In February, the committee published [Tax trial: A Land Value Tax for London?](#) The report was a rapporteur investigation undertaken on behalf of the committee by Tom Copley AM. The report discussed how a Land Value Tax (LVT)—which taxes land, not buildings—has the potential to overcome inefficient land use and encourage development to fund London's growth. The report recommended a trial be introduced in the near future.



Tom Copley AM prepares to be interviewed about 'Tax trial: A Land Value Tax for London?'

# 5. Jobs and livelihoods—the impact of London’s economy

The **Economy Committee** examines how the Mayor promotes London’s economy, and looks at the work of the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) and the variety of ways the economy affects the lives of Londoners.

The **Regeneration Committee** was established in May 2013 to examine the Mayor’s regeneration plans, with particular reference to the power given to the Mayor to establish Mayoral Development Corporations.

## Economic impact of climate change

This year the Economy Committee made a number of recommendations to the Mayor, the London Enterprise Panel and the London Climate Change Partnership about the economic impact of climate change. The report—[\*Weathering the Storm: The Impact of Climate Change on London's Economy\*](#)—built on work from an interim report in 2014.

The report gained a large amount of media coverage and was publicised further when, as part of events running up to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, former Committee Chair Jenny Jones joined a panel discussion and took part in a Q&A session hosted by the Institut Français.



Baroness Jenny Jones AM speaking at a UN Climate Change Conference at the Institut Français

## Third sector employment

Addressing long-term unemployment and high unemployment levels among certain groups in London continues to challenge policy-makers. The Economy Committee investigated the role the third sector could play in future employment programmes. Its report—[\*A Helping Hand: Enhancing the role of voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in employment support programmes in London\*](#)—recommended intervention by the Mayor and the London Enterprise Panel to champion choice-based and voluntary employment approaches and called for an end to mandatory work placements.

The Economy Committee visited a number of London's tech sector organisations in 2015.

## London's tech sector

The committee visited a number of organisations from London's tech sector in 2015; including Unruly, Makers Academy, Centre for London, Technology Will Save Us and Optimity. The visits highlighted a number of challenges, particularly around digital connectivity, the digital skills gap and the suitability of the apprenticeships programme to address this gap.

The committee then produced [\*A Mayoral Manifesto for the Digital Economy\*](#), which called for action from the Mayor to introduce digital apprenticeships and encourage small and medium sized enterprises to take on apprentices with digital skills. In addition, the report recommended that the Mayor should lobby government to introduce the installation of super-fast broadband connectivity to maintain growth in London's digital economy.



The committee visits Technology Will Save Us in South Hackney

## The London labour market

The report, [\*The Hourglass Economy: an analysis of London's labour market\*](#), was published in February 2016. The report followed a 6-month investigation into London's labour market and the changes it has seen since the 2008 economic downturn.

The report made recommendations to the Mayor to continue to develop new ways to promote the London Living Wage; improve transparency by calling for all job adverts to include contract and pay details; and establish a working group to look at low pay sectors, such as retail and hospitality. The committee also discussed these challenges with senior Mayoral advisors, and heard about

the Mayor and GLA's plans to use devolved responsibility and funding to improve skills and education in London.



Chair Fiona Twycross AM speaks to *London Live* about the London labour market

## Childcare provision in the capital

As the Government seeks to deliver on its commitment to provide 30 hours of free childcare to those parents who meet the income threshold, the committee reviewed the challenges faced by parents in London. Its recommendations were sent to Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan who responded by setting out what steps the Government was taking to support the sector to deliver the expansion in free childcare.



## Major regeneration projects

Visiting major regeneration schemes to identify lessons for the whole of London is an important part of the Regeneration Committee's work. The committee continued to scrutinise the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) in their role of leading the regeneration of their respective areas. Members make regular visits to the sites to monitor progress and use them as case studies for wider investigations into regeneration.



Richard Tracey AM and Gareth Bacon AM examine plans for the new Nine Elms development

The committee continues to keep a close eye on Olympic venues.

The committee looked into the financial performance and sustainability of the Olympic Park venues, such as the ArcelorMittal Orbit in early 2016. At a meeting, the LLDC discussed the cost to visitors of the ArcelorMittal Orbit slide, which was reported with interest in the media. The committee will continue to keep a close eye on the financial performance of Olympic venues in the future, to ensure they deliver value for money in conjunction with the Budget and Performance Committee.

## Transport-led regeneration

In June 2015, the committee returned to Vauxhall and Nine Elms—a major regeneration site in southwest London and the site of a proposed new tube station—to support its investigation on transport-led regeneration.

The committee's report—[Transport-led regeneration](#)—found that the TfL Growth Fund has a valuable role to play in unlocking areas for regeneration,

but recommended that TfL should change how it allocates the Fund by introducing an open bidding process for boroughs to apply for funding, using clear selection criteria.

## Business improvement districts

The committee visited three BIDs to look at their interaction with local authority services.

A business improvement district (BID) is a defined area within which businesses pay an additional tax (or levy) in order to fund projects within the district's boundaries. The committee visited three BIDs—in Brixton, Baker Street and Streatham—to look at their interaction with local authority services, and how they relate to local residential communities. During the visit to the inStreatham BID, the committee asked local businesses and residents about its impact. Some of the answers are available on the [London Assembly YouTube channel](#).



The Regeneration Committee visiting the Brixton BID

The report—[Business Improvement Districts: The role of BIDs in London's regeneration](#)—was published in February 2016. It found little evidence that BIDs were contributing to regenerating their areas, but discovered that they are making improvements to the public realm and creating stakeholder networks. It found that there is no appetite for BIDs to fill gaps left by the public sector on the high street and highlighted concerns about a lack of accountability. The report recommended a 'London Standard' best practice to improve BID governance and financial transparency.

## Public consultation on regeneration projects

The committee met with experts in March 2016, to look at the role that public consultation plays in major regeneration projects, with a focus on Brent Cross Cricklewood. The meeting found that consultation methods are becoming

more participative and interactive, with the Internet making it easier to contact larger numbers of people for their views.

Chairman Gareth Bacon AM and other Assembly Members heard from invited guests that major regeneration projects can create difficulties for consultation. Issues reported included a lack of clarity about what can and cannot be influenced by consultation; problems with sustaining communication with communities over a long period of time; and insufficient notice and support to communities losing their homes.

## Intensification Areas

Intensification Areas (IAs) are defined in the London Plan as built-up areas with good existing or potential public transport accessibility which can support redevelopment at higher densities than currently exist.

The committee published a letter to the Mayor on changing the guidance for IAs in the next London Plan at the start of 2016. This followed the committee's site visit to Mill Hill East and West Hampstead interchange earlier in the year.

The letter raised a number of issues for the new Mayor to consider when producing the next London Plan; including closer working between the GLA and TfL to ensure that transport connections can cope with additional passenger volumes before development begins. The letter also recommended an emphasis on mixed use developments in order to avoid the creation of dormitory towns.



Gareth Bacon AM, Andrew Dismore AM and Navin Shah AM at the West Hampstead Intensification Area

# 6. The health of Londoners and the environment we live in

The **Health Committee** examines health and wellbeing across London, with a particular focus on public health issues and the role of the Mayor in reducing health inequalities.

The **Environment Committee** focuses on all aspects of the capital's environment by reviewing the Mayor's strategies 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.

## d/Deaf care

In 2015, Deputy Chair Andrew Boff AM led a review on behalf of the Health Committee, into access to health services for d/Deaf people. This work concluded in June with a launch event to mark the publication of the committee's report, [Access to health services for d/Deaf people](#). The report called on health care providers to urgently review their services to better meet the needs of deaf Londoners, and urged joint commissioning of support services for deaf people.



Deputy Chair Andrew Boff AM launches the committee's d/Deaf care report

Campaign groups praised the efforts of the committee in putting d/Deaf issues firmly on the public agenda.

The event included two qualified British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters and two Speech-to-Text reporters on a large projector screen, making it fully accessible to the d/Deaf audience. A BSL invitation in video format was created to invite guests and a BSL version of the executive summary is available on the [London Assembly YouTube Channel](#). The report was very positively received by campaign groups, who praised the committee's efforts in giving a voice to under-represented Londoners and putting the issue firmly on the public agenda.

## Mental health

Over a million Londoners suffer from mental illness at any one time, making it the capital's single largest health pressure - greater than either cancer or cardiovascular disease. In July 2015, the Health Committee launched its report on access to mental health, [Healthy Minds, Healthy Londoners](#). The report called for a greater focus on early intervention and prevention regarding

mental ill health, particularly for young people and those from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

Building on this study, in March 2016 the committee heard that maternity services across London were not meeting the mental health needs of a significant proportion of London's women in the period following birth. The committee wrote an open letter to the Mayor in his role as Chair of the London Health Board, urging him to ensure that the board gives urgent consideration to issues relating to the provision of specialist perinatal mental health services in London. The Board has indicated that this will be discussed as a priority as part of its ongoing work on mental health.



Committee Chair Dr Onkar Sahota AM speaks to *London Live* about Mental Health issues

The report *Tackling TB in London* found that some London boroughs in the capital have TB levels higher than the developing world.

## Tackling tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is seen as a disease of the past, yet it poses a highly significant public health challenge in the capital. Many Londoners simply don't know what TB is, how it is transmitted, what the symptoms are or how it is treated.

The Health Committee report, [Tackling TB in London](#), was launched at City Hall in October 2015. It included findings from a representative survey into Londoners' misconceptions about TB. It also found that some London boroughs have TB levels higher than the developing world. The recommendations called on the Mayor to use his influence to raise awareness and tackle health inequalities that contribute to London's unwelcome status as the TB capital of Western Europe.

The report launch event featured the Find & Treat service mobile health screening unit, which screens high-risk populations for TB, alongside outreach workers, peer advocates and former patients. The publication generated extensive local, national and international media coverage.



Committee Chair Dr Onkar Sahota AM with a mobile TB Screening Unit outside City Hall

## End of life care

The committee's review of end of life care in February 2016 found that there was significant variation in the quality of, and access to, care across the capital for different groups. An issues paper was published outlining that London is falling below the national average for good quality palliative care; and highlighting practical steps that local health and wellbeing boards could take to improve end of life care in their local areas.

## Workforce pressures

There is continuing pressure on emergency service staffing in the capital. The committee discussed preparations for the cold weather, the impact of service reconfiguration and plans to develop new models of care to relieve pressure on A&E in the future. In February, the committee heard about the ongoing challenges of filling medical posts in London. Guests discussed what the Mayor could do regarding housing and transport to make London more attractive to the health workforce and NHS Employers subsequently wrote to committee members on the same issue.

## Air pollution

The committee outlined concerns over the robustness of emissions testing, before the Volkswagen ‘dieselpgate’ scandal broke.

Air pollution continues to be a major concern for London. In July 2015, the Environment Committee published its report: [Driving Away from Diesel: Reducing air pollution from diesel vehicles](#). This highlighted the number of premature deaths in London attributable to air pollution, and made recommendations to ensure London complied with legal limits of NO<sub>2</sub> levels as soon as possible. The report also emphasised concerns over the robustness of emissions testing, before the Volkswagen “dieselpgate” scandal broke in the media and the true extent of the problem became globally known that autumn.<sup>iv</sup>



The Environment Committee highlighted concerns over emissions testing before “dieselpgate”

## Carbon emissions

To coincide with the start of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21 in Paris, the committee [published](#) its latest assessment of the Mayor’s carbon reduction targets. This found that since 2006, London has emitted nearly 15 million tonnes more CO<sub>2</sub> than if emissions had been on target as per the Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Strategy. It also identified specific areas where further action was most needed, calling on the next Mayor to re-invigorate London’s carbon reduction strategy.

## Solar power

London has the lowest amount of installed solar power capacity in the UK. This is usually blamed on the capital’s tall, thin buildings; a larger number of flats; more renters; and a more transient population. However, analysis by the Environment Committee found that the capital still performs worst of all regions when comparing only unshared, owner-occupied houses.

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<sup>iv</sup> The report was the view of a majority of the committee. The GLA Conservatives produced their own minority report.



The report published in October 2015—[\*Bring me sunshine! How London's homes could generate more solar energy\*](#)—explored why London is not meeting its potential for producing solar power. It called on the Mayor to lobby the Government against the proposed 87 per cent cut of the Feed-In Tariff and urged the GLA to ensure that major developments which are suitable for solar PV are only permitted if solar panels are included in the design.



Chair Darren Johnson AM discusses solar power with ITV London News at Roupell Park

## Growing, Growing, Gone

London's population is increasing by 100,000 every year and could grow to over 13 million by 2050, yet London needs to slash its carbon emissions and more generally make a transition to a sustainable economy. The need for accessible green space will be ever greater, but so will be the demand to build on London's land.

The committee published a report in March 2016—[\*Growing, Growing, Gone: Long-term sustainable growth for London\*](#)—which identified the main challenges to accommodating London's growth and made recommendations as to how those pressures can best be managed. It set out an agenda for the next Mayor, encouraging long-term sustainability to feature at the heart of all strategies; to integrate water strategy across supply, demand, drainage and flood risk; to work towards standardised domestic waste collections; and to protect London's green spaces and waterways.

The committee set out an agenda of long-term sustainable strategies for the next Mayor.

# 7. Looking to the future—education and devolution

Established to review and investigate the development and delivery of the Mayor's policies and strategies around education, the **Education Panel** has conducted important work on topics such as the school places crisis, London's Further Education (FE) sector and the Mayor's Education Programme.

Since its establishment in 2014, the **Devolution Working Group** has continued to examine a wide range of policy areas where devolution of powers and responsibilities to London government and the boroughs could improve the effectiveness and quality of public services.

## School places

In its report [London learners, London lives: Tackling the school places crisis and supporting children to achieve the best they can](#), the Education Panel recommended that the Mayor should use data from London boroughs and the Department for Education to develop a strategic pupil places needs assessment and incorporate it within the online Schools Atlas. In response, the GLA launched an updated version of the Schools Atlas which uses data to illustrate current patterns of demand for school places at a pan-London level.

The Education Panel continued this work in September 2015, with a specific focus on the challenges for secondary schools. The panel heard from representatives from London Councils and the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham about how they were coping with the unprecedented population increase and what more could be done to ensure that all London's children have access to quality education.

This year the GLA launched an updated version of the Schools Atlas, in response to an Education Panel proposal.



## Further Education

The Further Education (FE) sector is viewed by the Mayor and Government as a vital means of supporting young people and adults looking to re-train into work and to ensure that they have the skills to meet the demands of a rapidly changing economy. The Government has proposed major reforms to address the significant financial pressures faced by institutions offering FE.

The panel continues to examine the development of the FE sector in London. Before the start of the new mayoral term, the panel wrote an open letter to the incoming Mayor urging him to 'seize the moment' in re-shaping the sector to better meet the needs of both students and businesses.

## Further devolution to London

As the Mayor of London takes on new roles and looks to control and spend larger sums of money, the Assembly's scrutiny function needs to keep pace.

The Devolution Working Group report, [A New Agreement for London](#)—published in September 2015—sets out the arguments in favour of further devolution to London government through fiscal devolution, including full localisation of business rates, and the re-design of public services.

The report argued that as the London Mayor takes on new roles and looks to raise and spend larger sums of money, the Assembly's democratic function needs to keep pace, to provide Londoners with the necessary checks and balances to ensure they have the fullest confidence in the way their city is governed.

It set out a series of measures that could be taken quite quickly and without the need for primary legislation; as well as longer-term more radical measures, such as giving London government the ability to legislate on public health matters. It also portrayed the case for how further devolution to London government will need to be balanced by effective and appropriate scrutiny arrangements.



# London Assembly finances 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 controls a budget of £7.2 million: equating to £1 a year to the average Band D taxpayer.

The London Assembly directly controlled a budget of £7.2 million for 2015-16, equating to £1 a year to the average Band D taxpayer. These resources are focused on scrutinising the Mayor’s budget of £17 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

	2015-16 £m	2016-17 £m
Assembly Members	1.8	1.8
Member Services	2.1	2.1
Scrutiny & Investigations	1.5	1.6
Committee Services	0.5	0.5
Director/ Business Support	0.2	0.2
London TravelWatch	1.1	1.0
<b>Net revenue expenditure</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.2</b>

# The year ahead with a new Assembly

## 2016-17 will be another busy year for the Assembly.

- There is widespread support for pedestrianising Oxford Street in central London. The **Transport Committee** will examine the viability of this decision for local businesses, public transport and pedestrians. The committee will also investigate the growing issue of congestion on London's roads.
- The **Budget and Performance Committee** will examine how the new Mayor's four year fare freeze will affect TfL's finances.
- As well as continuing to scrutinise the Metropolitan Police and MOPAC, the **Police and Crime Committee** will look at youth violence and sexual offences in the capital; alongside examining the development and implementation of the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan for London.
- The **Housing Committee** will investigate if TfL land can be used for housing development in London. It will also look at innovative new housing models being used to tackle the housing crisis.
- The **Planning Committee** will continue to examine strategic planning issues which affect the London Plan, as the incoming Mayoral team works towards producing its first draft of the new plan in 2017.
- As well as examining the impacts of the EU exit on London, the **Economy Committee** will be looking at the effectiveness of apprenticeships in London and how to support growth in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- The **Regeneration Committee** will conduct an investigation into culture and its contribution to regeneration projects, conducting visits to the Old Oak and Park Royal developments in West London.
- The main area of focus for the **Environment Committee** will be building on the previous successful work examining the continuing air quality issues impacting London.
- The **Health Committee** will review HIV prevention services and strategies available to Londoners as well as investigating mental issues within London's minority groups.
- The **Education Panel** will continue to look at national funding in schools and school place allocation in London.

# Your representatives at City Hall 2015-16

Below are the London Assembly Members who worked for Londoners in 2015-16.

				
<b>Jennette Arnold</b> OBE AM Chair	<b>Tony Arbour</b> AM Deputy Chairman	<b>Gareth Bacon AM</b>	<b>Kemi Badenoch AM</b>	<b>Mayor John Biggs AM</b>
				
<b>Andrew Boff AM</b>	<b>James Cleverly</b> AM MP	<b>Tom Copley AM</b>	<b>Andrew Dismore AM</b>	<b>Len Duvall AM</b>
				
<b>Roger Evans AM</b>	<b>Nicky Gavron AM</b>	<b>Darren Johnson AM</b>	<b>Jenny Jones AM</b>	<b>Stephen Knight AM</b>
				
<b>Kit Malthouse</b> AM MP	<b>Joanne McCartney</b> AM	<b>Steve O'Connell AM</b>	<b>Caroline Pidgeon</b> MBE AM	<b>Murad Qureshi AM</b>
				
<b>Dr Onkar Sahota AM</b>	<b>Navin Shah AM</b>	<b>Valerie Shawcross</b> CBE AM	<b>Richard Tracey AM</b>	<b>Fiona Twycross AM</b>

# Meet your Assembly for 2016-20

These 25 Assembly Members were elected on 6th May 2016 for four year terms.



**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. A former senior lecturer and Honorary Visiting Fellow at Kingston University, he has a vast historical and local knowledge of South West London. His hobby is to collect first editions of artistic works by perusing car-boot sales and on EBay.



**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.





**Kemi Badenoch—GLA Conservatives—London-wide**

Kemi is the Deputy GLA Conservative Leader, who has served as a London-wide member of the Assembly since 16 September 2015. Before joining the Assembly she worked for The Spectator magazine, and has served as a governor of two inner London schools and sat on the board of one of London’s largest housing associations. Kemi was born in Wimbledon but has also lived in the USA and Nigeria.



**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 has two children.



**Sian Berry—Green Party—London-wide**

As well as being the author of numerous environmental books, Sian’s most noteworthy work is in transport: as the founder of the Alliance against Urban 4x4s in 2003, and working as a roads and sustainable transport campaigner for the charity ‘Campaign for Better Transport’ since 2011. Sian came third as the Green Party mayoral candidate in 2016; bettering her 2008 result of fourth place. She has been a councillor for the Highgate ward of Camden since 2014.



**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. A self-employed interim director in a number of property outsourcing, construction and utilities companies; he is currently Senior Planning Chairman 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 Thank—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 delivery of the hugely popular Lambeth Country 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.



**David Kurten—UK Independence Party (UKIP)—London-wide**

Newcomer 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’.



**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.



**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. 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. She is a member of the Living Streets London Action Group; representing pedestrians on the TfL junction review board. Formerly an artist and college lecturer, she has worked as a school governor, safer neighbourhood police panel chair and pedestrian campaigner while being a full time parent. She has lived in Highbury, Islington, since 1992.



**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 practicing 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.

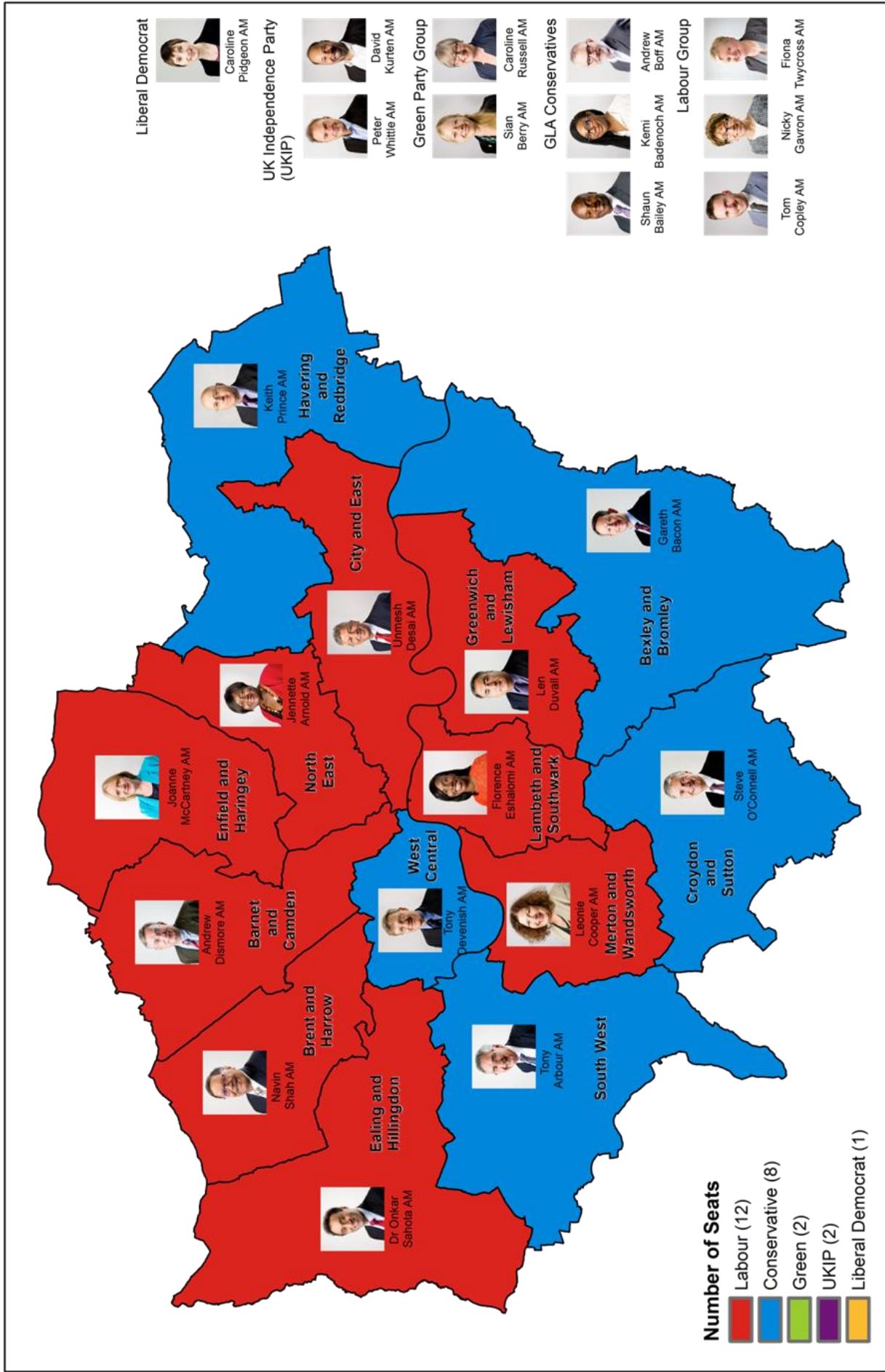


**Peter Whittle—UK Independence Party (UKIP)—London-wide**

Peter was elected to the Assembly in 2016, but has been UKIP's national Culture spokesman since 2013. 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.



# Introducing your new London Assembly



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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

Bu belgenin kendi dilinize çevrilmiş bir özetini okumak isterseniz, lütfen yukarıdaki telefon numarasını arayın, veya posta ya da e-posta adresi aracılığıyla bizimle temasa geçin.

## 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 একটা সারাংশ নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে ফোন করবেন অথবা উল্লেখিত ডাক ঠিকনায় বা ই-মেইল ঠিকনায় 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 المصنف بلغتك، فرجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو الاتصال على العنوان البريدي العادي أو عنوان البريد الإلكتروني 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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