

11th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 19th May 2022

This is my eleventh report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 11 March - 5 May 2022.

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

Executive Summary

Covid-19 and Recovery update

The London Recovery Taskforce met on 12 April. It considered the cost-of-living crisis and what steps the programme can take to support Londoners, particularly those on the lowest incomes, who are facing unsustainable price rises. The Taskforce noted the work being done through the Robust Safety Net Mission, and the additional support provided by the GLA including funding Debt Free London to extend their debt advice line to a 24/7 service, launching a Cost of Living Hub, and exploring options for accelerating or reprioritising activity within the Economic Recovery Framework. The meeting also discussed the Building Strong Communities mission, its progress and its priorities.

On 27 March, Recovery partners celebrated the one-year anniversary of signing of the Anchors Institutions Charter and the establishment of the London Anchor Institutions' Network. To mark this point, I announced that 16 charter signatories have pledged £1.3 billion of spending on small businesses and supply chains.

On 7 April, the GLA launched the [Economic Recovery Framework Implementation Plan](#) which outlines how the GLA will deliver the Economic Recovery Framework (ERF) jointly prepared by the GLA, London Councils and boroughs. The framework was endorsed by the London Recovery Board last summer. The plan aims to provide a useful tool to all those involved in London's recovery efforts, helping to identify priority areas for intervention and opportunities for collaboration with Government, London boroughs, sub-regional partnerships and anchor institutions. It is an open, web-based document which will continue to evolve and adapt to emerging economic and social challenges and priorities.

Opening of the Elizabeth Line

On 4 May, TfL announced that our world-class new Elizabeth line will be opening to passengers later from 24 May.

This is the most significant addition to our transport network in decades, and will revolutionise travel across the capital and the south east, as well as delivering a £42 billion boost to the whole UK economy and hundreds of thousands of new homes and jobs.

Green public transport is the future and the opening of the Elizabeth line is a landmark moment for our capital and our whole country, particularly in the Platinum Jubilee year.

Mayor's target to deliver 10,000 affordable homes in London exceeded

In 2018, I launched my Building Council Homes for Londoners programme. The primary objective of this programme was to build a new generation of council homes and to reassert the role of councils as major housebuilders in London. At the time, I set a target for councils to start 10,000 new affordable homes by 2022 and my 2021 manifesto re-affirmed this commitment.

Thanks to the hard work of boroughs, I was pleased to announce on 22 March that we had met, and exceeded, this target. As of March 2022, councils had started 12,791 City Hall funded council homes since 2018 – surpassing my initial 10,000 home target by nearly 3,000 homes.

#HaveAWord

On 14 March I launched a landmark new campaign speaking directly to men and boys about how their actions can help end violence against women and girls. Research by UN Women UK indicated that 71 per cent of all women have experienced some form of sexual harassment in a public space with this number rising sharply to 86 per cent among 18-24 year olds.

With the key message: “Male violence against women and girls starts with words. If you see it happening, have a word with yourself, then your mates.”, the new campaign aims to challenge the sexist attitudes and inappropriate behaviours exhibited by some men in order to tackle the epidemic of misogyny and violence against women and girls.

To launch the campaign, I was pleased to join Crystal Palace manager Patrick Vieira, Brentford Club Ambassador Marcus Gayle and Bromley FC captain Byron Webster to unveil the messages, ahead of the campaign film being screened at half time at half time of the Crystal Palace vs Manchester City Premier League fixture. The campaign message is now being screened on public billboards and online, with football and rugby clubs showing their support by installing graphics in their stadiums across the city and other venues coming on board as the campaign continues.

The reception to the campaign has been exceptional, with the video receiving more than 10 million views and 13,000 shares.

London Supports Ukraine

On Saturday 26 March, I joined thousands of Londoners for a solidarity march through central London and vigil on Trafalgar Square – sending a united message of support to the Ukrainian people. This came as Ukrainian President Zelensky appealed to people across the world to take to the streets in a show of support for Ukraine to mark one month of the Russian invasion.

The vigil, ‘London stands with Ukraine’, saw Trafalgar Square awash in yellow and blue and had messages from UK, Ukrainian and European politicians, including a live video-link up from the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko.

At the vigil, I announced more than £1.1m in funding to support migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum in London, and £50,000 funding to match donations for the Here for Good Ukraine Advice Project. This project will provide specialist immigration advice to Londoners and their families seeking to access the Ukraine Family Scheme and other routes to sanctuary in the UK. We have a proud history of providing sanctuary to those fleeing conflict, and this funding will ensure that support is there to help in their time of need.

Westminster Terror Attack Commemoration

On 22 March 2017, the Westminster terror attack on the streets of our city was not only an attack on London, but an attack on the freedom and values we hold dear in this country. Five years on, I was honoured to stand together on Westminster Bridge, and unveil a memorial, to remember Leslie Rhodes, Andreea Cristea, Aysha Frade, Kurt Cochran and courageous police officer PC Keith Palmer, who tragically lost their lives.

Londoners - and people across our country and around the world - will never forget what happened that day, and the courage and bravery of our emergency services and first responders who ran towards danger to protect us. We will continue to honour those who lost their lives by focusing on the values of decency, openness and mutual respect that unite us.

St Patrick's Day Festival

On 13 March, I was delighted to bring back an exciting programme of events for St Patrick's Day, including busking on the Underground, the iconic parade and vibrant celebrations in Trafalgar Square, which was paused for the last two years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

This year's theme was one of celebration and bringing the community back together. I was honoured to welcome 12 London Irish key workers as our parade Grand Marshals, and Taoiseach Micheál Martin, who celebrated this year in London. Trafalgar Square played host to a world-class line up of Irish talent with family-friendly acts, storytelling, children's films and youth performances, as well community choirs, schools, dance troupes and more. A great selection of food and drinks stalls included world-renowned chef and owner of the Myrtle restaurant in London, Anna Haugh. This year's festival saw over 50,000 people attend. London has the largest Irish population in the UK and St Patrick's Day provides a wonderful opportunity to honour the spirit of our Irish community and celebrate the enduring strength of relationship between our two countries.

The Passion of Jesus 2022

I was delighted to again support The Passion of Jesus performance by Wintershall on Good Friday, 15 April, at Trafalgar Square, following a two-year break due to the pandemic. The play was first performed in 2010 and has become an Easter fixture for Londoners of all faiths and none to gather and witness this powerful portrayal of Christ's journey to the cross and the Easter story.

Tackling child-to-parent violence

On 12 April, I visited Peckham Levels where I announced ground-breaking research by London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) into violence and abuse by children towards parents.

This major new research into a hidden harm was commissioned by the VRU after listening to communities to better understand the needs of parents and carers who play such a vital role in the early years of a young person's life. A consistent concern was violence and abuse by children towards parents.

Data revealed that at least 40 per cent of parents or carers who experienced violence by their children between 2011 and 2020, refused to report it. However, Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse is likely to be much greater than reported figures suggest, and frontline practitioners working directly with families have warned they expect it to continue to increase. This new research has helped us to understand the scale of this form of violence, the opportunities for early intervention and the support being provided across London for young people and for parents and carers.

We will use this research to work with others to raise awareness and bring services together to intervene earlier to tackle this form of violence and ensure greater access to support.

Mayor's London Infrastructure Group

On 6 April, I attended the Mayor's London Infrastructure Group, convening senior leaders across London's utilities and infrastructure providers. At the meeting, I thanked our partners for their ongoing work to support the Infrastructure Co-ordination Service (ICS) and the London Recovery Board with their commitment to invest £2 billion in the capital. I announced two new programmes (primary school outreach and cross-sector reverse mentoring) to raise aspirations for underrepresented groups from an early age and welcome diverse talent into the sector. These programmes also aim to build the future talent pipeline for green jobs and skills. I reiterated my commitment to net zero by 2030 and to working collaboratively with the utilities and infrastructure sector to reach our goal.

Vaisakhi 2022

I was thrilled to welcome back Londoners and visitors to Trafalgar Square on Saturday 16 April to celebrate Vaisakhi after a two-year break. It is an amazing showcase of Sikh and Punjabi heritage and culture in the heart of our great city, and another great example of how diversity is London's greatest strength.

The event, hosted by broadcaster and presenter Tommy Sandhu, featured langar (the serving of free vegetarian food), displays of the martial art Gatka, children's sporting activities, arts and craft, a Sikh art display and a screen programme including a showcase of short films in collaboration with the London India Film Festival. Visitors could enjoy free vegetarian food, langar, which is synonymous with the Sikh faith, whilst expert chefs Manpreet Singh and Arbinder Singh gave live cookery demonstrations of dishes traditionally offered as langar.

St George's Day

On 23 April, I was delighted to attend celebrations to mark St George's Day on Trafalgar Square featuring a wide range of live music, entertainment and food. Nearly 30,000 people visited our annual St George's Day event on Trafalgar Square, which is a chance for Londoners and visitors of all backgrounds to come together and celebrate England's amazing heritage, culture and creativity - a reminder of what we all have in common.

In keeping with its 13th century origins, the event offered a day of feasting, with an array of fine fayre and a colourful collection of activities for children and adults. Entertainment included London's famous Pearly Kings and Queens, and a stage programme of live music featuring string quartet Bowjangles, hoedown collective Cut A Shine, brass band Das Brass and folk headliner James Riley & the Rooftop Assembly – all hosted by TV and radio presenter Michelle Ackerley and comedic-duo Jones & Barnard.

Trafalgar Square Open Iftar

On 29 April 2022, I was invited to attend and speak at the Open Iftar organised by Ramadan Tent Project at Trafalgar Square. This free event, attended by 1500 people, invited Muslims and people of all faiths, cultural backgrounds and ages to join together to break fast, the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset.

This Open Iftar event is a celebration of London's diversity and highlights my commitment to spreading the message that London is diverse, open, and inclusive.

Policing, Crime and Security

New funding for vital domestic abuse services

On 17 March, I was pleased to announce an additional £11.3 million funding for domestic abuse services in London. More than 6,000 Londoners will benefit from the wide range of new services including counselling, mentoring and therapeutic support as well as practical help with legal, housing, employment and schooling needs.

The new funding has been awarded to City Hall from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities, and will deliver specialist help to survivors of domestic abuse. All women, LGBTQ+ individuals, male victims of domestic abuse, young women leaving care, and people with learning disabilities will all benefit from the new services put in place following the Mayor's investment, which has been designed specifically for survivors with complex needs.

The tailored support has been made possible by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which allocated responsibility to local authorities, such as City Hall, to provide support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse in safe accommodation for the first time.

The fresh investment comes at a crucial time as domestic abuse related referrals and demand for refuge services continues to increase. Refuge services are still dealing with the impact of the pandemic, which saw a huge increase in demand on services - with the National Domestic Abuse helpline, run by the charity Refuge, receiving a 25 per cent increase in calls after the Government's lockdown measures were first introduced and the London Victim and Witness Service supporting 35 per cent more domestic abuse victims in December 2021 than during the same period in 2020.

A new Police and Crime Plan for London

On 24 March I published my Police and Crime Plan for London, following an extensive consultation with nearly 4,000 Londoners, victims of crime, community groups, businesses and others.

The four key themes of the Plan are:

- *Reducing and preventing violence*
- *Increasing trust and confidence*
- *Better supporting victims*
- *Protecting people from being exploited or harmed*

I am grateful to everyone who has played a part in developing, informing and finalising the Plan, including Assembly Members. We are now fully focused on delivering the commitments in the Plan, to make Londoners safer – and feel safer – in their city.

Encouraging Londoners of all backgrounds to join the Met

On 22 April I joined MPS officers and staff at a recruitment stall at W12 Shopping Centre in Shepherd's Bush to meet with Londoners and encourage them to bring their range of experiences and skills to help others.

The Met currently has its highest ever numbers of police officers and is undergoing a recruitment drive to encourage 4,000 more officers to join in the next year. The Met has also agreed challenging targets to increase recruitment of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and ensure those officers progress to become sergeants and inspectors.

I am determined to increase the trust and confidence that all our communities have in the police, which is why it is so important that we have a service that reflects the diversity of the city it serves. I want the Met to represent us all and urge Londoners of all backgrounds to apply to become a police officer and help be the change you want to see. I'm really proud that we now have more police officers than at any other time in London's history and by joining the police you can help to impact so many lives for the better.

IOPC issues findings on Maida Vale stop and search

On 27 April the IOPC reported their findings on the 2020 stop of Black Londoners Bianca Williams and Ricardo Dos Santos as they drove through Maida Vale with their young baby.

Following the conclusion of the IOPC investigation, five of the six MPS officers involved are to face gross misconduct charges and the other will face a misconduct charge.

This incident was understandably deeply distressing for Bianca Williams and Ricardo Dos Santos, and I, like many Londoners, was disturbed by the footage of what happened.

I welcome the independent investigation by the IOPC and its findings. It is important there is no further delay and these officers now face gross misconduct proceedings as soon as possible.

This case is yet another example of why it is vital that the next Commissioner has a more effective plan to tackle the serious cultural issues within the Met Police and to regain the trust of Londoners. Recruitment for the next Commissioner is now underway, with applications closing on 4 May.

Transport

TfL sets out bold vision for buses in the capital

On 11 March, Transport for London published its long-term plan for buses, which will see the modern bus network attract more customers and help the capital become net zero by 2030. Buses are already the most used form of public transport in the capital, and TfL's Bus Action Plan will create an even more attractive alternative to car use by focusing on five areas: Inclusive customer experience, Safety and security, Faster journeys, Improved connections and Decarbonisation and climate resilience

Investment in buses is imperative in dealing with the climate crisis and cleaning up the toxic air that is damaging our health. London's red bus network is fundamental to preventing congestion and, more widely, is a catalyst for unlocking homes and employment in London, as well as creating green jobs across the UK.

Buses are already an efficient, convenient form of public transport and London has the largest green bus fleet in western Europe, but we need to raise the bar. The Bus Action Plan sets out how we will meet the challenges now and into the future, making buses cleaner and greener, more efficient and an option for all our city's diverse communities. Ultimately, it's about making the bus the natural choice over the car.

One third of London Underground stations are now step-free, as work completes at Harrow-on-the-Hill

On 11 March, I joined Harrow Council Leader, Graham Henson and Louise Weldon, Chief Executive of Harrow Association for Disabled People at Harrow-on-the-Hill station on the Metropolitan line to mark it becoming the 91st step free station on the tube network.

Four new lifts have been installed at station, providing a step-free route between the street and Metropolitan line trains. Station signage has been enhanced to assist with wayfinding. Boarding ramps will continue to support customers boarding or alighting Chiltern trains, and with TfL's Turn-up-and-go service, staff will be on hand to assist customers if required.

We want all Londoners to feel comfortable and confident when using our transport system, and improving accessibility is a top priority. Harrow-on-the-Hill station becoming step-free will make a huge difference to passengers with mobility needs and the wider public, making journeys quicker and easier. It's great news that a third of stations on the Tube network are now step-free, with more to come during 2022 - but unless Government provides TfL with the longer-term capital funding it needs, further step-free improvements are at risk. Such investment is vital to ensure public transport is an attractive, reliable option for all, and help London and the wider country recover from the pandemic.

TfL updates on progress of Bank station upgrade as vital closure passes halfway mark

Transport for London has been updating customers on the huge progress that has been made at Bank station since the Bank branch of the Northern line closed between Kennington and Moorgate in mid-January to finalise work on the new tunnel and customer concourse. This phase of the major upgrade work is on schedule to finish in mid-May, with the Northern line fully reopening to customers at this point.

From this date, customers will benefit from a new, wider southbound Northern line platform, three new passageways to make moving through the station quicker and easier, and a spacious new concourse.

TfL has been making great strides in the intricate and complex work that is required below ground at Bank and is on schedule to finish this phase of the work in mid-May, as originally planned. Over the Easter weekend, test passenger trains ran through the new tunnel for the first time. Once complete, the improvements being made at Bank station will be an important boost for the capital as the city continues to recover from the pandemic, giving London's financial district a modern, accessible, easy to navigate station fit for the twenty-first century.

Santander Cycles celebrates six record breaking months in a row, with the most February hires ever

TfL's pioneering cycle hire scheme, Santander Cycles, has recorded the highest ever number of hires in the month of February with 750,000 hires made last month, an average of almost 27,000 per day. January was also a record month for the scheme, with 748,000 hires, or 24,000 per day. These records follow on from record months in September, October, November and December last year, as well as a record number of hires across the year in 2021.

Encouraging people back to the city and enabling more people to walk, cycle and use public transport is a vital part of London's green recovery from the pandemic.

TfL and Santander continue to work on upgrades and improvements for the scheme this year. TfL and Santander are committed to expanding the cycle hire scheme to new areas of London and are working closely with Southwark Council to add eight new docking stations across the borough. TfL and Santander are also working to introduce around 500 electric bikes into the scheme from this summer, helping to break down the barriers that stop some people from cycling, including fitness, age and journey length.

I'm delighted that 750,000 rides took place in February, the highest ever number of rides in that month, echoing the wider trend of ever increasing numbers of Londoners choosing to cycle. We know that many people took up cycling for the first time or returned to it during the pandemic, and we are determined to keep Londoners cycling and build on this further. This includes introducing electric Santander Cycles to the network and expanding the scheme to new areas to help ensure a green and sustainable recovery for our city.

TfL marks the fifth anniversary of its world-leading Please Offer me a Seat badge and the start of Priority Seating Week

Transport for London has been encouraging people to give up their seats to people who may need them as it marked the fifth anniversary of its world-leading Please Offer me a Seat badge and the start of Priority Seating Week on 25 April.

As more people return to travelling around London, TfL laid on a series of events to raise awareness of priority seats across the public transport network designed to make travelling easier and more comfortable for people with a range of conditions.

Video clips on TfL's social media channels highlighted some of the different reasons why people wear a Please Offer me a Seat badge and encouraged people to look up and offer their seat, whether they are in a priority seat or not. Throughout the week, pop-up stands in stations like Stratford, King's Cross St Pancras and Liverpool Street provided information about TfL's accessible travel tools and services to boost travel confidence.

As London recovers from the pandemic and the transport network gets busier, it is vital that we ensure that everyone can travel comfortably and safely; however, it's especially important for those with accessibility requirements. Travelling around London has been made easier for almost 100,000 people thanks to the Please Offer me a Seat Badge.

Fire and Resilience

Ukraine Update for London Assembly Members

On 11 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, updated London Assembly Members on London's response to the conflict in Ukraine.

Extraordinary meeting of the Local Resilience Forum Chairs

On 21 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with national colleagues at an extraordinary meeting of Local Resilience Forum Chairs to be briefed on the emerging situation in Ukraine, hosted by the department for Levelling up, Homes and Communities

London Resilience Forum Oversight and Strategy Group

On 24 March and 26 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired meetings of the London Resilience Forum Oversight and Strategy Group.

Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network

On 4 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a meeting of the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network International Board, and attended its conference on 5 May to discuss and share work to combat terrorism in all its forms.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Kingsley Hall Church

On 23 March, Kingsley Hall Church and Community Centre in LB Barking and Dagenham launched its renewed and expanded facilities, following £1,500,000 of investment from my Good Growth Fund. The project offers facilities and support to incubate the local social enterprises that operate out of the centre - many of which focus on delivering programmes aimed at: young people, reducing youth violence, combating food poverty, and social isolation.

Jobs & Skills campaign

In January, I launched a campaign to raise awareness of adult learning, so Londoners can get the skills they need to get good jobs in sectors key to London's recovery. The campaign started with posters across the TfL network, digital display adverts in retailers and Video on Demand, and since March has progressed to an active media phase including paid social and search advertising.

The digital display advert was seen by over 850,000 people in the period up to 31 March, and the Video on Demand was viewed over 1.3m times.

Visit to Sutton College

On 25 March, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, visited Sutton College. Sutton College is funded by City Hall to deliver Adult Community Learning and English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL). During the visit, Debbie met staff and students and observed some of this training in action. The Deputy Mayor also had the opportunity to meet learners who had newly arrived in London from Hong Kong under the new British National (Overseas) route, who are also being supported by City Hall funding to build their skills and better integrate into society.

Reflecting on the visit, Debbie said *"It was inspiring to see the great teaching and training, in so many fields, on offer at Sutton College. One of the key components to alleviating the pressures of the cost of living is making sure Londoners have access to the learning they need to flourish and thrive."*

Skills Bootcamps Launch

In April, City Hall launched an open competition for training providers and employers to deliver its Skills Bootcamps programme. Provision through this route is expected to start in August. The Skills Bootcamps will provide flexible and short-term (up to 16 weeks) higher level training opportunities leading to good jobs in London's growth areas. Londoners who are underrepresented in these areas will be prioritised for training, including young people, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Londoners and women. The £18 million programme, funded through the Department for Education will focus on Digital, Green, Construction, Technical (Engineering and Manufacturing) and Logistics (HGV driving).

However, City Hall is piloting additional sectors in the first round of the programme, including Creative, Hospitality, Health and Social Care, Professional Services. The funding is for the 2022/23 financial year and City Hall is in discussions with DfE to continue the programme into future years.

Employers will play an important role in each Skills Bootcamp, through shaping the training and qualifications delivered and being able to recruit through guaranteeing job interviews for all unemployed learners successfully completing the course.

AEB Data Publication

On 22 April, we published [detailed information about my Adult Education Budget](#) (AEB) covering the first half of the academic year 2021/22.

From August to January, there were 144,870 GLA-funded learners in London. Compared to the same period last year, total learner participation increased by 11 per cent, which suggests that the sector is recovering from the pandemic.

The AEB continues supporting priority groups: 70 per cent were female; 60 per cent were from a Black or Minority Ethnic background; 13 per cent consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem; in Adult Skills learning, 51 per cent of learners participating were eligible for the disadvantage uplift funding; and 5 per cent of the total number of learners received learner support. Notably, more than 16,000 learners in receipt of a low wage participated in the Adult Skills' stream of the AEB programme.

Housing

Tackling poor conditions in social housing

On Wednesday 9 March, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, and I met with housing activist Kwajo Tweneboa, who has been campaigning for better housing conditions in London and across the UK. We discussed the current issues around poor standards in both the private and social housing sectors and the urgent need for improvements. We committed to continue working with Kwajo and housing providers across London to drive up standards in the sector.

Kerslake Review sets out blueprint for maximising GLA Group housing

On 18 March, I published Lord Kerslake's independent report into the speed and scope of housing delivery on GLA Group land, alongside my response to the report in which I committed to implementing the report's recommendations in full.

The GLA Group makes a significant contribution to housing delivery in London. Since 2016, the group has started construction on more than 17,000 homes on GLA Group land. The Review's first recommendation is that I should mandate a statement of shared policy to confirm priorities for housing delivery on GLA Group land.

Alongside my response, I published this Statement of Shared Policy, which has been endorsed by Deputy Mayors and Chief Executives across the GLA Group.

On 19 April, I announced that Lyn Garner will take on the new role of Senior Professional Lead for housing delivery across the GLA Group alongside her role as Chief Executive of the London Legacy Development Corporation. Lyn's appointment fulfils recommendation 2 of Lord Kerslake's report.

New revenue funding launched to increase council housing supply

In March 2022, the GLA budget for 2022-23 confirmed £5 million in new revenue funding to increase council housing supply in London. This funding aims to help councils to build on the success of my Building Council Homes for Londoners programme, which has helped to enable a new renaissance in council housebuilding in London since its establishment in 2018.

The £5 million in revenue funding includes a new £1 million revenue fund to help councils increase acquisitions through my Right to Buy-back programme, alongside a new £4m revenue fund to help councils address wider strategic land supply constraints impacting affordable housing delivery. The £1m Right to Buy-back revenue fund was launched on 25 March 2022 and bidding closes on 6 May 2022. The £4m revenue fund to address land supply constraints will be launched in June 2022. These new funding programmes will help to increase the levels of genuinely affordable council homes in London, cementing the role of councils as major homebuilders in the coming years.

Rough Sleeping - pan-London services re-commissioned

On 1 April my team re-launched four pan-London services that had been re-procured last year. The four new contracts, two of which were signed with new charity partners, ensure that both quality of service and value for money are maximised. The services include: the CHAIN system, which is the most comprehensive source of information on rough sleeping in the country and is vital to the work of commissioned outreach services across London; and the Clearing House service which, combined with two Tenancy Sustainment Teams provides stable and supported accommodation for over four thousand people with a rough sleeping history each year.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Anchor Institutions Network

On 27 March, I announced that select signatories of the London Anchor Institutions Charter, including the Greater London Authority, pledged to spend more than £1.3 billion over the next five years on contracts with small businesses in the capital to aid our city's recovery.

The Greater London Authority has pledged 30 per cent of its annual 3rd party spending to London-based micro and small businesses and charities, and voluntary, community and social enterprises, equating to £35.4million in 2022/23 alone.

This represents the first wave of commitments from the London Anchor Institutions Network, a key initiative of the London Recovery Board. Members of the network represent a cross-section of public sector, higher education, cultural, faith-based, and private sector organisations which are focused on helping Londoners into good work, empowering young people to flourish, and supporting the capital's net-zero targets.

European Programmes' achievements

On 16 March, I chaired a meeting of the Local Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) Board.

The Board discussed the progress and achievements of the London European Structural Investment Programmes managed by City Hall and overseen by the LEAP, which continue to support Londoners and small businesses across the capital until December 2023.

London has been allocated £433 million European Social Fund and £184 million European Regional Development Fund since 2014, resulting in a total programme value of over £1.2 billion once 50 per cent match-funding is added. The seven-year investment term of the programmes has enabled the funds to react to and anticipate the evolving needs of businesses and employers particularly in response to the COVID pandemic. I am pleased that both programmes have hit annual expenditure targets and surpassed expected results and outcomes. Nearly 230,000 unemployed and economically inactive people have been supported into work or education and 26,000 participants have been supported in work to improve their skills.

Over 12,300 small and medium-sized enterprises have received support creating over 5,200 jobs to date, with over 18 months of the programme still to run. The programmes include the Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund and the Greater London Investment Fund, leveraging hundreds of millions of pounds to help London become net zero and support SMEs to access growth finance.

Working with business on Climate Change

On 30 March, I gave a keynote address on the importance of working together to achieve Net Zero at the Climate Pledge Spring Reception. The Climate Pledge was co-founded by Amazon and Global Optimism in 2019 and aims to bring businesses together to address climate change.

International tourism campaign

On 29 March, I gave a keynote speech at London & Partners' annual Tourism Means Business conference, highlighting my drive to recover London's tourism industry following the pandemic. I am providing a further £10m of funding for tourism campaigns for the capital, this time targeting international tourists as well as domestic tourists and day trippers.

Supporting Medical Diagnostics SMEs

On 30 March, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, welcomed the launch of nine research projects supported by the LEAP-funded 'Collaborate to Innovate: London Diagnostics' programme, delivered by MedCity.

Nine London-based diagnostic healthcare SMEs, developing the next generation of screening tests and technologies, have been partnered with world-leading experts in academia and industry through the programme. Match funding is provided to the SMEs to enable them to undertake collaborative research with partners in order to progress their innovations.

Business engagement

On 31 March, I delivered a video message in support of the Tech for Diversity Summit organised by Tech London Advocates and Global Tech Advocates. I spoke about how London's diversity is its strength although there is still work to be done; and welcomed the important contribution of the tech sector to London.

On 6 April, I met with the Association of Relocation Professionals, the professional body for relocation, to discuss how we ensure London remains the 'go-to' global capital for international relocation. Inward investment to the capital is vital in ensuring London recovers and thrives after the pandemic, and the relocation sector plays an important role in driving inward investment into London.

On 12 April, I met with Shevaun Havilland, Director General of British Chamber of Commerce and Richard Burge, CEO of London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We discussed key issues affecting businesses, in particular SMEs, levelling up and London's international promotion.

On 22 March, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal attended London First's Spring Reception and spoke about how social value can be better embedded into business for the benefit of the capital's communities.

On 22 March, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, spoke at the Mind the Tech conference, which brought together entrepreneurs, financiers and innovators in the Technology sector from the UK and Israel. Rajesh talked about London's strengths in the technology sector and trade links with Israel.

On 24 March, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, launched the opening of the Telehouse South data centre. He spoke on the importance of hyperconnected data centres to London's economy.

On 24 March, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, and my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, met with the Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Cllr Elizabeth Campbell and Cllr Johnny Thalassites for a visit to see the impact of their innovative al fresco dining policy on local businesses.

On 28 March, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal opened the University of Chicago Booth School of Business' new London campus. Rajesh welcomed the Booth School's continued investment in the London business community and highlighted the synergies between Chicago and London, including our mutual strengths in finance and tech.

On 29 March, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh attended a Q&A breakfast with London Communications Agency and their clients. Rajesh discussed issues such as London's economic recovery, infrastructure challenges and London's status as a world leader in fintech.

On 4 April, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal spoke about London's strengths as a global fintech hub and highlighted the opportunities it provides to businesses at the Innovate Finance Global Summit, a two-day fintech conference that hosts international representatives from over 100 countries.

On 6 April, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal spoke at the launch of a new exhibition Taking Care of Business at the Migrant Museum, highlighting how migrant entrepreneurs have shaped all aspects of our lives and London.

On 21 April, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with Kasim Kutay, Chief Executive Officer of Novo Holdings. Rajesh gave an overview of the support City Hall provides for the life sciences sector in London. The meeting was also attended by Jo Pisani, the Chair of MedCity, and the meeting included a discussion on how MedCity could engage with Novo Holdings.

On 28 April, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with Alan Simpson, Managing Director, Greater London, SEGRO. Rajesh discussed how industrial land is used strategically and sustainably in a way that supports the principles of good growth and the diverse range of sectors that make London's economy work.

Environment

Meeting with Sarah Bentley, Chief Executive Officer of Thames Water

On 11 March, Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, met with Sarah Bentley, Chief Executive Officer for Thames Water. They discussed organisational changes at Thames Water as well as ongoing water resilience issues facing the city.

Discussion with C40 on a Greenbelt Project

On 14 March, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended a meeting with representatives from C40 and academic experts. They discussed proposals for a potential C40 projects enhancing green belts and green zones around cities. These areas have the potential to form part of an integrated and holistic solution to the challenges posed by climate change, urbanisation, food security, health inequalities and biodiversity loss, whilst strengthening urban and ecological resilience.

Meeting with Jo Rogers, Director of Operations and Governance at ReLondon

On 15 March, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Jo Rogers, recently appointed as Director of Operations and Governance at ReLondon. They discussed the Mayor's priorities for ReLondon including the supporting the delivery of statutory objectives to promote and encourage waste reduction, increase recycling, and reduce the environmental impact from waste management.

Meeting with Councillor Ian Barnes

On 15 March, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Enfield Councillor Ian Barnes to discuss the London Rewilding Taskforce, which I have convened to consider opportunities for rewilding London. They also discussed Enfield's progress on rewilding the Greenbelt in the borough including the reintroduction of beavers after a 400-year absence in London. I have supported the Enfield Chase Restoration project, including the planting of 100,000 trees over the past two winters in a new woodland.

Call with Mayor Larreta, Buenos Aires

On 16 March, I had a meeting with Mayor Larreta of Buenos Aires, ahead of the C40 Global Mayors' Summit in Buenos Aires in October. Mark Watts, Executive Director at C40, presented the Summit objectives. The Buenos Aires Summit will help demonstrate the collective influence of city mayors to influence global climate action ahead of COP27.

Southwark College Podcast

On 16 March, Deputy Mayor Rodrigues was interviewed by students for the Southward College podcast. The interview covered the role of the Mayor and Deputy Mayors at GLA as well as what I was doing to get London to net zero by 2030, improve the city's air quality and protect our natural environment.

Rewild London Fund Announcement

On 17 March, I awarded £600,000 through my Rewild London Fund to 19 projects that will help to rewild the city and recover nature in the capital. The Fund is part of my commitment to deliver a green recovery for London, tackling the climate and ecological emergencies and improving access to green space and nature for Londoners. The projects I have committed to support will create new flower-rich meadows for pollinators, restore waterways and rewild the city through the reintroduction of water voles and large grazing animals.

London Chamber of Commerce & Industry reception

On 17 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues gave a speech on the Mayor's objectives and took part in a Q&A session at the London Chamber of Commerce & Industry's (LCCI) Environment, Sustainability and Green Growth Group. The reception, attended by approximately 70 LCCI members, provided a platform for London's business community to engage with my Green New Deal and the importance of sustainability and tackling climate change to London's recovery. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues reiterated the need to LCCI members to follow our joint [call to action](#) to make London's buildings net zero carbon by 2030.

Launch of Food Connect

On 21 March, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, launched the Food Connect service. This project run in partnership with Hubbub and the London Borough of Southwark is redistributing surplus food across a network of community fridges in south London. The project supports those experiencing food insecurity who are likely to be the hardest hit by the cost of living crisis. In doing so it makes use of zero emission vehicles (electric van and cargo bikes) to collect and deliver food that would otherwise go to waste. The service supports my goals for London by reducing food waste, reducing carbon emissions and vehicle congestion, and will also create up to six new green jobs.

Meeting on Heathrow's updated Sustainability Strategy

On 21 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Matt Gorman, Director of Sustainability at Heathrow Airport, who presented Heathrow's updated Sustainability Strategy. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues reiterated the need for the aviation sector to play its role in tackling the climate emergency by acting in the short-term and the importance of reducing air pollution associated with aviation and transport access to airports.

Global Future Council Meeting

On 21 March, Deputy Mayor Shirley Rodrigues addressed the Council Members of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Clean Air. The session covered the approach and achievements in London to improve air quality and what is needed to ensure all of London meets recommended limits on air quality, including launching a consultation on expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the whole of London.

Let's Talk Sustainability

On 22 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues gave a keynote speech at 'Let's Talk London: Sustainability', a corporate engagement event hosted by London & Partner's Business Growth Programme. At the event, London businesses showcased their innovative approaches to becoming more sustainable.

Deputy Mayor Rodrigues reiterated how delivering my Green New Deal will not only drive action to make London greener, but also help strengthen our economy and tackle inequalities.

Green Bonds meeting with Louise Wilson

On 22 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Louise Wilson, founder and joint director of Abundance Investments, to update her on our green finance work and hear more about Abundance's Local Authority Climate Bonds. During the meeting other innovative financing models, such as those with a community or retail element, were discussed to inform our wider green financing work over the coming year.

Green New Deal Expert Advisory Group

On 22 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues and Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, co-chaired the regular Green New Deal Expert Advisory Group. The meeting covered updates on the progress of the key work programmes of the GND mission and key priorities for joint delivery. A theory of change on future work for the green economy was also presented and discussed. LB Hounslow presented on behalf of London councils their Green Economy action plan. Updates on the green finance work and retrofit summit outcomes were also presented.

GLA's and London Councils' work and reports around green jobs and skills research, a look forward to the retrofitting summit in February and the recently published pathways to net zero carbon 2030 report.

Climate Resilient Schools Programme

On 23 March, I launched the Climate Resilient Schools programme, committing £1.5 million to help make 100 London schools more climate resilient. This is a partnership between City Hall, the Department for Education and Thames Water to enhance the climate resilience of up to 100 schools. The programme will aim to improve water efficiency, reduce surface water flood risk, help schools create climate adaptation plans and teach children the importance of climate adaptation. It will target those schools most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, prioritising the top 10 per cent of schools with highest surface water flood risk and that fall within the worst bands of the GLA's Climate Risk Mapping.

Green and Resilient Spaces

On 23 March, I awarded £4 million from the Green and Resilient Spaces Fund to projects across London which help tackle the climate and ecological emergencies as part of the Green New Deal Mission. Six large scale projects have received a combined £3.44 million. These projects will bring benefits to areas more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and will strengthen climate resilience, increase biodiversity, improve access to green space, build green skills and promote health and wellbeing. A further £520,000 of development funding has been awarded to 13 projects which will support them to work on their designs and community engagement. For more information see: [Green and Resilient Spaces Fund | London City Hall](#)

World Bank Cities and Climate Master Class

On 23 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, shared insights with World Bank staff on the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing city level climate plans. The purpose of this session was to provide World Bank staff with greater understanding of how London's pioneering climate action is planned and implemented, to support other global cities to tackle climate change.

Air Pollution Alert

Between 22 March and 25 March, I triggered a 'high pollution alert' as London experienced imported pollution from the continent alongside a build-up of local emissions. This was the first 'high' pollution alert I had issued since August 2020. These alerts provide valuable warning of impending periods when pollution might place an additional health burden on London's population. We notified 3300 school accounts and 75 borough officers who cascaded the alert across their networks, alongside as well as using signage within the TfL network and social media. I also urged Londoners to look out for each other by walking, cycling or taking public transport where possible and to not engine idle or burn wood or garden waste.

ReLondon Board Meeting

On 24 March, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the ReLondon Board Meeting. At the meeting ReLondon presented their preparations to host the annual Circular Economy Week in June, supporting my work on London's transition to a low carbon circular economy. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues also heard programme updates from ReLondon, including my Green New Deal funding to support SMEs, work to improve recycling in flats, and actions on plastics, food and textiles.

Queen's Green Canopy – London awarded Champion City status

On 30 March, I visited Gascoigne Primary School in Barking and Dagenham to join pupils to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" as part of The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. I met Colonel Dan Rex from the QGC and received a plaque from the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of London, Colonel Jane Davis to mark London becoming a QGC Champion City. The event was part of Trees for Cities' Planting Healthy Air programme to make school playgrounds greener, healthier and more wildlife-friendly.

Bloomberg Sustainable Business Summit

On 31 March, I attended the Bloomberg Sustainable Business Summit in London. The event gathered global business leaders and investors to promote innovation and adopt best practices in sustainability. I discussed my recently published accelerated pathway for London to reach net zero by 2030 and how cities can drive inclusive climate action. As Chair of C40, I reiterated my determination that cities show leadership. I highlighted how climate change will only be tackled when all of us work together and play our part, and that business leaders have a key role to play.

Meeting with Adam Freed, Bloomberg Associates

On 31 March, Deputy Mayor Shirley Rodrigues met with Adam Freed of Bloomberg Associates to discuss progress on projects where Bloomberg Associates have been providing support. This included existing projects such as vulnerability mapping of London and the London Business Climate Challenge.

Meeting with Arsht-Rock

On 5 April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Kathy Baughman Mcleod, Director/Senior Vice President and Jorge Gastelumedi, Global Policy Director of the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre at the Atlantic Council (Arsht-Rock). Arsht-Rock shared their approach and work to help make cities around the world more aware of and resilient to extreme heat. My Deputy Mayor discussed the GLA's policies and programmes to address heat risk in London, including the 'Roofs Designed to Cool' project, cool spaces initiative, and guidance for addressing overheating in care homes and schools/early years' settings.

Meeting with Andrew Steer, Bezos Earth Fund

On 12 April, I met with Andrew Steer, President of the Bezos Earth Fund, someone who has been at the centre of global climate leadership for many years, at DfID, the World Bank, and as CEO of the World Resources Institute. I discussed COP27, the state of climate action in the USA, and then the importance of immediate action to tackle the twin challenges of climate change and air quality. I highlighted the importance of making climate a health issue, highlighting the importance of BreatheGlobal and the success of BreatheLondon. I then talked about the importance of a just and fair transition before discussing how we could work together in the coming years.

Meeting with Project Everyone

On 13 April, I met with Richard Curtis, Kate Garvey and other representatives from Project Everyone alongside Deputy Mayor Rodrigues and Mark Watts from C40. We used the meeting to discuss what action has been taken since COP26 and how London is embedding the Sustainable Development Goals into its work, particularly around the Recovery Board. We also discussed how we can best work together to promote SDGs in the future.

First Meeting of the London Rewilding Taskforce

On 20 April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues chaired the first meeting of the London Rewilding Taskforce at Camley Street Natural Park. I have convened this Taskforce to consider opportunities for rewilding in London to restore nature, enhance biodiversity, preserve and improve green spaces, and bring benefits to Londoners. It will communicate rewilding to a broader public audience and engage Londoners in action. During the meeting, members saw presentations on the principles of rewilding and on existing greening and nature conservation activities in London and the UK. They also discussed ideas for what rewilding could look like in the urban context.

Foreign Policy Magazine Climate Summit

On 27 April, I took part in a fireside chat interview as part of Foreign Policy Magazine's Virtual Climate Summit. I was interviewed by CNN International's Maggie Lake and discussed what I am doing to ensure London acts now to meet its 2030 net zero target; how to embed social justice at the heart of environmental action; and what my objectives are as chair of C40 cities.

Meeting with Robin Mortimer, CEO Port of London Authority

On 27 April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Robin Mortimer to discuss the GLA's response to the PLA's Thames 2050 Vision. Discussion focussed on the contribution the PLA can make to my achieving environmental objectives for the capital. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues emphasised my ambition to see the Thames positioned as a world-class river habitat, which provides accessible blue space for all Londoners, contributes to reducing carbon and wider air pollution, ensures London remains protected from tidal flooding well into the 22nd century and ensuring PLA's Vision 2050 contributes to London becoming greener, healthier and more prosperous.

UK Cities Climate Investment Commission Dinner

On 28 April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended a dinner held by the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission (UKCCIC). The UKCCIC is a joint initiative between the Connected Places Catapult, Core Cities UK and London Councils to develop innovative approaches to securing private investment into place-based Net Zero delivery. This dinner brought together representatives of the Core Cities UK, financial institutions and green industry to discuss how we can collectively deliver Net Zero GHG emissions.

Children and Young Londoners

New Deal for Young People

On 15 March, 40 representatives from the youth sector and City Hall met to launch three mentoring programmes I have funded to kickstart the New Deal for Young People recovery mission, which will ensure young people in need have access to a personal mentor and quality local youth activities by 2024.

The event, chaired by Lib Peck, Director of London's Violence Reduction Unit, brought together 18 youth organisations that have received grants of £50,000 to £500,000 to deliver the Headstart Action, Mentoring Leaders and STEAM Mentoring programmes. Over the next two years these will provide one-to-one support for young people most in need, aiming to achieve positive outcomes such as improved mental wellbeing, employability skills and relationships. Specialists from across the city shared information about how their projects are designed to support groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic such as young Londoners affected by homelessness, care affected young women and young people who are experiencing mental ill health.

These programmes will also support high quality mentoring across London by enabling organisations to develop and share excellent practice. The event also gave organisations and key youth sector stakeholders such as London Councils and London Youth the opportunity to shape a new Mentoring Framework which will articulate what good mentoring is and the support needed to deliver it. The Framework will undergo further trials and consultation over the coming months with a launch planned later this year.

Young Londoners Fund

I am extremely proud that the projects funded by my £45 million Young Londoners Fund have continued to deliver positive opportunities and support to young Londoners, including those facing the greatest challenges. From October 2021 – December 2021, youth workers and community mentors helped support over 12,000 young people to improve their relationships, well-being and life prospects, the most we have seen since the pandemic started. The Young Londoners Fund has now far exceeded its target and has supported over 120,000 young people and will continue to deliver more excellent outcomes until the end of 2022. Through my New Deal for Young People, I am determined to continue to work with partners across London and build on the great work of the Young Londoners Fund.

Youth Recovery Board

I am determined to put young people at the heart of London's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It's essential that their voice and experience is shaping recovery – for example, what quality mentoring and youth services look like, how mental health needs can best be addressed, and what is good and accessible employment. My Youth Recovery Board (YRB) is continuing to support the work of the London Recovery Board by providing advice on important issues, raising awareness about the recovery missions amongst other young Londoners and working with young leaders across the city to bring young people, the voluntary and community sector, and other partners together to create more opportunities for young people. I look forward to meeting with some of them again at the next London Recovery Board in June.

Building Future London

To excite, engage and spark the imagination of young diverse Londoners, I launched Building Future London primary school outreach. This programme will reach 30 primary schools and 1,800 pupils this year to showcase potential infrastructure and construction careers, promoting this sector more widely. It will raise aspirations for underrepresented groups from an early age with relatable role models, and will specifically target Black, ethnic minority, female and special educational needs and disability (SEND) pupils. Partnering with the Mayor's London Infrastructure Group and Workforce Integration Network (WIN), Building Future London not only aims to welcome diverse talent but also to build the future talent pipeline for green jobs and skills.

Culture

Creative UK's London Reception

On 15 March, I gave a speech at Creative UK's London Reception at the National Theatre. The event was held to mark the merger of the Creative Industries Federation and Creative England as Creative UK and was attended by key industry stakeholders and the Secretary of State. This provided an opportunity to celebrate London's creative industries and their role in London's ongoing recovery. I also raised my concerns about the Levelling Up agenda and the impact that a reduction in Arts Council England funding to London will have on our world leading creative institutions.

Radio Ballads, London Borough of Culture

On 30 March, Assistant Director for Culture and the Creative Industries, Shonagh Manson, helped launch Radio Ballads at the Serpentine Galleries, a new exhibition by artists Sonia Boyce, Helen Cammock, Rory Pilgrim and Ilona Sagar which explores stories of labour, and who cares for who and in what way. The exhibition was commissioned by New Town Culture from Barking & Dagenham, a Cultural Impact Award project funded by my London Borough of Culture programme. New Town Culture is working to bring the power of art and culture into social care services for children and adults in the borough. The exhibition will be on show until 29 May 2022.

Fourth Plinth Schools Awards

On 4 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE announced this year's winners of my Fourth Plinth Schools Awards. The competition received entries from almost 2,000 students from 29 London boroughs. The awards give pupils across the capital an opportunity to reflect on and create their own work in response to my world-renowned Fourth Plinth Commission. The awards ceremony took place at City Hall and was attended by 50 students, their classmates, parents, guardians, and teachers. Awards were handed out in four categories, the winners received prizes of Cass Art supplies. The competition celebrates the power of young people's imagination and creativity. An exhibition of the winning work will be on display at City Hall until mid-June and will also be displayed on the Bloomberg Connects mobile app, which has been downloaded by 800,000 people.

Bristol Nights Women's Safety Charter

On 16 March, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, attended the launch of the Bristol Nights Women's Safety Charter alongside the Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees, and the city's Night Time Economy Advisor, Carly Heath.

Bristol joins other cities, including Cardiff and Exeter, in taking inspiration from London's Women's Night Safety Charter in developing their own programmes. I'm thrilled that the work we're doing in London is being recognised as a model of best practice and is leading the way to tackle violence against women and girls nationwide.

Communities and Social Policy

Faith Sector Panel meeting

On 15 March, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended a Faith Sector Panel meeting chaired by Archdeacon of London Father Luke Miller. Discussions at the meeting covered ongoing faith engagement, the cost-of-living crisis and support for Ukraine.

Cost-of-living crisis briefing event

On 15 March, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, held an online briefing event for community, faith and voluntary groups on the cost-of-living crisis. Speakers included Debt Free London, Citizens Advice and Child Poverty Action Group. Over 120 groups attending the briefing.

Civil Society Roots programme Ideas Camps

Throughout March Ideas Camps were delivered across the 10 London Boroughs participating in the Civil Society Roots fund. This was part of the pre-funding stage of my Civil Society Roots programme, which aims to strengthen community-led Civil Society, led by and for groups impacted by structural inequalities. 4 sessions per borough were delivered throughout the month, with over 90 organisations attending. The sessions aimed to support organisations to network, identify shared priorities and collaborate to develop project ideas to submit to the Roots fund, aiming to strengthen support and services for communities. Successful round one grantees will be announced in June '22.

Reconceptualising Loneliness Report

On 17 March, I published Reconceptualising Loneliness in London. The report found 700,000 Londoners are affected by severe loneliness and it falls disproportionately amongst those Londoners facing those wider structural inequalities and those systematically excluded from public and communal life. The report proposes innovative areas for action to help funders, local and central government, civil society organisations and each of us as individuals to prioritise relationships in the emerging recovery from the pandemic.

Roundtable on heritage and education

Continuing to allow Londoner's to inform the work of the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm, on 26 April my Deputy Mayor's Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard and Justine Simmons convened a Roundtable with on heritage and education. The role of education has been present in all core conversations within the commission. From the way history is taught within the curriculum to how the public engages with different perspectives on history and heritage in public space. This roundtable hosted by the commission, brought in the experience of educators and campaigners to both identify exemplar models, understand the needs first hand, and locate how and where within the commission's work support can be found.

Looking Back, Moving Forward conference and reception

On 22 March, my Community Engagement team held two events – an afternoon conference, ‘Looking Back, Moving Forward’, followed by an evening reception to thank and celebrate the community organisations who have supported our communities throughout the pandemic. The conference brought together grantees from the Mayor of London’s Community Led Recovery programme, funders, policy makers and other community organisations who discussed learning from the past two years and possible collaborations from the future. The conference was closed by Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard. The evening reception featured performances from acts funded by the Mayor of London’s Community Led Recovery Programme.

Civil Society and Sport

Major Events Volunteering

On Sunday 13 March my Major event volunteers supported the St Patrick’s Day Festival in London. 19 volunteers were selected to support the event from a pool of 150 volunteers who expressed their interest. Volunteers helped to ensure the smooth running of the event, including helping the parade line up making sure that all participants were in the correct position ready for the start of the parade. My volunteers also supported the festival in Trafalgar Square by providing event information on the day’s festivities and a welcoming experience to visitors and tourists.

London Ambassadors

Recruitment and selection has begun for my London Ambassadors programme in preparation for deployment over the summer across the capital. A total of 488 volunteers have applied to support the programme with a total of 388 roles available. A pool of 26 trained volunteers have interviewed 127 volunteers for Team Leader roles over a 7 day period from 22 April – 28 April. There are 78 Team Leader roles and volunteers will be informed if they’ve been selected for the role in May.

Health

Pandemic Response

I have continued to meet with senior leaders from NHS London and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), including with my statutory health adviser. I am pleased to note that infection rates – though still high – appear to have begun to fall, though it is difficult to give a confident analysis of the COVID-19 infection rates because of the change in testing policy. This is starting to follow through into reductions in the number of patients in hospital with COVID-19.

During our meetings, we've discussed the impact on NHS hospitals. I have been told that more COVID hospital patients are now in hospital 'with COVID' than 'for COVID'. In other words, their primary reason for hospital admission is for a different condition, sometimes exacerbated by COVID. The number of daily hospital admissions in London saw an increase when COVID restrictions were removed in February, and now stand at less than half the rate in the winter peak.

We have also discussed the need to continue to work together to reinforce key public health messages, and the importance of vaccination in the absence of other non-pharmaceutical interventions. The 'evergreen' offer (for first ever vaccination doses) remains open and people continue to come forward, and the NHS is now offering second booster doses to over 75s and other eligible groups. I am pleased that London is making inroads into the backlog of people waiting for treatment, and that the numbers of people waiting the longest to be seen is reducing. I have passed on my thanks to all the frontline staff for their continued dedication and hard work.

Sharing success of the healthier food advertising policy

Following the success of my healthier food advertising policy, which was announced in 2018 and implemented across the TfL network, work is now focusing on supporting and encouraging Local Authorities to implement the policy locally. This included the delivery of a webinar to share findings of the external policy evaluation undertaken by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The webinar included a video from Bite Back 2030's youth board who shared why addressing this issue of ads for less healthy food is important to them. Local Authorities shared their learning and best practice in terms of policy implementation drawing on the policy toolkit developed by our partners at Sustain.

Establishment of the GLA Group Public Health Unit will increase focus and collaboration on public health

I am pleased to report that on 1 April, I established a new GLA Group Public Health Unit as a shared service, sitting within the Greater London Authority (GLA) and working across the GLA, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Violence Reduction Unit, Transport for London, Old Oak and Park Development Corporation and London Fire Commissioner.

The GLA Group Public Health Unit will strengthen capacity and collaboration on public health across the GLA Group, in recognition of the critical importance of strong public health advice, as made evident by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Unit will also drive forward action to reduce health inequalities and my manifesto commitment to embed 'Health in All Policies'.

The Unit will operate as a core part of London's wider public health system and will work closely with, and complement, local authority public health teams, as well as regional and national public health teams in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), the UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) and the NHS. There will be a formal launch of the Unit in the autumn.

London Legacy Development Corporation

2022 Legacy Celebrations

On 15 March, London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) announced a programme of activity this spring and summer to mark the 10th anniversary of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As part of this, I will join local east Londoners to light an Anniversary Legacy Flame on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in July, marking the start of the Park's biggest annual community event - the Great Get Together. I look forward to what will be a great opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved since 2012 as well as what is yet to come.

Your Neighbourhood Talks and Future Me, Future Youth Conference

On 15 March, LLDC held its latest Your Neighbourhood Talks event at the ArcelorMittal Orbit. These events are aimed at bringing the wider community together to consider key issues and opportunities on and around the Park. This year's event had a timely focus on the 2022 celebration events programme, as well as a roundtable on Net Zero Carbon.

On 23 March, LLDC's Legacy Youth Board led a 'Future Me, Future Youth' conference that saw over 250 young people invited to London Stadium to share their views on urban transformation and discuss their thoughts on how the Park would look in the decade to come.

London Aquatics Centre

A major incident was declared at the London Aquatics Centre on 23 March as a result of a chlorine gas leak. Our incredible emergency services must be thanked for their quick response, and for assisting all those who were affected. Investigations into the cause of the incident are ongoing, but I was pleased that the venue was able to safely reopen to the public on 19 April.

On 23 April, Arena Games Triathlon returned to the venue, with crowds eager to experience the unique mix of real-life and virtual reality racing. This is another great example of how the 2012 venues on the Park continue to host world-class sporting and cultural events, alongside their regular community uses.

GLA Group Housing Delivery Lead

I announced on 20 April that I had asked LLDC Chief Executive Lyn Garner to coordinate housing delivery on GLA Group-owned land, implementing one of the recommendations of the Lord Kerslake review. It's crucial that we look to maximise and speed up the delivery of much-needed homes across London, and Lyn is well placed to lead this given her own wealth of expertise and LLDC's track record. She will remain chief executive of LLDC alongside her role as senior professional lead.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Local Plan

On 1 April, OPDC received the Planning Inspector's report on the modifications to its Local Plan, reaching a significant milestone in the adoption of its Local Plan. The report sets out that the Local Plan has been found sound subject to making some final modifications. This means that it will go to OPDC's next board meeting on 22 June to be considered by members for adoption. Once adopted, OPDC's Local Plan will set the planning policy framework to deliver an inclusive, accessible and connected new urban district for London, delivering tens of thousands of new and affordable homes and job opportunities set to benefit Londoners and the UK.

Board appointments

In March I was delighted to appoint Aman Dalvi OBE and Jon Milward to join OPDC's Board to help spearhead the delivery of tens of thousands of affordable homes and jobs in the capital's largest brownfield development site.

Aman Dalvi, is a housing association Chair and former Director of Planning and Development at London Borough of Tower Hamlets. He delivered major inward investment into large regeneration schemes, including the Thames Gateway. He has served as a board member of the government's former urban regeneration agency English Partnerships and the London Olympic Park Legacy Company and was awarded an OBE in 2000 for his services to housing.

Jon Milward is a former Real Estate Equity Partner at Deloitte LLP, and has led significant global and UK-wide planning and development projects across the private and public sector including at Euston Station and the London Olympic Park. He is also a Business Ambassador for Centrepoin, a charity for young homeless people in the UK.

Construction starts on Good Growth Funded projects

On 21 March, construction began on two of my Good Growth funded projects in Old Oak and Park Royal to make improvements to the public space in Willesden Junction Station and creating new and improved access to the Grand Union Canal at Old Oak Lane. Construction is due to take place from March until July.

Planning

London Plan

On 25 March 2022, I published two pieces of London Plan Guidance (LPG), covering Circular Economy Statements and Whole Life-Cycle Carbon Assessments. Over 50 per cent of London's waste is created by the built environment sector, with materials accounting for 10 per cent of consumption-based emissions. London's homes and workplaces are responsible for producing approximately 78 per cent of its greenhouse gas emissions, and a significant part of this is the embodied carbon that goes into the construction of the building.

The Circular Economy Statements LPG will reduce construction waste and associated emissions by requiring circular economy principles to be incorporated into the design, construction and operation of developments in the capital. The Whole Life-Cycle Carbon Assessments LPG will help reduce the carbon emissions resulting from the materials, construction and the use of a building over its entire life, including its demolition and disposal, and provide a truer picture of a building's carbon impact on the environment.

This guidance and the principles in the London Plan will mean that London's buildings are more sustainable – not just now, but for generations to come – and it represents a major green shift in the design and construction of buildings.

Local Plans

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea response to the New Local Plan Review (Regulation 18 Consultation).

On 23 March the GLA responded on my behalf to this consultation raising potential general conformity concerns and providing guidance to ensure the borough's emerging Development Plan Document is consistent with the London Plan 2021.

London Borough of Hackney response to the Draft Regulation 18 Stamford Hill Area Action Plan.

On 24 March the GLA responded on my behalf to this consultation providing guidance to ensure the borough's emerging Development Plan Document is consistent with the London Plan 2021.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Meridian Water Orbital Business Park, LB Enfield

I have written to the London Borough of Enfield stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

1 Stirling Road/1-9 Colville Road And 67-81 Stirling Road, Acton, LB Ealing

I have written to the London Borough of Ealing stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

25-33 Parkhouse Street, LB Southwark

I have written to the London Borough of Southwark stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

B&Q Cricklewood, LB Barnet

I have written to the London Borough of Barnet stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

4-20 Edridge Road, LB Croydon

I have written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Plaistow Wharf, LB Newham

I have written to the London Borough of Newham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Whipps Cross University Hospital, LB Waltham Forest

I have written to the London Borough of Waltham Forest stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

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:

456 - 472 Oxford Street, LB Westminster

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

Blackwall Way Yard Jetty, Blackwall Way, London, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Southwark Underground Station, LB Southwark

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

Access Self Storage, Wembley, LB Brent

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

Custom House, 20 Lower Thames Street & River Wall, Stairs And Crane, Custom House Quay, London EC3R 6EE, City of London

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

Frogpool Manor Farm, LB Bromley

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

Travis Perkins building redevelopment, Westminster

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

Bradfield Club, LB Southwark

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

2 Trafalgar Way, LB Tower Hamlets

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

The Railway Tavern, 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.

Watling Gardens Estate, LB Brent

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

Citylink House, 4 Addiscombe Road, LB Croydon

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

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Springwell Factory, Springwell Lane, LB Hillingdon
- The Walnuts, LB Bromley
- Plots S1 & S11, The International Quarter (IQL) South, LLDC
- Link Park Heathrow, LB Hillingdon
- Whitechapel Road Development Site, Whitechapel Road, LB Tower Hamlets
- St Nicholas House, LB Sutton
- 9-11 Palmerson Road, LB Harrow
- Avondale Drive Estate, LB Hillingdon
- The Elms 371A High Street, LB Hillingdon
- Capel Manor College, LB Bromley
- Olympia Exhibition Centre, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Olympia Exhibition Centre, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Lidl Belvedere Regional Distribution Centre, LB Bexley
- Land Comprised within the Development of Pudding Mill Lane, LLDC
- Charlton House, LB Hounslow
- Development site of 101, 103 and Former Battersea Gasholders, Prince of Wales Drive, LB Wandsworth
- Watchtower House, LB Barnet
- Morrisons Supermarket, 41-67 High Street Yiewsley, LB Hillingdon
- The Ledbury Estate, LB Southwark
- Tesco / Ecoworld, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Devonshire House, LB Bromley
- 2-4 Ringers Road and 5 Ethelbert Road, LB Southwark
- 615 Manchester Road, London, LB Tower Hamlets
- Ibis Budget London City Airport, LB Newham
- O2 Masterplan Site, LB Camden

- North London Business Park, LB Barnet
- Estate Way and Gateway Business Centre – RVL Site, LB Waltham Forest
- Development At 587 To 595, High Road, Seven Kings, LB Ilford
- 259 Plaistow Road, LB Newham
- Goods Yard and Depot, White Hart Lane, LB Haringey
- Avonmouth House, 6 Avonmouth Street, LB Southwark
- Homebase, 100 Woodgate Drive, LB Lambeth
- Ailsa Wharf, Ailsa Street, LB Tower Hamlets
- Ilderton Wharf, 1-7 Rollins Street, LB Southwark

Stopping Up order

- Star Alley, City of London

Key engagements

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

- I visited Harrow on the Hill Station to see the new step free access on 11 March
- I visited Harrow Central Mosque on 11 March
- I held my regular planning decisions meeting on 14 March
- I met with Lord Kerslake to discuss his housing review on 15 March
- I attended the Creative UK London Reception on 15 March
- I chaired a meeting of the LEAP Board on 16 March
- I met with the Mayor of Buenos Aires, Horacio Laretta to discuss the C40 World Mayors Summit on 16 March
- I attended the GLA Unison AGM on 17 March
- I met with the Mayor of San Francisco, London Breed on 17 March
- I held my regular meeting with OHID and NHS on 17 March
- I met with the Deputy National Security Advisor to discuss the Ukraine crisis on 17 March
- I visited a TfL train manufacturer, in Goole on 21 March
- I visited new build council homes in Enfield on 22 March
- I attended the plaque unveiling, commemorating the Westminster bridge attack on 22 March
- I chaired the Transport for London Board on 23 March
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 24 March
- I met with the Deputy Police Commissioner on 24 March
- I led Londoners marching to Trafalgar square in support of Ukrainians on 26 March
- I held my regular planning decisions meeting on 28 March
- I spoke at the Tourism Means Business conference on 29 March
- I visited University of East London's opening event at the Royal Docks Business School & Law on 29 March
- I marked London's contribution to the Queen's Canopy Cover at a Tree Planting at Gascoigne Primary School on 30 March

- I gave a keynote speech at the annual Climate Pledge Spring Reception on 30 March
- I spoke at the Bloomberg Sustainable Business Summit on 31 March
- I attended the regular meeting of M10 Mayor's on 31 March
- I held my regular meeting with TfL on 31 March
- I held my regular planning decisions meeting on 4 April
- I spoke at the Naz Legacy Foundation Interfaith Iftar, held at the Tower of London on 4 April
- I joined the Lord Mayor of Sydney for the CityTalks series on 5 April
- I held my regular planning decisions meeting on 5 April
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 5 April
- I met with the Fire Commissioner on 5 April
- I chaired the London Infrastructure Group on 6 April
- I met with the Association of Relocation Professionals on 6 April
- I met with US Chargé d'Affaires, Philip T. Reeker on 7 April
- I visited Peckham Levels to launch new research published by the Violence Reduction Unit on 12 April
- I met with Andrew Steer, President of the Bezos Earth Fund on 12 April
- I met with the British Chambers of Commerce and London Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 12 April
- I met with Project Everyone on 13 April
- I spoke with the Acting Met Commissioner on 13 April
- I attended an Iftar hosted by the Association of Muslim Police on 14 April
- I attended the "Big Iftar" hosted by the British Muslim APPG on 19 April
- I spoke at the ITUC Energy Roundtable on 20 April
- I joined a Met Police Recruitment event at the W12 Shopping Centre on 22 April
- I attended the One Family Charity Iftar on 22 April
- I spoke at the St George's day celebrations in Trafalgar Square on 23 April
- I spoke at the National Yom HaShoah Commemoration ceremony on 27 April
- I attended the Ramadan Tent Project "Open Iftar" in Trafalgar Square on 29 April
- I held my regular meeting with TfL on 3 May 2022
- I met with the Acting Met Commissioner on 3 May
- I met with Minister for Refugees, Lord Harrington on 4 May