

# 17th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

## Mayor's Question Time 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022

This is my seventeenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 4 November – 1 December 2022.

Please note that the information in the Mayor's Report is accurate at the time of publishing.

### Executive Summary

#### **ULEZ to be expanded London-wide with new scrappage scheme and grace periods**

On 25 November I announced that I will expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) London-wide in August 2023 to tackle the triple threats of air pollution, the climate emergency and congestion, and to ensure five million more Londoners can breathe cleaner air.

Toxic air pollution is a matter of life and death – with around 4,000 Londoners dying prematurely each year, children growing up with stunted lungs and a higher risk of dementia in older people.

More than 500,000 Londoners live with asthma and are more vulnerable to the impacts of toxic air, with more than half of these people living in outer London boroughs. I'm doing all I can to support Londoners through the cost-of-living crisis, which is why the expansion will be accompanied by a brand new £110m scrappage scheme to support Londoners on lower incomes, disabled Londoners, charities and micro-businesses and sole traders.

I listened to feedback from disabled people and the organisations that represent them and have also announced new measures to support disabled people, including extending the existing exemption periods for London's disabled drivers and community transport minibuses run by not-for-profit organisations to October 2027 and October 2025 respectively, and introducing new exemption periods for disabled drivers and wheelchair accessible vehicles.

I'm providing further support through scrapping the fee for drivers to sign up to Auto Pay for the ULEZ and Congestion Charge. To maximise the potential benefits of expanding the ULEZ and strengthen alternatives to private cars, I also announced a plan for improving the bus network in outer London. New services and improvements, that will see over one million further kilometres added to the bus network, are planned to support growth areas in a number of other outer London location. This is part of the biggest ever expansion of the bus network in outer London.

### **Donation to Ella Roberta Family Foundation and BREATHE Lewisham visit**

On 30 November I announced that I will be making a £10,000 donation to the Ella Roberta Family Foundation, to contribute to the First Breath for Our Future Ancestor project in memory of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, who died in 2013 as a result of exposure to excessive air pollution. Alongside this announcement, my Deputy Mayor for Environment & Energy, Shirley Rodrigues and I helped unveil the final phase of Breathe: 2022, a major new artwork in Lewisham that highlights the impact of air pollution, especially on children. I met with the artist and some of the people featured in the artwork, including air quality campaigners Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah and Anjali Raman-Middleton. This was a culmination of a year-long programme exploring the impact of air pollution and has been part of Lewisham's London Borough of Culture programme. The artwork will light up the outside of Lewisham's Old Town Hall from 30 November to 14 December.

### **New GLA funding saves vast majority of London's buses**

I have confirmed additional funding to be provided to TfL which has allowed it to reassess its proposals for the bus network and cancel the changes Londoners were most concerned about following an unprecedented response to the public consultation.

The pandemic's effect on TfL's finances meant that it had to rely on a series of short-term government funding deals, which had a series of conditions and requirements. The government required TfL to make savings equivalent to four per cent of the bus network, and the package of changes were proposed to help achieve this.

To support TfL in responding to the issues raised in the response to the consultation, I have identified additional funding for TfL averaging around £25m per year. This is in addition to a £500m City Hall financing facility, confirmed earlier this year, which is still required for TfL to maintain a balanced budget.

TfL will go ahead with 22 per cent of the service changes consulted on, which are all in areas with numerous alternative public transport options and in areas where following the changes there will be enough capacity on buses to meet demand. Passengers will still be able to make the same journeys, with additional interchanges in some instances, in which case they will benefit from my Hopper Fare. By going ahead with the remaining proposals, TfL is able to improve the reliability of buses in central London, while allowing for investment in bus provision in outer London.

Buses sit at the heart of the capital's transport network and have a key role to play as we continue building a better, greener and fairer city for all Londoners.

### **The Evening Standard's "Plug It In" summit**

On 24 November, I gave the keynote speech at the Evening Standard's Plug It In Summit at the London Design Museum, an event focussed on raising the awareness of, and promoting, the EV revolution in London and beyond. I highlighted that London now has the most public rapid charge points by volume and share of any European city and with a third of all charge points across the UK, is also leading the way domestically. I announced that City Hall and TfL are releasing land for 100 new ultra-rapid public charging points on busy London roads suitable for businesses, emergency service vehicles and taxis, pioneering a new approach to open up public land for charge point delivery. I also highlighted, as Chair of C40 Cities, the launch of an EV ethics and sustainability initiative to bring together global cities to discuss the challenges relating to the ethics and sustainability of EV batteries.

### **Direct Elizabeth line services into central London from Reading, Heathrow, and Shenfield start**

The next stage of the Elizabeth line began on 6 November when lines from Reading, Heathrow, and Shenfield were connected with the central tunnels of the line. The new 'through routes' offer direct journeys across the capital and out to Heathrow Airport and the home counties, connecting jobs, homes, leisure and travel to drive economic recovery.

Customers travelling from Reading and Heathrow can now travel east all the way to Abbey Wood without needing to change at Paddington mainline station, and customers travelling from Shenfield will be able to travel west all the way to Paddington without needing to change at Liverpool Street mainline station.

Services are also now running on Sundays through central London, making thousands of journeys quicker, easier and more comfortable. Now services from outside London are connected with the stations in centre of the capital, people can be quickly transported on the Elizabeth line all the way through the city. This new stage of the Elizabeth line will bring a huge boost to our city, encouraging people to make the most of the capital and helping to support businesses in the heart of our city. I'm so proud of this transformational addition to our public transport network. The Elizabeth line is helping to build a better London - a fairer, greener and more prosperous city for all Londoners.

### **Private renting cost of living summit**

On 14 November, I convened a landmark summit of private renters, charities, advocates and politicians after new polling for City Hall revealed that 40 per cent of Londoners think they will struggle to meet their rent payments in the next six months.

Hearing so powerfully from our speakers and contributions from renters and organisations in the room left no-one in any doubt as to the crisis private renters are facing and the urgent need for action. The 2.6 million renters in London are facing the highest rent increases since records began. Not being able to pay their rent leaves them at risk of homelessness. I heard about the devastating implications of this, including frequent moves and insecurity, illegal eviction, poor health, poor standards and the challenges boroughs face in enforcement. I was grateful to hear proposals for change and participants' determination and commitment to pursue them. I promised to ensure that government hears our voices and continue to work together on this crucial issue and wider private renting reform.

## **London council homebuilding higher than the rest of the country combined**

On 18 November I published new analysis of official statistics demonstrating once again the renaissance in council homebuilding under my Mayoralty. Analysis of government figures reveals that London boroughs started 5,494 council homes in 2021/22, more than the rest of the country combined and a sevenfold increase compared to the level I inherited from the previous Mayor.

## **City Hall Remembrance Day Service**

I was honoured to join the London Assembly and the City Hall Branch of the Royal British Legion, in welcoming representatives of the British Armed Forces and other special guests for the first Remembrance Day Service at City Hall's new location in London's Royal Docks on Friday 11 November – Remembrance Day itself.

This important service, for those of all faiths and none, provided an opportunity for us to reflect on the great sacrifices made by our Armed Forces and their families.

The Dean of Southwark, The Very Revd Canon Andrew Nunn, officiated parts of the ceremony and The Right Reverend Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford delivered the address. Representatives from the Sikh, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths addressed the audience and led a series of interfaith prayers.

The service also included readings, prayers and hymns, with music by the London International Gospel choir. Lieutenant General James Bashall, National President of The Royal British Legion, paid tribute to those who fought in the Burma campaign by reading the Kohima Epitaph. Senior representatives from the Metropolitan Police Service, Greater London Lieutenancy, Transport for London, London Ambulance Service, British Red Cross, London Assembly, Royal British Legion, Armed Forces, and others participated in the wreath laying ceremony.

## **Black Futures Reception**

On 28 November, I was delighted to host, along with my Deputy Mayors Debbie Weekes-Bernard and Justine Simons OBE, Black Futures – a shared vision for Black culture and creativity in London, at a reception in City Hall.

With diversity being our capital's greatest asset, I have been committed to making sure our cultural industries represent, invest and amplify London's communities and diversity. It is through arts and culture, that the richness of diversity is expressed and strengthened.

The Black Futures reception brought together Black creatives – artists, performers, designers, and musicians - both established and emerging, to engage and mobilise in shaping a new event on Trafalgar Square that celebrates Black Londoners and their creativity in London.

We launched the call to create a community advisory group to inform and shape next year's event in Trafalgar Square to celebrate Black cultural and creative talent from across the capital.

## **Recovery Update**

I chaired, along with the Co-Chair Cllr Georgia Gould, the thirteenth meeting of the London Recovery Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> November – the first in person. The Board heard a presentation on the CAZ Futures Action Plan from Central London Forward, which outlines how boroughs, the GLA and central government can help keep central London a sustainable and attractive place to live, work and play. There was also a presentation from the Building a Fairer City Action Plan on the work to implement the plan, and a discussion on the future of the London Recovery Board and Programme.

My Recovery team coordinated a Mental Health and Wellbeing workshop as part of Youth Takeover Day. The team brought together the Youth Recovery Board and Mental Health mission team, in collaboration with Thrive LDN, to co-design and deliver the workshop. 50 young Londoners participated in the workshop and had the opportunity to share and learn from others about the factors that support good mental health.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **Empowering young Londoners to help prevent violence against women and girls**

On 8 November, I was delighted to join pupils and staff at Rokeby School in Newham to launch a new toolkit, available to every secondary school in London to educate and empower young Londoners to take a stand and help prevent VAWG.

Developed by arts and education charity Tender, MOPAC, teachers, youth workers and partner organisations, the toolkit includes lesson plans, activities and resources

on building healthy relationships, calling out sexism and discussions on attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls. The toolkit also features the video from my highly successful #HaveAWord campaign, which asks men of all ages to reflect on how they can help tackle violence against women and girls.

With Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, and Director of the VRU Lib Peck, I participated in discussions with pupils at Rokeby and saw first-hand how the #HaveAWord video and the activities in the Toolkit help young people engage safely and constructively with these important and sensitive issues.

Every single one of London's secondary schools, colleges, community groups and faith groups can access the VAWG prevention toolkit free of charge here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/VAWGToolkit> - and I welcome the support of Assembly Members in sharing this with secondary schools in their constituencies and networks.

### **On patrol with Met Neighbourhood Officers**

On 11 November, I joined AC Louisa Rolfe and Met Neighbourhood Officers on an evening patrol in Peckham Town Centre. I welcome these opportunities to spend time on the front line with officers keeping our communities safe, hearing first-hand about their work and being able to thank them for their service to our city.

With the nights drawing in earlier, Town Centre, Neighbourhood, Response Teams officers and the City Hall funded Violent Crime Taskforce are working hard to suppress violence, take weapons off our street and engage with all of London's communities to prevent and reduce crime.

I fully support the Commissioner's focus on getting the basics of policing right, and for officers to be in the right place at the right time when and where the public need them most. The Met are targeting the most dangerous offenders, maximising diversion opportunities and increasing their presence through targeted patrols in key hotspots across London's communities.

## Transport

### **Businesses celebrate impact of Elizabeth line as transformational railway marks six months in service**

Six months on from the opening of the Elizabeth line on 24 May, business groups and small businesses in and around the new stations have hailed its transformative effect. Nearly 70 million journeys have been made on the new railway line since its official launch in May, with half of these made in the central section between Paddington and Whitechapel.

Faster connections mean it's easier and more affordable than ever for Londoners and visitors to make the most of what the capital's businesses have to offer at a pivotal time as they continue to recover from the pandemic. Businesses and local representatives came together at the historic Royal Academy to celebrate the huge boost to London that the line has provided in the six months since being opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The latest ridership data shows that the Elizabeth line has been used nearly 70m times since opening, with around 600,000 journeys made on the line each day. The most popular journeys made all involve Tottenham Court Road station, with Stratford, Paddington and Canary Wharf the most popular destinations for people leaving the west end. As a result of that popularity, use of Tottenham Court Road has increased by more than 80 per cent since the Elizabeth line launched. Use of nearby Bond Street station has increased by more than 25 per cent since the Elizabeth line station opened in October.

In a further boost to businesses, direct Elizabeth line services are now running from Reading, Heathrow and Shenfield into and out of central London. This means customers can travel east all the way to Abbey Wood without needing to change at Paddington mainline station and can travel west from Shenfield without changing at Liverpool Street mainline station, making journeys quicker and easier. Trains now run every three to four minutes between Paddington and Whitechapel.

### **Appearance in front of the London Assembly on the MTS Revision**

On 17 November, I attended a meeting of the London Assembly to answer questions on the proposed revision to my Transport Strategy to enable further action to address the triple challenges of toxic air pollution, the climate emergency and traffic congestion to ensure London is a world-class, attractive, healthy city. Following a public consultation, I decided to approve for publication a revision that would update and consolidate the policy foundation for road user charging in London and provide for, but not confirm, the potential London-wide expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone. I was asked questions on how the work and policies of Transport for London have shaped and will be impacted by the proposed revision.

## **TfL launches more digital walking routes as part of new plan to boost leisure walking**

On 4 November, Transport for London published the capital's first plan to boost the level of walking for leisure. Leisure walking provides people with an affordable and easy way to support good health and physical and mental wellbeing, while protecting and improving the environment. The new action plan will enhance and expand leisure walking routes and better connect London's communities with green spaces, building on increases in leisure walking seen since the pandemic.

As part of the Leisure Walking Plan, TfL has partnered with Go Jauntly to digitise the Walk London network and make it available through the Go Jauntly app. This will ensure that everyone in the capital can have access to high-quality leisure walking routes and have the opportunity to connect with nature.

The Walk London Network is one of the largest walking networks of any city in the world, comprising seven routes that encourage leisure walking in London. Digitising the network means that people will be able to use the Go Jauntly app to navigate all seven routes, including the Thames Path and London LOOP. Accessible by public transport, these walking routes pass through 28 London boroughs, with each route split into sections to make them easier to navigate.

The Leisure Walking Plan also sets out further commitments to boost leisure walking in the capital. TfL will undertake an audit of signage on the existing Walk London network and look to improve existing wayfinding signs, to enable even more people to make the most of the routes in their area. TfL will also use funding from the Green New Deal fund to identify further ways of improving the network, including by resurfacing existing paths to make them more attractive and easier to use.

## **TfL publishes its step-free access consultation results as it launches a trial of a brand new bridging device on the Jubilee line**

On 16 November, Transport for London published the results of its step-free access consultation as it launches a trial of a new bridging device as part of its ongoing work to make the capital's network more accessible and inclusive.

The specially commissioned bridging device has been designed to provide additional support, comfort and reassurance to customers at step-free stations where there remains a small gap between the platform and train carriage. Customers are being invited to try the new bridging device at eight Jubilee line stations until February 2023 - including London Bridge, Canary Wharf and Green Park by speaking to station staff.

If successful, TfL will consider extending the use of the bridging device across the London Underground and wider TfL network as it continues working to make the capital's network more accessible and inclusive.

From November 2021, TfL ran a 14-week public consultation looking into how it could best shape the future of step-free access on the Tube when suitable funding is identified.



Key findings in the consultation included a-priority for better interchanges with other transports services, along with stations that are within easy reach of hospitals and healthcare services. Prioritise step-free access at a combination of some smaller and medium sized Tube stations and part of a complex station (as opposed to just one complex station; a few medium stations; or more smaller stations). More than half said their usage of the Tube would expand (52 per cent) and that their journeys would be made easier (68 per cent) and less stressful (64 per cent) if their most important Tube stations were made step-free.

## Environment

### **COP27 High level Finance Roundtable**

On 9 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues participated in a roundtable discussion on financing the energy transition and getting to Net Zero. The event was organised by C40 and the UN High Level Champions. The meeting was to discuss how best to ensure successful public-private collaboration in financing net zero and a green transition in cities. My Deputy Mayor joined Mayors from Bristol, Freetown and Glasgow, as well as city officials, to talk about the need, challenges and opportunities for attracting private sector financiers to share risk and blend sources of finance to help support the delivery of climate related projects. She highlighted the progress London has already made on this through programmes such as the Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF).

### **Joint letter on air pollution**

On 13 November, I joined Cancer Research UK, Asthma + Lung UK, Alzheimer's Research, the British Heart Foundation and the Chair of the Conservative Environment Network to call on the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to ensure the Government prioritises drastically reducing air pollution and sets bold new legal limits as quickly as possible. T

### **Energy Advice London**

On 15 November, my new pan-London, Energy Advice London service launched. It provides information and useful resources to help Londoners with their energy needs and questions. Using a bespoke website supported by phone and email response from a newly established dedicated team Londoners will be guided to access the help they need in these difficult times. This new service aligns with my existing Cost of Living hub, which provides additional information on further support services available, such as debt advice and support from charities

The new service will be promoted across social media and press platforms.

<https://energyadvice.london/>

### **Asthma Admissions in London**

On 17 November, I released new City Hall analysis of London's asthma data, which shows that 3,645 children and young people were admitted to hospital with asthma in London in 2021/2022. In June 2022, the latest month for which figures are available, 229 children and young people in London were admitted to hospital with asthma. Around half of hospital admissions for asthma in children and young people occur in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds compared to white children and young people (50 vs 28 per cent). Toxic air caused by traffic can lead to children growing up with stunted lungs and developing health problems such as asthma, highlighting the need for further action to improve air quality in London.

### **Scrappage report**

On 18 November, I announced the publication of a report evaluating the success of the scrappage schemes I introduced to support the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone and introduction of tighter Low Emission Zone standards in 2021. The report shows that the schemes were incredibly successful, helping to remove over 15,200 polluting vehicles from London's roads and removing an estimated 140 tonnes of nitrogen oxides. The CO2 saving is the equivalent to that generated by a lorry travelling 1.5 million miles. Furthermore, recipients of the scheme reported reduced car ownership and increased walking, cycling and public transport use.

### **Grow Back Greener grant awards and National Tree Week**

On 26 November, to mark National Tree Week, I announced the successful recipients of the third round of my Grow Back Greener grants. I've awarded £2m to 56 projects that will plant 14,000 trees, create and improve over 13 hectares of green space and involve around 14,000 Londoners. Grants are targeted in areas with low tree canopy cover, where Londoners live further than a 10-minute walk from green space and that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In the next few months, my Trees for London community tree pack giveaway programme with The Conservation Volunteers will plant roughly 30,000 trees and my Trees for Streets sponsorship programme with boroughs and Trees for Cities will plant another 1,000 street trees. This is in addition to the 430,000 trees that have been planted through my funding since 2016.

### **London's progress to Net Zero following COP27**

On 1 December, my Deputy Mayor Environment and Energy gave a key note address and then sat on a panel at BusinessLDN's, formerly London First, London's progress to net zero following COP27 event. My Deputy Mayor spoke about London's progress to net zero since the publication of my Net Zero Pathway and COP26 highlighting the programmes we are delivering, our role in raising ambition, supporting a just transition, green growth and the associated jobs this will deliver. The panel was focussed on the role that business has to play in supporting the ambitious London agenda and getting to net zero.

## **Fire and Resilience**

### **National Preparedness Commission Roundtable**

On 8 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a roundtable to discuss a report by National Preparedness Commission that examined societal resilience initiatives during Covid-19.

### **Meeting with LFB on the findings from the Manchester Arena inquiry**

On 9 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with officers from the London Fire Brigade to discuss the findings of the Manchester Arena Inquiry.

### **Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee**

On 29 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended the London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to discuss resilience and provide an initial statement LFB's culture review.

### **Stakeholder meetings on the London Fire Brigade's Culture Review**

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a stakeholder meetings with the London Fire Commissioner to discuss the findings of the review into the culture of London Fire Brigade. These included meetings with the Chair of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee (FREP) Anne Clark AM, the Deputy Chairman of FREP Susan Hall AM, Zack Polanski AM and Sarah Jones MP.

### **Stakeholder meetings on the London Fire Brigade's Culture Review**

On 28 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended stakeholder meetings with Sarah Jones MP and Hina Bokhari AM to discuss the findings of the review into the culture of London Fire Brigade.

## **Growth, Skills and Regeneration**

### **Launch of the Jobs and Skills for Londoners programme**

On 4 November, I launched a new funding opportunity, Jobs and Skills for Londoners, making £130m available to London-based providers for the delivery of GLA-funded Adult Education Budget (AEB) and Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) training provision. The funding will be used to help Londoners gain relevant skills, retrain, and move into “good work” in key sectors such as Digital, Health and Social Care, Hospitality, Green and Creative Industries.

Adult skills providers in London, such as colleges, will be able to bid for grants of up to £5.4m over three years, starting in August 2023, to provide training to around 80,000 Londoners who are unemployed or in lower paid work with a particular focus on those who are underrepresented across key industries. As the cost of living continues to rise, it is more important than ever that Londoners can access secure, well-paid jobs in future-proof industries.

### **London Multiply programme launch**

On Friday 18 November, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe, visited Wandsworth Council Lifelong Learning centre to launch my London Multiply programme, a £40 million investment to enable thousands of Londoners to access essential numeracy skills training for free.

My London Multiply programme will work with employers, community organisations and schools to support a minimum of 31,000 Londoners through nearly 300 free courses available across the capital. It will support Londoners build the numeracy confidence and skills they need to manage everyday finances, help children with their homework, progress into further learning and access good jobs.

### **Enterprise Adviser Reception**

Employer led careers education remains a pertinent element of my work for young Londoners and creating a fairer more equitable city. On November 8<sup>th</sup>. I hosted a reception to thank volunteers from businesses right across London and representing a broad range of sectors. They all give up their time to support careers programmes in London's secondary schools, FE colleges, Alternative provision and special schools and ensure that careers education reflects the opportunities available across London.

### **Open Havelock**

On Friday 18 November my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills together with the Leader of Ealing Council attended the official opening of ‘Open Havelock’ - a community hub, funded through my Good Growth fund with £648,000 grant.

The project has transformed 36 abandoned garages and 2,000sqm of associated undercrofts on the Havelock estate in Southall into ‘meanwhile’ social spaces that will deliver tangible community benefit whilst the area continues to be regenerated. The project provides opportunities for play, sport, leisure, and recreation as well as providing workshop, studio and storage space to build the capacity of local enterprises and community groups.

## Housing

### **Protecting private renters against rogue landlords**

On Tuesday 22 November, I praised London's renters for using my innovative online renting tools half a million times to stand up for their rights and published new calls on government to follow my lead and roll them out nationally. I urged the government to make good on its promise in the Renters Reform Bill to extend and enhance access to its National Rogue Landlord Database and, also, to double the amount that renters can claim back if their home isn't safe – to two years' worth of rent – for the worst properties, which pose a risk of death or serious injury. I also reiterated my call for government to finally abolish section 21 evictions so that renters feel confident to make requests for repairs directly to their landlord.

### **London's affordable housing funding requirement research**

On 1 December 2022, I published new research setting out London's annual capital funding requirement for affordable housing delivery. The report, which I commissioned from housing experts, Savills, finds that London needs £4.9bn each year to deliver against the city's affordable housing need – roughly six times the size of the settlement that I have currently secured from Government. I have long argued that the level of funding the Government has been willing to make available is not enough to deliver affordable homes at a scale that matches the needs of Londoners. This report confirms my view and I will use it to make the case to central government for additional funding.

The report also highlights that affordable housing providers will need to invest at least £5,000 per affordable home to bring existing housing stock up to appropriate building safety and environmental standards. In the absence of Government investment to improve existing standards, London's housing providers are likely to reduce the number of new affordable homes that they build in order to cover these costs. The report also shows that significant recent increases in construction costs are also likely to impact the number of much needed new affordable housing in London.

### **Affordable housing delivery**

Statistics published on 17 November by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities showed that 5,494 council homes were started in London in the financial year 2021/22, compared to 4,325 started across the rest of England. The number of council homes started in 2021/22 is the highest in London since 1979. When starts by housing associations and other providers are included, a total of 19,906 affordable homes were started in London in 2021/22.

## The Economy, Business and Enterprise

### **Anthropy**

On 4 November, I participated in Anthropy, at the Eden Project in Cornwall. Anthropy was founded last year by John O'Brien MBE as a result of concerns for the economic and social impacts of Covid 19 and other challenging national issues; with an aim of creating a new, longer term positive vision of Britain and its place in the world. I took part in a roundtable with business leaders and a Q&A with journalist Kamal Ahmed where topics covered included migration, growth, and London's global appeal.

### **London Living Wage Summit 2022**

On 14 November, my Statutory Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Children & Families, Joanne McCartney delivered a keynote speech at the London Living Wage Summit to announce the publication of the Making London a Living Wage City Programme's action plan. Following my announcement of the new London Living Wage rate of £11.95 per hour on 22 September, and as co-chair of the programme steering group, I'm very pleased to see this action plan launched to achieve the programme's ambitions by Spring 2024, focusing on low-pay sectors such as health and social care, hospitality and service provision, the creative and cultural industries and the night-time economy.

### **Central Activities Zone Futures Action Plan**

On 24 November, I launched, together with Central London Forward and six central London boroughs, a medium-term action plan to support the economic recovery of the Central Activities Zone (CAZ). The action plan sets out what we can do to drive the recovery and evolution of the CAZ post pandemic, including a shared vision for the future, the actions that London government (local authorities and GLA) will take to deliver on this vision, and the policy asks of central government to unlock recovery.

## Community and Social Policy

### **Debt Free Advice Cost of Living Advice Bus Launch**

On 23 November, I and my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice Debbie Weeks-Bernard were delighted to attend Trafalgar Square to launch the Debt Free Advice Cost of Living Advice Bus. Operated by Debt Free Advice and funded by City Hall, the bus will carry out a three-month tour of London offering drop-in advice at over 35 locations on debt, welfare benefits and wider cost of living support.

Debt Free Advice will also be live streaming a range of webinars from the bus on topics including energy advice, money management, childcare entitlements, skills and employability programmes, mental health support, and much more. Londoners can find out where and when the bus will be coming to a location near them on the [Cost of Living Hub](#)

## **Interfaith Week**

On 15 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard met with a number of faith leaders and members of the faith sector. The meeting took place during Interfaith Week and focused on the cost-of-living crisis for faith communities.

## **Children and Young Londoners**

### **Empowering Young People event - New Deal for Young People**

On 23 November, Lib Peck, Co-Chair of the New Deal for Young People Mission and Director of the VRU, and my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney welcomed 130 youth sector stakeholders to the Empowering Young People event at City Hall. The event provided an opportunity for youth work professionals to hear about how we are providing mentoring opportunities for 100,000 disadvantaged young Londoners and ways for them to get involved.

Young mentors, mentees and youth organisations shared testimonials about the impact of mentoring and the difference that quality mentoring can make. The event also informed attendees about how to access free tools and support that promote high quality mentoring, including my new Mentoring Quality Framework and Mentoring Support programme. They also heard how to apply for funding to deliver quality mentoring through the collaborative fund [Propel](#), and shared their opinions about how we can support young Londoners further through the mission.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Workshop at Youth Takeover Day**

On 18 November, City Hall welcomed nearly 200 young people to Youth Takeover Day. As part of a full agenda, my Youth Recovery Board facilitated two workshops on mental health and wellbeing, in partnership with Thrive LDN. The workshops explored the factors that underpin positive wellbeing and provided a chance to reflect upon the support and coping mechanisms young Londoners use or access. We are using the insights gathered to inform the next stages of the mental health and wellbeing mission, focusing on empowering and enabling better mental health and wellbeing in London's communities. Joanne McCartney, Deputy Mayor for Children and Families also joined a panel with other Deputy Mayors at the end of the day to discuss her work in providing positive opportunities for young Londoners.

### **The Superpowers of Free School Meals event**

My Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, attended a cross parliamentary event on 8 November to call for the expansion of Free School Meals. This was a partnership event organised by The Food Foundation, Chefs in Schools, Sustain, Child Poverty Action Group, School Food Matters, National Education Union, Bite Back 2030 and Impact on Urban Health. In order to support those most vulnerable children and families, and to reduce stigma, we must introduce universal Free School Meals for all primary school children.

## **Superzones and School Streets visit**

My Superzones programme is helping to promote healthier and safer environments for children. On 21 November my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney visited Raynham Primary School in Enfield to meet with members of the school community to learn more about the programmes which are tackling inequalities in children's health in the borough. The overall aim of this School Superzone is to tackle the wider determinants of health that limit children and young people's life chances by creating a healthier and safer environment for children and young people to live, learn and play. Joanne spoke to pupils about how they had co-designed the new green spaces in their playground and how this had made them happier. The school also has a School Street alongside the playground and the Headteacher explained how the air quality has improved and how the school and playground is now a much healthier place for the children and their families.

## **Culture**

### **Opening of the Trampery Fish Island Village**

On 9 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, opened East London's newest centre for sustainable fashion, The Trampery Fish Island Village. The site, which received £617k from my Good Growth Fund, is located in one of my Creative Enterprise Zones, Hackney Wick and Fish Island and is part of Fashion District and the Thames Estuary Production Corridor, two of my cross-partnership initiatives to drive innovation in East London. The 50,000 square-foot affordable workspace will unite fashion industry, businesses, education and innovation to grow the sector, creating 500 new jobs.

### **Launch of London Made Me Pop-Up Shop**

On 10 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, launched the London Made Me Pop-Up Shop in Regent Street. The boutique store features unique gifts from artwork to sustainably-made clothing and accessories and handmade ceramics - all made by 14 talented artists and makers from my Creative Enterprise Zones. The pop-up shop has been created in partnership with Alice Mayor, founder of Carnaby Street based pop-up shop and brand We Built This City, Hypha Studios and The Crown Estate. The shop's creatives took part in an intensive retail training programme designed to equip the artists with the knowledge and skills to run their own pop-ups in their local communities. The pop-up was initially due to run until Sunday 27 November, but has already exceeded projected sales and will now continue until 18 December. The extended trading period was made possible with support from The Crown Estate Hypha Studios, Alice Mayor and funding from my London Business Hub.

### **Launch of Night Time Enterprise Zones and Business Friendly Licensing Projects**

On 17 November, I announced three new Night Time Enterprise Zones. Bromley Town Centre (in Bromley), Vauxhall (in Lambeth), and Woolwich Town Centre (in Greenwich) have each been awarded £130,000. The funding will make their high streets more safe and inclusive after 6pm, boost footfall, help businesses that are struggling with the cost of doing business crisis, and improve pay and conditions for night workers.



The pilot project in Walthamstow in 2019 helped increase high street footfall by 22 per cent. Shops, cafes and council services stayed open late, hosting cultural performances and workshops. Under-used spaces were turned into hospitality and creative hubs. As a result, the high street attracted families, young people and older people who had not used it at night before. Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Harrow and Islington have each been awarded £25,000 to pilot business-friendly licensing schemes that make it easier and less costly for local businesses to trade at night.

### **Launch of 3 Mills Studios Re- development**

On 22 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, visited 3 Mills Studios, one of London's largest film and TV studios. I have co-funded a major £6 million upgrade of 3 Mills alongside the London Legacy Development Corporation. The upgraded facilities will deliver 10,000 sq ft of modern creative workspaces supporting businesses and employment in east London. The upgrade will also help secure the future of 3 Mills as a film studio, helping the capital meet a boom in demand for production. The works are due to be completed early 2023.

## **Civil Society and Sport**

### **Open Doors**

November saw the close of my Open Doors 2022 Pilot Programme. Open Doors was delivered by Mentivity who specialise in bringing positive change to young people through Sport, Physical Activity and Mentoring. The project focuses on engaging young people at times when they often have no access to positive role models, enriching environments, and safe spaces. Open Doors ensures that when term-time ends, engagement for vulnerable young people does not. The project delivered to 60 underserved young people a day and was centred around multisport delivery and physical activity (table tennis, basketball, football, athletics, rounders, volleyball, dance etc) at Harris Invictus in Croydon. The young people took part in at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. A hot meal and snacks were provided for each young person attending the programme. There was also a central focus on mentoring young people, and providing them with additional enriching activities such as cooking classes, sessions around social media use and E-Safety, yoga, financial literacy, and DJ workshops. Young people stated that being in a safe familiar place was a contributing factor. The impact that Mentivity had on leading, instructing, mentoring and/or counselling was well received by the young people in attendance.

The success and learnings from this project allow my sport team to adapt and enhance future schools access projects and unlocks new collaborative ways of working that can positively impact young people's experience outside of school provision by providing inspiring and positive engagement.

## Health

### GLA Group Public Health Launch

The GLA Group Public Health Unit officially launched on 9 November at City Hall. I created the Unit to further embed public health across the GLA Group, including the Greater London Authority, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and within that the Violence Reduction Unit, Transport for London, London Fire Commissioner, and Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation.

The formation of the unit delivers on my vision and manifesto commitment to help London's COVID-19 recovery by tackling health inequalities and ensuring health is at the heart of policymaking in areas such as transport, violence against women and girls, and rough sleeping.

On the night we brought together over 100 public health leaders and stakeholders. It was a key opportunity to talk about the impact that the Unit and its partners have already had – for example, in shaping and informing London's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was also a chance to refresh our joint commitment to tackling health inequalities across the capital.

Some of the speakers who gave testimonies of the impact and significance of my new Unit included: Lili Matson, Chief Safety, Health and Environment Officer at Transport for London; Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health at Tower Hamlets and co-Chair of the Association of Directors of Public Health in London; and Jeanelle de Gruchy, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England.

### Six Tests refresh & Nuffield publication

The disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is now well-understood and documented, and in light of it I commissioned the [Nuffield Trust](#) to take an in-depth look at the ways in which the health inequalities test – part of my [Six Tests](#) for major hospital reconfigurations – could be strengthened.

My intention has always been for the six tests to serve as a way for City Hall to [champion, challenge and collaborate](#) with the NHS, ensuring they deliver the best health and care services Londoners deserve. Refreshing them is more important than ever, as the cost-of-living crisis currently threatens to widen inequalities in our city, which could have a devastating impact on Londoners' health and wellbeing. I believe it's crucial that the tests change to reflect the circumstances the city faces now and to better address how Londoners experience healthcare across our city.

In response to Nuffield's recommendations, I updated the health inequalities test. I also updated the beds test. The report, its recommendations, and my updates to the tests were published on 8 November 2022. I'm pleased to report that the NHS has welcomed the recommendations and my updates to the tests.

## **London Health Board**

On 30 November, I chaired the London Health Board meeting where I met with elected leaders from London's Local Authorities and key London professional health leads to discuss a number of health and care issues impacting Londoners. We discussed how the NHS, Social Care and Public Health are tackling health inequalities and structural racism and how they are managing winter pressures.

We also reflected on London's success in driving forward immunisations – to protect Londoners from monkeypox, polio, COVID-19 and the flu - and tackling HIV, Hep C and sexually transmitted infections. Importantly, this was a chance to consider the challenges ahead for Londoners' health, including the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, and the role of health and care partners, in continuing and strengthening efforts to tackle health inequalities in order to support the health and wellbeing of Londoners.

## **London Public Health Forum on Air Quality**

On 29 November, I gave the closing address at the London Public Health Forum on Air Quality. The Forum is a collaboration between the GLA, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Association of Directors of Public Health London, Faculty of Public Health, UK Health Security Agency, NHS England and Academy for Public Health.

The event provided an opportunity to discuss the actions being taken at national, regional and local level to improve air quality and identify opportunities for further collaboration. Speakers included Professor Sir Chris Whitty Chief Medical Officer, Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah and my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, who provided an overview of my work on air quality and the positive impact it is having on the health of Londoners. As part of my closing speech, I reaffirmed my commitment to making London the healthiest global city by improving London's air quality. Finally, I took the opportunity to call on partners to work together and accelerate action to improve air quality, by reducing vehicle emissions and creating healthy streets which encourage Londoners to walk, cycle and use public transport

## **Public Health Response: COVID-19, Flu, Poliovirus, Mpox**

As we head into winter, my new GLA Group Public Health Unit is keeping a watchful eye on the latest data from NHS London, UK Health Security Agency and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).

In our latest meeting with public health leaders, we were informed that COVID-19 rates have gone down, but flu and other winter respiratory illnesses are now rising, particularly in young children. In response, the NHS assured us that they continue to deliver COVID-19 and flu jabs across communities in London and that many of our pre-school and primary aged children will also be invited to have their flu vaccine either at school or with their GP. We've also been informed that the roll out of the polio booster programme for children in London continues. Finally, we also received an encouraging status update on mpox.

Vaccines are our best line of defence against these illnesses, and I have asked officers to explore how we can continue to help promote these opportunities, so no Londoners miss out on a chance to protect themselves.

## Planning

### Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, under powers delegated to him by the Mayor, sent a letter in response to the following statutory stage 2 referrals. The Deputy Mayor informed the relevant Local Planning Authorities that he was content for them to determine the case itself.

GLA Reference number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2022/0076	Land at Tudor Works, Beaconsfield Road	Hillingdon	03/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/0935	Wickway Community Centre	Southwark	03/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/0528	R/o Times Square Shopping Centre High Street Sutton	Sutton	03/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0560	JVC Business Park	Brent	10/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/1102	Land adjacent to Northwick Park Hospital	Brent	10/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0179	Kidbrooke Park Road South	Greenwich	10/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/1088	Plot H1 Elephant Park	Southwark	10/11/2022	Allow LPA to refuse
2021/0303	Segro Plot 2	Barking and Dagenham	21/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/1239	Richmond upon Thames College	Richmond upon Thames	21/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0602	Skylines Village	Tower Hamlets	21/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0493	Blagdons Sports Ground	Merton	28/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0397	Woolwich Leisure Centre Project	Greenwich	28/11/2022	Allow LPA to approve

## Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

I have asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

GLA reference	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Comments/decision
2019/4917/S1	Snowsfields	Southwark	03/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0755	Joyce Avenue	Enfield	10/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0700	Borough Triangle	Southwark	10/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0760	Hounslow West Underground Station	Hounslow	21/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0761	Castle & Fitzroy House	Islington	21/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0651	Oxestalls Road	Lewisham	28/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0749	Avonmouth House	Southwark	28/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0779	Camden Lock Market	Camden	28/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0763	Canterbury House	Croydon	28/11/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0759	Cloister Court	Ealing	28/11/2022	Does not comply with the London Plan
2022/0748	Peel Precinct S73 application	Brent	04/11/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0708	Chrip Street Market	Tower Hamlets	04/11/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0703	Wembley Park Masterplan	Brent	07/11/2022	No Strategic Issues

2022/0714	Recycled Material Supplies Ltd	Newham	09/11/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0800	Millennium Bridge House	City of London	10/11/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0788	65 Gresham Street	City of London	15/11/2022	No Strategic Issues

**Planning Decisions (Local Plan Consultations)**

I have asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following Local Plan Consultations:

<b>Consultation Name</b>	<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	<b>Decision date</b>
Barking and Dagenham Planning Obligations	Barking and Dagenham	07/11/2022

## Local Plans

GLA officers attended the London Borough of Wandsworth Local Plan Examination on 15 and 24 November to discuss general conformity with the London Plan.

On 16 November, my officers responded on my behalf to a Regulation 18 focused issues review of Hounslow local plan and three Regulation 19 consultations dealing with site allocations, Great West Corridor and West of the Borough. I raised the following issues:

- As part of the regulation 18 response, I commented on the tracked changes in the local plan
- I considered the Site Allocations Local Plan
- I considered the Great West Corridor Local Plan
- I considered the West of the Borough Local Plan

On 18 November, my officers responded on my behalf to a Regulation 18 Partial Review of the Westminster City Plan that focusses on review of affordable housing policy, introducing a new retrofit policy and an additional call for site allocations. I provided comments on affordable housing and retrofit that are intended to help with further policy development.

My officers have also responded to a number of other consultations on my behalf:

- On 7 November to the Barking and Dagenham draft Planning Obligations SPD consultation: The response to the consultation provides guidance for the borough to help ensure the correct implementation of London plan policies.
- On 10 November to the Brent Church End Master Plan Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation: the response provides guidance to help ensure that the borough's intended approach is consistent with London Plan Policies.
- On 28 November to the Barking and Dagenham draft Chadwell Heath Transformation Area SPD consultation: the response provides guidance to help ensure that the borough's intended approach is consistent with London Plan Policies.

## Key Engagements

Among my additional engagements since my last report were the following:

- I spoke at the 'Anthropy' conference at the Eden Project in Cornwall on 4 November
- I officially launched our new toolkit for schools on tackling violence against women and girls on 8 November
- I met with the Japanese Ambassador on 9 November
- I spoke at the London Transport Dinner on 9 November
- I joined the Met Commissioner for a policing enforcement visit on 10 November
- I attended the GLA Remembrance Service at City Hall on 11 November
- I joined the National Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on 13 November
- I hosted a summit on the Private Rented Sector on 14 November
- I attended the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee on 16 November
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 17 November
- I attended the London Assembly Transport Committee on 17 November
- I spoke at an event to celebrate six months of the Elizabeth Line on 21 November
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 21 November
- I chaired the London Recovery Board on 22 November
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Commissioner on 22 November
- I officially launched the GLA Debt-Free London Advice Bus on 23 November
- I attended the Asian Business Awards on 23 November
- I visited the London Community Kitchen in Harrow on 24 November
- I spoke at the Evening Standard's "Plug It In" Summit on 24 November
- I visited Bonus Pastor Secondary School to announce my plans to extend the Ultra-Low Emission Zone on Friday 25 November
- I spoke at a City Hall Black Futures event 'A City Vision for Black Culture' in London on 28 November
- I spoke at "The London Public Health Forum: London's Air, London's Health" event on 29 November
- I met with the Secretary of State for Transport on 29 November
- I chaired the London Health Board on 30 November
- I attended the London Borough of Culture launch of "Breathe" on 30 November