

# 13th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

## Mayor's Question Time 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

This is my thirteenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 10 June – 7 July 2022.

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

## Executive Summary

### Covid-19 and Recovery

On 21 June, with Cllr Georgia Gould I co-chaired the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the London Recovery Board. The Board focused on areas of significant delivery including the new Digital Inclusion Service for London as part of the Digital Access for all Mission. The Board received a detailed report on the work being done by Board members to support Londoners with the cost of living, and proposals for action from partners. There was also a discussion on how to manage the money London is receiving from the government in the form of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The Board agreed to act as the 'Local Partnership Group' a government requirement, to be consulted on the investment plan.

At the Board, data was shared on London's recovery. It shows that high inflation and the increased cost of living continue to be a significant challenge to Londoners' wellbeing as well as a threat to economic recovery, now a greater threat than the direct impact of the pandemic. It is likely that the effects will be felt for some time and worsen existing inequalities, as the poorest are worse affected than those better off.

On 20 June, the London Anchor Institutions Network Steering Committee Meeting took place, chaired by Professor Wendy Tomson (University of London) and Martin Machray (NHS London). It explored opportunities around linking working groups around jobs and skills, saw an update from the Metropolitan Police on the work done to ensure sustainable procurement and support for social value in spending decisions, and provided an update on progress towards recruiting additional staff for the programme team.

On 23 June, I launched the new Digital Inclusion Service for London as part of the Digital Access for All mission. Developed in partnership with the London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) and the Good Things Foundation, it will support up to 75,000 people over three years, offering support through providing offline Londoners with upcycled devices, providing free or low/cost mobile connectivity, and making people aware of basic skills education courses available to them locally. Upon the launch, I called on London's businesses and public bodies to support the service by upcycling old laptops and other tech to the Device Bank as part of the new service.

## **New data show rough sleeping in London has fallen by 24 per cent**

On 28 June, I welcomed new data showing the number of people seen sleeping rough in London has fallen by 24 per cent compared to last year.

I have made tackling rough sleeping a personal priority for my Mayoralty and since 2016, more than 12,000 rough sleepers have been helped off the streets by City Hall commissioned services.

However, while I'm encouraged by these figures, now is not the time to be complacent. To ensure this progress is continued, measures must be put in place by Government to tackle the unprecedented cost-of living-crisis so that more people aren't forced to sleep rough on London's streets.

## **New GLA funding to support council housing**

On 29 June 2022, I launched a new £4 million Land for Council Homes revenue fund. This funding will help boroughs to scale up their housing delivery programmes significantly over the next decade, as it will help councils to identify and unlock land on which to build homes.

This new funding is the latest package of support to councils that demonstrates my ongoing commitment to building the genuinely affordable, council homes Londoners so desperately need. In March I was delighted to announce that I had not just hit my target to support London councils to start 10,000 new council homes but exceeded it by nearly 3,000 homes. Last year, local authorities started more new council homes in London than in any year since 1979. This resurgence in council homebuilding has been driven by City Hall initiatives such as my Building Council Homes for Londoners programme and my Homebuilding Capacity Fund, both of which were launched in 2018. Almost all London boroughs are now building council homes, across City Hall programmes and beyond.

## **Setting out my demands for a reforming Met Commissioner**

On 17 June, in an address to an audience including victims of crime, charities, police officers and representatives of communities across the city, I outlined how a series of appalling scandals have not only exposed deep cultural problems within the Met but have also contributed to an acute crisis of confidence in London's police service.

Part of my job as Mayor is to support the police in bearing down on crime – and I pay tribute to the tens of thousands of incredibly brave and decent police officers in the Met who go above and beyond every day to keep us safe. We owe the men and women who risk their lives to protect our city a huge debt of gratitude.

But my job is also to hold the MPS to account. I made clear my view that policing in London is at a crossroads. We now need to see root and branch reforms to improve policing to ensure the Met can deliver the basics better. I will only support the appointment of a new Commissioner who can demonstrate they understand the true extent of the operational and cultural problems within the MPs, and the moral and operational imperatives to confront them head on.

This must include publicly acknowledging the scale and depth of the problems, which will be a crucial first step for the next Commissioner to start rebuilding trust and credibility with communities.

My long-standing position on the urgent need for reform in the Met was underlined on 28 June, when it was revealed that the independent inspectorate for policing, HMICFRS, is to increase its monitoring of the Met as a result of its very serious concerns about the Met's performance. I welcome the additional scrutiny and support that these measures will now bring. I will work with the HMICFRS and will continue to hold the Met to account in delivering the police reforms and step change in policing performance and culture that all our communities deserve.

### **A public health approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls**

On 15 June, I visited Walthamstow to announce the launch of my new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for London, visiting a beautician, a dry cleaners and a library to see first-hand the training and education being delivered to men about VAWG to help them become more active allies.

The Strategy - published after extensive consultation with Londoners, victims of crime, partner agencies and community groups - champions a public health approach and encourages everyone in London to play their part in ending the epidemic of violence against women and girls by: placing a stronger emphasis on partnership working, prevention and education across a wide range of services in London; targeting the behaviour and actions of perpetrators of abuse and violence and making sure they are the focus for change; investing an additional £17.7 million for support services— including a specialised response to support all victims; recognising that violence starts with words, and we all have a responsibility to challenge the behaviour that can lead to violence and making women feel unsafe; and taking action to rebuild confidence and trust in the police and criminal justice system to ensure victims are supported and empowered to get the justice they deserve.

The Strategy builds on the successes of my previous VAWG Strategy, and the approach used by your Violence Reduction Unit, by adopting a public health approach to VAWG. It puts prevention at the centre of everything we do and includes a greater focus on education and enhanced partnership working, not least with London's excellent VAWG sector.

I am grateful to everyone who shared their views and provided their time and expertise to help develop the Strategy, which can be accessed at:

[www.london.gov.uk/VAWG](http://www.london.gov.uk/VAWG)

## **Clean Air Day**

On 16 June, I visited Great Ormond Street Hospital's 'play street' for Clean Air Day alongside a number of clean air campaigners, including Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah. The play street outside the hospital's entrance was temporarily closed to traffic and replaced cars with activities and games for the young patients and local school children to enjoy. This was an opportunity to highlight the publication of my response to the Government's consultation on new legal limits for air pollution, highlighting that the Government's proposed 2040 target will condemn another generation of children to grow up with stunted lungs, asthma and other health issues. This year, Clean Air Day focused on how air pollution damages our health and organs, and the steps which individuals can take to improve their health. Details on my response to the Government's consultation can be found at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-criticises-government-air-quality-delay>

## **TfL Funding Update**

On 24 June, the government gave Transport for London another short-term extension to the current emergency funding deal, until 13 July. There is no UK recovery from the pandemic without a London recovery and there is no London recovery without a properly funded transport network in the capital. The pandemic is the only reason TfL is facing a financial crisis. If the Government continues to refuse to properly fund TfL as we desperately need, TfL will have no choice but to put our transport network into managed decline. This would mean almost one in five bus services being axed and cuts to London Underground services of nearly 10 per cent – the equivalent of closing an entire tube line.

I have repeatedly urged the Secretary of State for Transport to meet with me so that we can finally agree a fair, sustainable, long-term funding deal that will protect London's transport network – for the sake of the capital and the whole country.

## **Northern line Night Tube services return in a further boost to the capital's recovery**

Night Tube services returned on the Northern line from the evening of Saturday 2 July, providing a further boost to London's night-time services, after their suspension March 2020 due to the pandemic.

Night Tube services returned on the Central and Victoria lines in November 2021 and were further bolstered in May by the return of the Jubilee line. In addition, Night Overground services between Highbury & Islington and New Cross Gate returned in December 2021. Night Tube services on the Piccadilly line will return this summer. The return of Night Tube services on the Northern line is being supported by a doubling in the frequency of trains during the day on the Northern Line Extension between Kennington and Battersea Power Station.

This is another landmark moment in the capital's recovery from the pandemic – and fantastic news for Londoners and visitors who want to enjoy the capital's incredible nightlife, safe in the knowledge that they will be able to get the Northern line home.

## **Grenfell Tower memorial service Westminster Abbey**

On 14 June, I attended a Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey with my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, to mark the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

## **Armed Forces Day**

I was honoured to hold an Armed Forces Day flag raising ceremony at the new City Hall on Monday 20 June 2022. Armed Forces Day is a time to reflect on the incredible strength, sacrifice and commitment made by the men and women who serve and protect our country.

I was joined by The Royal Navy's Commander Andrew Swain MBE, Rear Admiral Donald Doull CBE, along with Brigadier Andrew Wright MBE representing the army and Air Commodore Ian Tolfts OBE from the Royal Air Forces. London Assembly members, including Dr. Onkar Sohata, were in attendance, as well as military service officers from The London University Royal Navy unit (UNRU), Croydon Unit Sea cadets, HMS President, Royal Navy HQ London and east England, London district of Army, RAF, Ministry of Defence and The Royal Marines Band Service (RMBS), who played pieces they were commended for at the recent Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

I am also proud to announce that GLA have been awarded the Silver award for The Employer Recognition Scheme, for employers who advocate support to the Armed Forces Community in alignment with the Armed Forces Covenant. We must never underestimate the sacrifice our Armed Forces make to keep us safe, and I am proud of our continued support for the defence community.

## **State of London Debate (SOLD) at indigo at The O2, Greenwich**

On Tuesday 28 June, I was pleased to hold my sixth State of London Debate, at indigo at The O2 in Greenwich. This was particularly poignant, because although we held this event online in 2021, due to lockdown restrictions over the last two years this was the first in-person event since 2019. It was great to broadcast this event in hybrid format with options for both online and in-person viewing.

I was joined on stage by some of my team of Deputy Mayors - Rajesh Agrawal for Business; Sophie Linden for Policing & Crime; Seb Dance for Transport, and Shirley Rodrigues for Environment & Energy – to answer questions from our in-person audience live at the venue, and from our online audience via the live chat forum.

Questions received covered a range of the biggest issues affecting London, including transport, policing and safety, air quality and the environment, housing, and growing London's economy. It was a lively evening of discussion and debate, hosted by LBC presenter James O'Brien, and was broadcast by our media partner LBC, live on LBC news.

## **Pride Celebrations**

On Saturday 2 July, I joined thousands of Londoners to proudly march in solidarity with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community at London's annual Pride celebration – one of the longest running Pride events in the country. This year, we recognised an important anniversary – 50 years since the first Pride events in London.

I was also honoured to host our annual Pride Reception at City Hall to say thank you to the organisers and over 200 people from the LGBTQ+ community, and to support UK Black Pride on Sunday 14 August.

## **UEFA Women's EURO 2022**

On 4 July, I was proud to mark the start of the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 tournament, which takes place 6-31 July with London as the host city. As part of this historic moment, I met with grassroots women's football teams at Britannia Leisure Centre, Hackney, where the players played a match. This helped to raise awareness of the tournament launch, with London and sports media invited to cover the moment.

I am so excited that London will have the chance to inspire so many women and girls this summer with the Women's EUROs. I hope that the legacy of the Women's EUROs will encourage participation, equality and inclusivity across football.

## **7/7 Anniversary**

On Thursday 7 July, I laid a wreath at the Hyde Park 7 July Memorial to honour the 52 innocent people killed and the 700 injured as a result of the 2005 terrorist attack. I was joined by senior representatives from the emergency and transport services who responded so bravely on the day. I also gave my support to the victim's friends and families at their memorial service.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **#HaveAWord**

My #HaveAWord campaign continues, and this month I was pleased to announce that new partners, including McDonald's, Ministry of Sound, Fabric and the University of London, have joined all of London's football clubs in putting up our campaign messages in their men's bathrooms. I was also thrilled to see the campaign awarded a Bronze Glass Lion at Cannes this month, in recognition of our work addressing the issue of gender inequality and driving positive social change. Since 'Have a Word' launched in March, the hero film has been viewed more than 14 million times, with 65 per cent of the social engagement by men, and in a post-campaign poll, 85 per cent of men who saw the campaign have said they would call out misogyny if they see it.

### **Listening to victims of crime**

On 28<sup>th</sup> June, I was pleased to launch the new Victim Voice survey, developed jointly by MOPAC and the Met to capture the views and experiences of victims of crimes in London and use them to improve the level of support and care all victims of crime in the capital receive.

Being a victim of a serious crime, whether it's sexual assault, knife crime or a violent robbery, can leave long-lasting physical, mental and emotional scars. We need to ensure victims have the best support possible. That's why it's vital we hear from Londoners about their experiences in this new anonymous survey so that we can improve the support given by the police to all victims of crime.

The online survey takes less than 15 minutes to complete and can be completed at any time using a smart phone, tablet or computer using the link [www.london.gov.uk/victimvoice](http://www.london.gov.uk/victimvoice). The survey is accessible to visually impaired people via most screen reading software, and it is also available in a variety of the most commonly spoken languages in London.

If you have been the victim of crime in London, and you feel able to do so, I encourage you to take the time to share your experiences via this survey. I also welcome the support of Assembly Members in sharing this with your constituents.

## Transport

### **Barking Riverside extension to open this summer, ahead of schedule**

Transport for London has announced that the launch of London Overground services to Barking Riverside, originally planned for the autumn, will take place this summer, following good progress being made in the completion of the station commissioning and testing stages.

Residents can already see trains running between Barking and Barking Riverside while route testing and driver training takes place by Arriva Rail London, which operates the London Overground on TfL's behalf. This is a major milestone for the project and one of the final steps ahead of welcoming customers for the first time. Barking Riverside station, which appeared on the Tube map for the first time in May, adds to London's growing number of step free stations, helping to make the capital a more accessible city for everyone.

Businesses from around the UK have benefited from the Barking Riverside Extension. Throughout construction, the project's supply chain has supported businesses of all sizes with skills and job creation seen across the whole country. This includes steelwork from Scotland and the East of England, precast concrete from the North West and Northern Ireland and innovative slab track from the East Midlands.

### **TfL to begin using new enforcement powers to improve cycle safety on its roads**

From 27 June TfL has started issuing fines to vehicles that drive within, or cross, the white lines of cycle lanes that are marked by a solid white line and cycle tracks on TfL's Road Network (TLRN). Cycle lanes play a vital role in keeping people cycling separated from most motor traffic, reducing the risk of collisions, which can cause death and serious injury. Reducing non-compliance will help improve safety and the confidence of cyclists as part of TfL's Cycling Action Plan and Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury on the road network.

The Government recently introduced new powers allowing TfL and London boroughs to fine motorists who infringe on cycle lanes and cycle tracks in the same way that they currently do for bus lanes and yellow box junctions. These powers were introduced at the same time as wider national changes giving local authorities in England outside of London the powers to enforce moving traffic contraventions. Initially, TfL are using existing CCTV cameras to enforce contraventions in cycle lanes and cycle tracks at key locations across its road network.

Making London's streets safer is my top priority. These new enforcement powers will deter motorists from infringing on crucial space specifically designated to keep cyclists safe and will help improve cyclist's confidence when getting around the capital.

Enabling more Londoners to walk and cycle continues to be at the heart of our vision to create a healthier, cleaner, and more sustainable London for everyone and these new powers will play an important role in that.

## **Number of people killed on London's roads in 2021 fell to the lowest level on record, but collisions have increased as lockdowns ended**

The latest casualty statistics published by TfL show that the number of people tragically killed on London's roads in 2021 fell by 22 per cent to the lowest level on record, compared to a seven per cent increase nationally. Despite this decrease, overall casualties have increased since the coronavirus lockdowns ended and traffic has returned, and continued action is needed to achieve my Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury from the transport network.

Whilst travel habits continued to change in 2021, the lifting of most pandemic restrictions in July 2021 saw a gradual return to normal activity. As traffic returned to pre-pandemic levels, the number of people who were killed or seriously injured increased by 17 per cent, rising from 3,070 in 2020 to 3,580 in 2021.

Every death and serious injury on our roads is a tragedy and I refuse to believe that they are something we have to accept as inevitable. The Vision Zero action plan sets out tough measures to help reduce risk and eliminate death and serious injury from London's roads.

The pandemic has also demonstrated that fewer cars on our roads mean fewer deaths and serious injuries, which is why I'm determined to make sure we deliver a green and safe recovery in London by encouraging more Londoners to walk and cycle.

## **New data shows vital improvements in lorry safety in London one year on from the launch of TfL's world-first Direct Vision Standard**

TfL, in partnership with the London boroughs, the freight industry and campaign groups, has delivered a radical reduction in road danger in the UK with the introduction of the pioneering Direct Vision Standard (DVS). One year on, data shows that the world-first lorry safety scheme, which reduces lethal blind spots, has helped to save lives, and prevent life-changing injuries, with serious injuries down by 64 per cent compared to 2017.

TfL's DVS scheme requires owners of Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) weighing more than 12 tonnes to apply for a free safety permit to be able to drive in London, which assigns vehicles a star rating based on how much the driver can see directly through their cab windows. The scheme operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and covers all roads in London. The standards are set to tighten further in 2024, which will deliver even safer lorries, and benefit other parts of the country too.

In the first year of enforcement of DVS, 191,769 safety permits have been issued, including nearly 5,000 to 5-star vehicles, which provide the highest levels of direct vision. More than 112,000 0-star HGVs have now had safe systems fitted, improving protection for people walking, cycling, or riding e-scooters or motorcycles and saving lives.

It's vital that all vehicles using London's roads have safety at the forefront of their design. London's world-leading Direct Vision Standard is helping to significantly improve lorry safety in the capital and forms a key part of my Vision Zero plan to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries from our streets by 2041.

## **New Entrance opens at Imperial Wharf station**

Customers are enjoying easier, quicker, and more punctual journeys using Imperial Wharf station following the opening on 28 June of an additional entrance, which provides improved access to northbound London Overground and Southern services.

The £1.7 million upgrade was funded by the Department for Transport and was unveiled by Network Rail, TfL and Arriva Rail London, who operate the London Overground on TfL's behalf.

Customer improvements include a second entrance and ticket gate line, which allows quicker and easy access to northbound services towards Shepherds Bush, Willesden Junction and Stratford, helping to reduce congestion and improve journey times.

The new entrance has been delivered in the most cost-effective way possible by refurbishing a set of existing stairs, normally used solely as a fire escape, at the end of the platform. A covered walkway has been installed providing shelter for customers from the elements.

## **TfL spotlights LGBT+ stories in its biggest poster exhibition**

TfL is celebrating the 50 years of the Pride movement with a collection of LGBT+ community and people-focused posters across the public transport network - including on the Elizabeth line for the first time.

Customers saw a collection of specially curated and designed Pride-themed photos and posters appearing in London Underground, London Overground, DLR, Elizabeth line and bus stations in the week, ahead of the Pride in London celebrations, which took place over the weekend of 1-2 July.

The Pride-themed posters carry stories from a wide range of LGBT+ communities and businesses and shine a spotlight on the role, legacy and support they provide for their peers. Through these stories, TfL hopes to highlight the diverse communities in London it serves daily and how public transport connects LGBT+ communities.

Additionally, portraits of more than 20 TfL employees and contractors will be on display in Vauxhall and Green Park Underground stations and Poplar DLR station. At Vauxhall and Green Park Tube station, posters designed by staff members will be on show expressing their creative take on Pride, including messages of encouragement.

TfL is proud to have been part of the Pride parade since 2006. A decorated fully electric bus accompanied TfL marchers in the Pride in London 2022 parade on Saturday 2 July. The TfL contingent marched under banners of the Women, Faith, RACE, Carers, Parent and Guardians, and Disability Staff Network groups as well as the LGBT+ banner to highlight the many aspects of the LGBT+ communities of London. The iconic red bus was provided by bus operator Abellio and the decorative signage was fully funded by TfL's advertising partner, Global.

## **Second entrance at Hackney Central station opens**

Customers using Hackney Central station can enjoy quicker and easier access to London Overground services following the opening of a new entrance on Graham Road helping to ease congestion, provide more direct access to the town centre and allow a simpler interchange with Hackney Downs station and local bus services.

The £3 million scheme has been delivered collaboratively with funding by the Department for Transport (DfT) using land that Hackney Council owns. The project was delivered by Arriva Rail London, who operate London Overground services on TfL's behalf, and Network Rail.

The new additional entrance provides major improvements to the station including a new covered gate line, two new ticket vending machines and additional cycle storage helping to encourage greener and more sustainable journeys to and from the station. It also features a living roof on both the new station building and the covered cycle storage and a green wall and new trees in the customer area. Throughout the station, lighting has been upgraded to the latest energy saving LED technology providing a brighter and safer environment for customers.

## **TfL completes work to transform Hammersmith gyratory for walking and cycling**

On 1 July, TfL announced the completion of work to transform the roads around Hammersmith gyratory, reducing danger to vulnerable road users at one of London's most intimidating junctions. The changes will help to build on the huge increases in cycling seen in the capital since the start of the coronavirus pandemic and will make it much easier and safer to walk and cycle in the area.

TfL has also completed work on a further section of Cycleway 4. Once complete, the route will connect neighbourhoods in southeast London to central London via a fully protected cycle route between Tower Bridge Road and Greenwich. The latest completed section on Creek Road in Deptford includes a two-way protected cycle track between Deptford Church Street and Norman Road, adding 1.6km of London's network of protected cycle routes. A new pedestrian crossing has also been built on the western arm of the Deptford Church Street junction. The new Cycleway will open up safe and attractive cycling across west London to Gunnersbury, Chiswick, East Acton, North Acton and Ravenscourt Park.

Enabling more people to walk, cycle and use public transport is critical to a successful and sustainable economy in London, which is vital for the success of the wider economy.

Transforming roads such as the Hammersmith gyratory is essential to giving people walking and cycling the confidence to travel safely, as part of my Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury on the road network. This delivers much needed protected cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings – making walking and cycling safer and easier at this busy junction. It's also great news that the new section of Cycleway 4 is now open in Deptford as TfL continues to roll out our cycle network across London.

## **Fire and Resilience**

### **London Fire Commissioner**

On 4 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross and I met with the London Fire Commissioner to receive an update on issues affecting London Fire Brigade and the wider Fire Sector.

### **Fire Trades Unions Roundtable**

On 7 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross and I spoke with representatives from the Trades Unions representing the London Fire Brigade staff to discuss a range of issues affecting the fire sector in London.

### **Suicide and Mental Health**

On 22 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, had a meeting with representatives from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to discuss supporting the mental health and wellbeing of fire fighters.

### **Meeting with Mesothelioma UK**

On 30 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a meeting with Saranjit Sihota, Director of External Affairs for Mesothelioma UK, and Andrew Paten from the UK National Asbestos Register, to discuss asbestos in the built environment, its impact on the health of firefighters, and the potential development of a national register of affected buildings.

### **London Resilience Forum**

On 23 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual meeting of the London Resilience Forum. The Forum discussed the National Resilience Strategy and best practice supporting people affected by emergencies.

### **Resilient Cities Network meeting**

On 1 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a meeting with Lauren Sorkin, Executive Director of the Resilient Cities Network (RCN) to discuss GLA priorities for collaboration with the network and updates on RCN activities. The meeting also discussed sharing knowledge with other cities about the process of updating city resilience strategies and upcoming Resilient Cities work on resilience finance.

### **Pride Breakfast**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross and I attended a Pride Breakfast with the London Fire Commissioner at Soho fire station to celebrate 50 years of Pride at the Brigade.

## **Growth, Skills and Regeneration**

### **Meeting of the Jobs and Skills Business Partnership**

On 20 June, the first formal meeting of the relaunched Jobs and Skills Business Partnership took place and I attended to thank the members for their work. The Partnership's role is to advise my officers and I on how to improve the industry relevance of skills provision. I reiterated my commitment to supporting Londoners into good jobs and the vital role London's business community has in making that happen. I was pleased that access to Green skills was on their agenda, to help London tackle the climate emergency whilst also creating jobs for Londoners. I welcomed the work of the Partnership members in submitting a bid to lead London's Local Skills Improvement Plan and offered the support of my officers and I to ensure that as many of London's key stakeholders are involved in the development process, to create an impactful plan.

### **Skills for Londoners Board**

My Skills for Londoners (SfL) Board met on 28 June 2022. Board members received an update and endorsed plans for utilising London's £144 million share of the new three-year UK Shared Prosperity Fund. My SfL Board, as the designated Skills Advisory Panel for London, will provide oversight and governance for the People and Skills investment priority and provide updates to my London Recovery Board. Board members also discussed the development of London's new Local Skills Improvement Plan, noting the collaborative approach being taken by some of London's key Employer Representative Bodies, with the support of the GLA.

The Board received more detail on skills providers commitments on good work, being representative of their communities and working toward becoming net zero - as set out in the Skills Roadmap for London. GLA officers are currently developing toolkits to support City Hall funded skills providers. Members also received updates on the Skills & Employment Unit's marketing and communications activities, as well as the Adult Education Budget data publication.

### **Mayor's Skills Academies Quality Mark**

On 29 June, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe, visited West London College to launch the Mayor's Skills Academies Quality Mark. The Quality Mark recognises training providers delivering industry-relevant, high-quality training in six priority sectors in London which are: Digital, Creative, Health and Social Care, Hospitality, Construction and Green supporting the awareness of Londoners and employers of this offer. The aim of the visit was to profile my work on helping Londoners into good work in priority sectors, particularly within the green sector. West London College has been accredited with a Quality Mark for their green skills provision and are a green Skills Hub under the Mayor's Academies Programme. A total of 52 applications have been awarded the Quality Mark, which represents a total of 25 training providers across the capital.

## **Careers Education conference**

On 1 July, I brought together careers educators from right across the capital, including those working with young Londoners in secondary schools, FE colleges, Special Schools, PRUs, youth groups and employability projects. Employers spoke about the future of jobs in London's growth sectors, and there was discussion on how to better promote vocational pathways, and ways to further improve the quality of careers education.

## **High Streets for All**

On 4 July, I allocated the £1.059 million funding from my High Streets for All Challenge as a contribution to the costs of delivery of seven exemplar high street projects. Investment is supporting local partnerships in Hounslow, Newham, Hackney, Croydon, Hillingdon, Bromley and Ealing to bring forward and co-design innovative high-street recovery strategies and proposals. This funding represents the final tranche of investment from the £4.085 million High Streets for All Challenge, which is a key part of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The exemplar projects will receive additional expert advice from my Design Advocates to ensure they help deliver a high quality and inclusive built environment that benefits all Londoners.

## **Housing**

### **Long overdue reforms to private renting move closer to my London Model**

On Thursday 16 June, the Government finally published its plans to reform private renting. The White Paper is testament to the dogged work of tenants and campaigners who have been waiting three long years for ministers to set out how they will honour their promise to ban 'no fault evictions'. During this time, 200,000 renters have been served no fault eviction notices – an unacceptable cost of inaction. While I'm pleased that Government has finally shared its plans, and incorporated much of my London Model of tenancy reform, it has taken far too long.

Despite the steps forward on protection against eviction, large holes remain in the White Paper. Most notably, there is no change to the notice periods landlords must give to renters, meaning renters will still face short-notice evictions under the government's plans. There is also no action to tackle the spiralling cost of renting, the most pressing problem facing renters. In the face of a mounting cost of living crisis, it is inexcusable that ministers are refusing to help with stretched households finances by backing common-sense plans to control rents.

I will continue to press the Government to support my call for the devolution of powers to London to implement a two-year rent freeze, as a first step towards delivering rent controls that would make renting more affordable.

## **Social Housing Regulation Bill**

I broadly welcomed the publication of the Social Housing Regulation Bill, and its second reading in the House of Lords on Monday 27 June 2022. The Bill introduces long-overdue changes to the social housing regulation regime, five years on from the Grenfell Tower tragedy, and over a decade since consumer regulation of social housing was stripped back by the then Coalition Government.

The Bill makes important provisions for strengthening the consumer regulation role of the Regulator of Social Housing but it does not go far enough in putting tenants at the heart of regulation. In my briefing for Parliamentarians, I highlighted that the Bill should include regulatory standards for tenant representation; the creation of a Commissioner for Social Housing to promote and protect the rights of social housing tenants across the country; and should ensure that a proactive 'Ofsted-style' inspection regime for the Regulator of Social Housing is given a statutory footing – not relegated to discretionary activity that the regulator may or may not choose to pursue. I will continue to push for the Bill to be strengthened as it makes its way through Parliament.

## **The Economy, Business and Enterprise**

### **Business Reception**

On 15 June, I hosted a reception for approximately 150 business leaders at City Hall. I welcomed business leaders to our new home in East London and thanked them for their contributions to the economy in the last 2 years due to the pandemic. I urged business leaders to support us in making the case to the government to give TfL the proper long-term funding it needs to support our city's commuters and businesses.

### **London Tech Week 13-17 June**

On 13 June, I hosted a reception for international delegations attending London Tech Week. I highlighted London's strengths in the Tech sector and banged the drum for further investment in London.

London Tech Week itself was a great success with 20,000+ attendees across London, 10,000+ users on virtual platforms, and 5,000+ people attending the QEII in person. My Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal and my Chief Digital Officer Theo Blackwell also spoke during the London Tech Week to promote London's role as a global tech hub.

### **Business Advisory Board**

On 29 June, I met with my Business Advisory Board to discuss the skills agenda. Jules Pipe my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills gave an update on the activity we have undertaken to improve skills across the capital and members commented on the role they can play as business leaders.

## **Business Engagement**

On 15 June, I met with a group of leading London black start-up founders that were awarded the Google for start-ups, European Black Founders Fund, with 60 per cent of the new cohort coming from London.

On 21 June, I met with Jane Sun, Chief Executive of Trip.com to discuss how they could help promote London in Chinese market and get international tourists back to London.

On 14 June, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal took part in a Swedish Chamber of Commerce accelerator programme event – Access UK. Rajesh was interviewed by Peter Sandberg, Chief Executive of the chamber and spoke on why London is a great place for Swedish start-ups and future trends in the business landscape.

On 22 June, my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal, attended the KPMG Tech Innovator competition and announced the results of the London heat and gave a keynote on London's start-up and tech ecosystem.

On 23 June, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal attended a roundtable discussion with members from the British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (BCVA). Rajesh highlighted London's role as a leading centre for venture capital and outlined what the Mayor is doing to support the sector.

On 30 June, my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal visited Canary Wharf Group (CWG) to view the site for the organisation's proposed laboratory building at North Quay, a joint venture with Kadans. The laboratory would be Europe's biggest commercial lab building, and forms part of CWG's wider vision for a health and life sciences cluster at Canary Wharf.

On 1 July, I spoke at the Google topping out ceremony at their King's Cross site to celebrate their continuous commitment to London. The office will increase Google's staff capacity in the UK from 6,500 to 10,000 and is forecast to complete in 2024; and will include retail and community spaces.

## **Environment**

### **Solar Skills London**

On 9 June, I launched phase two of my Solar Skills London programme, which aims to grow the capital's solar sector by creating career pathways for the next generation of solar experts, increasing the number of registered solar installer businesses in London and helping create more green jobs. Partners MCS Certified, Solar Energy UK and Community Energy London will be delivering phase two of the programme. It has two main elements; a scheme to support new entrants into the solar industry and a dedicated outreach and promotional programme aiming to attract and inform new recruits into the industry. More detail about Solar Skills London can be found at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/solar-skills-london>

## **C40 Board Strategic Retreat and Board meeting**

On 13 and 14 June my Deputy Mayor, Shirley Rodrigues attended a C40 Board Strategic Retreat in New York in her capacity as Vice President of the C40 Board. The retreat included a site visit to view climate adaption works in lower Manhattan. The retreat explored the global context for climate action in the lead up to COP27, the C40 delivery approach model, plans to ramp up delivery over the next two years, and demonstrate global leadership by mayors.

The Deputy Mayor was joined by President of the Board Michael R. Bloomberg; city representatives from Jakarta, Milan and Bogota; strategic funders of C40: the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Realdania and Bloomberg Philanthropies, as well as the C40 Executive team.

## **World Refill Day**

On 16 June, I marked World Refill Day with the confirmation that London has reached the milestone of 100 drinking water fountains as part of my programme to tackle single-use plastics in the capital. The drinking fountains are part of a collaboration with Thames Water and are placed in areas of high footfall, to encourage Londoners to top up their reusable bottles instead of buying more single use plastic ones. That day also highlighted City to Sea's "Refill London" campaign. This now has over 4,000 cafes, restaurants and pubs offering free water refills, up from 200 since 2018 making it even easier for Londoners and visitors to avoid plastics. All refill stations are mapped on the free Refill app here: <https://www.refill.org.uk/>

## **London Map of Cool Spaces**

On 17 June, as the weather was forecast to hit 32C, I promoted London's Cool Spaces map. The map helps the public find places of refuge during hot weather. There is currently a total of 342 Cool Spaces registered as part of the programme. The Cool Spaces are opened from 1 June to 15 September 2022., this being the period when the NHS and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) heatwave guidance is operational, as set out in the Heatwave Plan for England. The cool spaces map will also be live during this period. <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-adaptation/cool-spaces>

## **Centre for London's Partner Forum roundtable on 'getting London to net-zero'**

On 23 June my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues joined the Centre for London's Partner Forum roundtable on 'getting London to net-zero'. My deputy Mayor presented to key stakeholders, including representatives from government, businesses, charities, and anchor institutions. The roundtable discussion updated key stakeholders on the latest climate change policies and action in London in the lead up to London Climate Action Week.

Additionally, On 1 July, my Deputy Mayor opened the 'Create for Tomorrow: The London Culture and Climate Crisis Conference' hosted in partnership with the Barbican Centre.

## **London Climate Action Week opening address**

On 27 June, I gave the opening address at London Climate Action Week. As part of my speech I confirmed that London has signed up to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, which calls for the phase out of fossil fuel production, shifting financial support to renewable energy and fast-tracking real solutions and a just transition for all. I demonstrated that London is acting on this commitment now, by confirming that Transport for London (TfL) had launched its Power Purchase Agreement tender to begin purchasing renewable energy to meet its demand. TfL's electricity demand is one of the largest in the UK. Taking steps to switch this to renewable energy will help drive the creation of new build solar or wind generation in the UK, supporting the wider UK economy, as well as the country's green recovery, by creating green jobs in construction and operation.

## **Meeting with Mayor of Montreal**

On 29 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and I met the Mayor of Montreal, Valerie Plante. Mayor Plante has recently been elected as the Vice Chair of the C40 Steering Committee, representing North America. The meeting discussed my priorities as Chair of C40 and Mayor Plante's views and priorities as Vice Chair for North America. We further discussed ways to share learnings on areas of overlaps for cities- such as encouraging more walking and cycling, low emission transport zones, food waste and increasing biodiversity in cities given Canada will now be hosting COP15.

## **Basement properties leaflet**

On 29 June, I confirmed that I was writing to approximately 45,000 basement properties in London to raise awareness of the risk of flash flooding and provide advice on what to do if a flash flood event is forecast. Last year's flash flooding events had a devastating impact on our city and many Londoners had to stay elsewhere as their homes were flooded with stormwater and sewage. London's basement properties may be at higher risk, but Londoners living in these properties may not be aware of the risk or what to do. This leaflet, along with digital communications will help address these challenges and ensure Londoners are aware of the risks and can be better prepared. See: [www.London.gov.uk/flash-flooding](http://www.London.gov.uk/flash-flooding)

## **Children and Young Londoners**

### **Early years research conference**

On 15 June, I was delighted to give the opening remarks at London EY, a virtual research conference for London's early years sector.

The event was led by Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre, as part of the East London Research School. More than 300 early years practitioners joined online to listen to fantastic speakers and participate in discussions about reducing inequalities for young children.

Conferences like this are so important for the sector. London has a lot to be proud of when it comes to early education and childcare. However, we can always do better, and the pandemic has exposed and exacerbated huge social, racial and educational inequalities. The challenge we now face is not only to ensure they don't become entrenched, but that we manage to reverse them, closing the gaps that exist between our children and our communities.

The conference was also a chance for me to thank nursery staff and childminders. Access to high quality early education and childcare is vital to families and plays a huge part in the strength and success of our city. Never has this been more true than at the height of the pandemic, when the exceptional efforts of early years practitioners meant that other key workers could continue doing their jobs. My thanks for their hard work and dedication was echoed by Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, who closed the conference.

### **Reconnect London Conference**

On 24 June, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families spoke at the Reconnect London Conference where a report on disadvantage in London was launched. Reconnect London is a collaborative group of London-wide school leaders who have joined together to collectively address the challenges caused by the pandemic. They are taking a forward-looking approach to recovery and what young Londoners need from schools. I am committed to supporting them and will continue to fight hard for the funding schools and colleges need to succeed as well as oppose moves to reduce education expenditure in London. The education sector has been greatly impacted by the pandemic and working in this collaborative approach with partners is the key to moving forward to provide children and young people with the best start in life.

### **Getting Ahead London Wrap-Up Event**

On 7 July, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families attended the wrap up event for the 2021/22 cohort of the Getting Ahead London programme. She congratulated them on their achievements in their leadership journeys within their schools and thanked attendees for their commitment and passion to support pupils and families across London. Getting Ahead London is a one-year coaching programme established by Challenge Partners, which aims to develop the next generation of educational leaders in London. I have invested in this programme and its participants since its inception six years ago. Through my responsibilities on adult skills and employment, I'll invest in building the capacity and expertise of teachers to create a more inclusive education and skills system. An effective education system allows children to thrive, and having strong, diverse leadership is a key component to maintaining a high performing education sector.

## Culture

### **Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm**

On 13 June, the second round of my £1 million Untold Stories grant programme opened for applications. The fund offers community-led organisations an opportunity to apply for grants from £1,000 to £25,000 to make a change to their public spaces and increase diversity in London's public realm by creating something new, highlighting something missing or hidden, or presenting a different story to what already exists. Deadline for submissions is 5 October 2022.

### **Netflix London new Premises Opening**

On 16 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the opening of Netflix's new headquarters in west London. The event also marked the 10-year anniversary of the streaming service in the capital. The Deputy Mayor thanked Netflix for its continued investment, both in terms of content and infrastructure, in the London's, and the wider UK, film industry which is their second largest hub.

### **Sadler's Wells Topping Out Ceremony**

On 22 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, joined Sadler's Wells Chief Executive, Sir Alistair Spalding, Britannia Morton and Jonzi D at the Sadler's Wells East topping out ceremony. The building is part of East Bank, the new world-class education, innovation and cultural district at the heart of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Deputy Mayor announced that young people from east London will have the opportunity to take a leading role in the first show when the building opens in 2023. They will take part in workshops led by Vicki Igbokwe's Uchenna Dance company, and some will join professional dancers on stage in her production of 'Our Mighty Groove'.

### **Creative Enterprise Zones**

On 28 June, I announced Hammersmith & Fulham and Ealing as the two latest boroughs to receive Creative Enterprise Zone Accreditation, following Waltham Forest's Blackhorse Lane zone earlier this year. I have reaccredited the original six zones and am now investing £840k across a total of nine zones. Collectively, they will create 65,000 sqm of new affordable creative workspace, and support nearly 5,000 young Londoners with access to careers advice and training opportunities in the creative industries. I also opened the next round of accreditation which will establish three further zones by 2023.

## **Beryl Gilroy Mural – West Hampstead Primary School**

On 1 July, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard unveiled the final artwork of the LDN WMN series. This artwork by Fipsi Seilern celebrates the life and achievements of Dr Beryl Gilroy – the first black headteacher in Camden, a pioneering writer and ethno-psychotherapist and one of Britain’s most significant post-war Caribbean migrants. The artwork is made up of three oil painted images and quotes about Beryl Gilroy’s life taken from the archive at the British Library and is an important contribution to recognising London’s diversity in our public realm.

LDN WMN is a series of free public artworks created by women and non-binary artists inspired by unsung women heroes from London. It started in 2018 as part of my #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign and was funded by the Centenary Cities grant scheme.

## **Talent House Opening**

On 5 July, I opened Talent House, a new cultural space in Stratford and the UK’s first Talent House for dance and Black music culture. It will be an incubation hub with strong industry links for innovation in the creative industries, launching new projects, products and careers for young diverse talent in music and dance aged 14-30 years. I provided £1.35 million of Good Growth Funding to this new centre which aims to unlock the potential of young musicians, singer-songwriters, composers, dancers, choreographers and producers, helping them progress to further or higher education, employment and enterprise.

## **Communities and Social Policy**

### **Great Get Together 2022**

To mark this years’ Great Get Together, 24-26 June, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, wrote a piece for Age UK London on how building relationships between Londoners, addressing loneliness and its causes for all generations are critical for supporting London’s social and economic recovery. The piece was published on Friday June 24 and was sent to local London Age UK partners to share with service users and amplify.

### **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month**

I was once again delighted to be able to mark Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month in City Hall. The event was organised in collaboration with Traveller Movement, Roma Support Group, London Gypsies and Travellers and Southwark Traveller Action Group. This month is an important opportunity to celebrate the history and culture of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. My Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard was delighted to welcome attendees, speakers' performers and reiterate how important Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are to London.

## **Migrant Londoners Hub launch**

For Refugee Week I launched the Migrant Londoners Hub, an online resource to help those newly arrived to navigate the city, and support Londoners with immigration needs with information about their rights. The Migrant Londoners Hub covers dedicated information on:

- Securing and maintaining immigration status, and what to do if an immigration application was unsuccessful
- Information on applying for British citizenship, voting and participating in democratic life
- Access to welfare and rights as a migrant worker in London
- Access to healthcare, mental health and wellbeing, and Covid-19 information
- Information on renting in London, asylum accommodation and support, and support for migrants at risk or experiencing homelessness

## **Windrush Justice programme contribution**

On Windrush Day I announced a £50,000 contribution to the Windrush Justice programme led by the Action for Race Equality organisation, which is seeking to address the chronic lack of funding available for Black-led grassroots organisation supporting the Windrush Generation. This investment follows my previous £20,000 investment in the Windrush Justice Fund coordinated by Patrick Vernon OBE and delivered by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

## **NHS Charging regulations scrappage call for migrants**

On Windrush Day I made a call on the Government to scrap the NHS Charging regulations for migrants which impacts undocumented Londoners as they struggle to prove their immigration status to get free healthcare. This policy disproportionately affects patients from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds and ending it would prevent a repeat of the situation that saw members of the Windrush Generation being charged for treatment. Research has shown that patients from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds are more likely to be targeted for an immigration status check than White patients due to racial profiling, while immigration status is also associated with delayed access to maternity services. It is unacceptable that today undocumented Londoners can struggle to access free healthcare due to worries about proving their immigration status, and that many migrant workers are effectively required to pay a double tax through the extortionate immigration health surcharge.

## **Civil Society and Sport**

### **Building Strong Communities**

On 13 June I was delighted to announce the second round of the Building Strong Communities Fund to launch. The three rounds of funding will see a total of almost £1 million invested in small charity and voluntary groups and organisations which have been the backbone of communities during and since the pandemic.

We are already releasing £365,000 of funding from the first round of applications to 47 grassroots organisations throughout the city. This includes ‘big sister’ mentoring groups for young girls from BAME backgrounds, ‘kitchen clubs’ to support families in temporary accommodation and supporting BAME women who identify as LGBTQI+ to access the support and friendships they need to lead happier and less isolated lives.

### **Formula E race**

On Wednesday 15th June 2022 I took part in a photocall highlighting the Formula E race that will take place at London Excel on the 30th and 31st July 2022. An Envision Formula E car was positioned outside of City Hall and the photo opportunity showed London’s commitment to sustainable sport, the promotion of electric vehicles and the return of spectators to the city’s premier motorsport event as well as the link between the location of new City Hall and Excel. I was delighted to take part in the photocall with other senior representatives from London & Partners, Excel, Formula E and Envision. The photos were used on the social media channels of all partners to promote the event.

### **Civil Society and Sport Reception Event**

On 16 June, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard convened over 180 stakeholders from the sport, civil society, volunteering, and youth social action sectors, bringing together these different parts of London’s civil society for the first time.

Over the last two years, London and its communities have been hard hit by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, thanks to our close working partnerships and collaborations, we have been able to continue to support Londoners and the most in need. This event provided an opportunity to celebrate and thank London’s community groups for their continued support and invaluable service to Londoners, and to bring together groups that wouldn’t otherwise have had a chance to connect to each other. It also launched my newly established Civil Society & Sport Policy Unit.

## **Health**

### **Public Health Response: COVID-19, Monkeypox, Poliovirus**

I continue to meet regularly with senior leaders from the London NHS, from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and from the Office for Health Promotion and Disparities (OHID), including with my statutory health adviser.

I have been briefed on the epidemiology of the BA.4 and BA.5 variants, and the rising coronavirus case numbers and hospitalisations across London, as well as the recent outbreak of monkeypox virus and the detection of polio virus in sewage samples collected from the London Beckton Sewage Treatment Works.

My communications team continue to work closely with health and care partners to ensure that messages are aligned and to amplify key messages and advice for Londoners.

### **London Health Board**

On 6 July, I chaired the London Health Board meeting where I was joined by elected leaders from London's Local Authorities and key professional health leads to discuss a number of health and care issues. Some of the topics we delved into, included: how the NHS, Social Care and Public Health are tackling health inequalities; addressing structural racism and supporting the COVID-19 Response; collaborative efforts around improving the health and wellbeing of babies; children and young people in London; updates on Integrated Care Systems (ICS) in London; efforts around improving Air Quality in London; the Public Mental Health Review and the work of Thrive LDN within this; how the health and social care sector workforce is recovering post-COVID-19.

### **Meeting with the London Ambulance Service**

On Tuesday 5 July, I met with Daniel Elkeles, Chief Executive of the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust (LAS), and Andrew Trotter OBE QPM, the new Chair of the trust. We discussed on-going pressures on the service, including delays in handover to hospitals, which is a nation-wide issue. The trust has set up several schemes to help mitigate delays in handover including piloting the Ambulance Receiving Centre and they have established a Patient Flow Team. Their role, 24 hours per day, is to reduce the potential of surge or adverse impact across London by directing ambulances to suitable alternative emergency departments. We also discussed the development of the LAS Estates Strategy, as well as recruitment and retention of staff.

### **LAS Lifesaver Awards**

I was very pleased to be able to send a message of support and my personal thanks to the volunteers, members of the public and London Ambulance Service NHS Trust (LAS) staff for the London Lifesavers Awards ceremony, which took place at the House of Commons on 17 July. London Lifesavers is a campaign developed by the LAS to work with communities, organisations and the public to deliver lifesaver training. In my message, I expressed my ongoing commitment to working alongside charities and the NHS to ensure Londoners have access to lifesaving skills, to increasing the number of defibrillators across London and to boosting the public's confidence with using them.

### **300,000 Londoners take #ZeroSuicideLDN training**

I was proud to share the news that more than 300,000 Londoners have taken free, online suicide prevention training since the launch of the #ZeroSuicideLDN campaign, myself included. The initial target of 100,000 has been far exceeded since the campaign was launched in 2019, with training offered by the Zero Suicide Alliance in partnership with Thrive LDN. The training only takes 20 minutes which is all it takes to learn how to save a life. Find more information on the #ZSL campaign and this milestone here:

<https://thrivedn.co.uk/zerosuicideldn-campaign-reaches-more-than-300000-londoners/>

This is part of ongoing work to eliminate stigma around suicide and in asking for help. With this in mind, I'm proud to support initiatives across London including the recent powerful campaign from the Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM), reminding us that anyone can experience thoughts or feelings of suicide and of the help available.

# Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

## **An adopted Local Plan**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, OPDC's Board formally adopted its Local Plan, following the Planning Inspector's report finding it to be sound.

The Local Plan sets the 20-year planning policy framework which paves the way for major regeneration in the Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area.

It sets out the land use and policy requirements that will bring tens of thousands of new and affordable homes, many more high-quality jobs, new parks and public spaces, and a healthy and low carbon district where businesses can grow and thrive.

In a few years' time, Old Oak Common station, the largest constructed in the UK, will open with High Speed 2, Elizabeth Line and Great Western services. This will create an unprecedented opportunity for regeneration and investment as Old Oak becomes one of the best-connected places. This Plan will organise and optimise the potential for growth, whilst placing environmental, social and economic sustainability at its heart.

It has been adopted following extensive public consultation with landowners, stakeholders and the community. Building on the policies in the Plan, OPDC is working closely with government to prepare a regeneration strategy for the public sector-owned land surrounding the High Speed 2 station and will begin public engagement on these plans in the autumn.

## **High Speed 2, urban realm planning application**

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July, OPDC's Planning Committee approved High Speed 2's plans for the urban realm surrounding Old Oak Common Station. The urban realm will play a key role in creating a sense of place for the major new transport interchange.

Proposals include the creation of a new public parkland designed to benefit local residents, workers and rail users, and the facilities for people travelling to and from the station. The new park will be a destination for people to relax as well as a venue for events, and pop-up markets.

The park will also offer a wide range of seating, with disability access at the heart of the plans and proposals include step free access, resting spaces for wheelchair users and accessible seating across the area.

## Planning

### London Plan

On 15 June, my officers published an update to the Energy Assessment Guidance, and the accompanying Carbon Emissions Reporting Spreadsheet, which explains how to apply relevant London Plan policies under the update to Part L 2021 of national building regulations which came into effect on that date. A cover note to accompany the guidance has also been published to explain the key changes. However, as the national Part L 2021 software is not yet available, planning applicants should continue to use the 2020 guidance, spreadsheet and the Part L 2013 methodology until the software is available, expected to be 31 July 2022.

### Design Future London

On the 5 July, I presented the awards to the first planning design challenge winners, which was designed to attract young people into built environment professions.

### Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

#### Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, under powers I delegated to him, has sent a letter in response to the following statutory referrals:

#### ***Cambridge Road Estate, RB Kingston upon Thames***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

#### ***Canbury Car Park, RB Kingston Upon Thames***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

#### ***Land at Former St George's Hospital, LB Havering***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Havering stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

#### ***Homerton High Street and Sedgwick Street, LB Hackney***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Hackney stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

#### ***Whipps Cross University Hospital, LB Waltham Forest***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Waltham Forest stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

***Harris Academy, LB Havering***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Havering stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

***Bury House, 31 Bury Street, City of London***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the City of London Corporation stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

***Dawley House, LB Ealing***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Ealing stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

***Silvertown Bus Garage Site, LB Newham***

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Newham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

***37-39 North Acton Road, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation***

***Land including Edward Edwards House at 216-220 Blackfriars Road, LB Southwark***

***Moorfield Family Centre, 2 Moorfield Road, LB Enfield***

***Sturt's Yard, 48-48a Eagle Wharf Road, LB Hackney***

**Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)**

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

- North London Business Park, LB Barnet
- Montagu Industrial Estate, LB Enfield
- Wembley Point/Wem Tower, LB Brent
- Symal House and 421 Edgware Road, LB Brent
- Convent Way Estate, LB Hounslow
- Alliance Park, Concord Road, Park Royal, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation
- Telephone House, LB Hackney
- Gill site, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Warren Lawn Tennis Club, LB Redbridge
- Hereford House and Exeter Court, LB Brent
- Colebrook Court, Sloane Avenue, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- 89 Waddon Way, LB Croydon
- Stag Brewery – Application A, LB Richmond upon Thames
- Stag Brewery – Application B, LB Richmond upon Thames
- Vorley Road, LB Islington
- 6-10 Ingate Place, LB Wandsworth

- 56 – 58 Marsh Wall, LB Tower Hamlets
- Royal Street, LB Lambeth
- Prospect House, LB Brent
- The British Library, LB Camden
- Blagdons Sports Ground, LB Merton
- Brentford Football Club Temporary Training Centre, LB Hounslow
- 36-46 Albert Embankment, LB Lambeth
- Hawks Road Clinic, RB Kingston upon Thames
- Land bounded by Scouler Street, Aspen Way and Prestage Way, LB Tower Hamlets
- The Royal Foundation of St Katherine, LB Tower Hamlets
- Crawley Forest Products Ltd, LB Bexley
- Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital, LB Camden
- Booker Cash and Cary, Battersea Park Road, LB Wandsworth
- Cyphers Indoor Bowling Club, LB Bromley
- 4 and 5 Harbour Exchange Square, LB Tower Hamlets
- Friary Park Estate, LB Ealing
- Shed A, Box Lane, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Tustin Estate, Old Kent Road, LB Southwark

## Key Engagements

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

- I held my regular planning decisions meeting on 13 June
- I spoke at the GLA All Staff Briefing on 13 June
- I spoke at the International Delegates Reception to open London Tech Week on 13 June
- I attended a national service of remembrance to commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 14 June
- I attended a wreath laying service to commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June
- I launched my VAWG strategy at Walthamstow Market on 15 June
- I spoke at the LondonEd Early Years Conference on 15 June
- I held my regular meeting the Acting Deputy Met Commissioner on 15 June
- I hosted business stakeholders at my annual GLA Business Reception on 15 June
- I marked Clean Air Day with a visit to Great Ormond Street Hospital on 16 June
- I set out my vision for safer policing in London in a speech to stakeholders on 17 June
- I visited Muslim Welfare House to mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Finsbury Park Mosque attack on 17 June
- I attended the GLA Armed Forces Day ceremony on 20 June
- I met with General Secretaries of Transport Trade Unions on 20 June
- I officially opened the Inaugural Jobs & Skills Business Partnership on 20 June
- I met with the Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer on 20 June
- I attended the London Recovery Board Meeting on 21 June
- I met with George Fertitta, CEO, Bloomberg Associates on 21 June
- I met with Jane Sun, CEO, Trip.com on 21 June
- I attended the Windrush Monument Unveiling Ceremony at Waterloo station on 22 June
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 23 June
- I visited West Ham Bus Garage on 23 June
- I officially opened London Climate Action Week on 27 June
- I hosted the annual GLA Pride Reception at City Hall on 27 June
- I spoke at a vigil in Soho Square for the victims of the Oslo Pride shooting on 27 June
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 28 June
- I took part in the annual State of London Debate on 28 June
- I chaired the London Adult Education Board on 29 June
- I met with the Mayor of Montreal on 29 June
- I chaired the Business Advisory Board on 29 June
- I spoke at an event and met with business stakeholders to mark London Climate Action Week at Goals House on 29 June
- I joined a panel discussion hosted by the New York Times as part of London Climate Action Week on 30 June
- I chaired a meeting of the C40 Steering Committee on 30 June
- I held my regular meeting with the Acting Met Commissioner on 30 June
- I spoke at the topping out ceremony for the Google Kings Cross headquarters on 1 July
- I welcomed the Women's Euros to London at a grassroots football event on 4 July

- I held my regular panning decisions meeting on 4 July
- I held my regular meeting the London Fire Commissioner on 4 July
- I met with Baroness Louise Casey on 4 July
- I spoke at the ground-breaking for the Silvertown Quays housing project on 5 July
- I spoke at the Design London Challenge awards on 5 July
- I held my regular meeting with the London Ambulance Service on 5 July 2022
- I chaired a meeting of the LEAP Board on 5 July
- I attended the opening of Talent House on 5 July
- I chaired the London Health Board on 6 July
- I attended a memorial for the 7/7 attacks on 7 July
- I met with Director General of the IOPC for London on 7 July