

# **41<sup>st</sup> Mayor's Report to the Assembly**

## **Mayor's Question Time – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

This is my forty-first report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 6<sup>th</sup> March – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

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

## **Executive Summary**

### **COVID-19 Update**

London is still in the midst of the biggest health, social and economic crisis in a generation – and we will be living with the consequences for many decades to come.

Thousands of people in our city and across the country have already died as a result of the coronavirus, and although we have reached the peak, many more will tragically lose their lives in the weeks ahead. These are not just numbers and statistics we see on graphs – every death leaves family, friends and loved ones devastated and grieving.

From the outset, my priority has been to focus the resources of the Greater London Authority to help in the effort to save as many lives as possible. We've been working closely with the Government, the NHS, Public Health England and other agencies to lead a fully joined-up response through the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), which is being led by John Barradell and my Deputy Mayor, Dr Fiona Twycross.

The SCG has a physical base at London's temporary Strategic Coordinating Centre, which is overseeing all aspects of the London-wide emergency response. At every stage, we have sought to: minimise the health impact of the outbreak; support the most vulnerable in our city; mitigate against the huge impact on businesses, jobs and livelihoods; maintain essential public services; provide robust guidance and information to the public; and instil public trust.

The SCG has been involved with dealing with NHS surge capacity in London, ensuring the most vulnerable in London are shielded, making sure PPE is going to the right places, encouraging volunteering, and working to ensure no one is left in food poverty. The current strategic focus is now on how we exit the lockdown, COVID-19 testing, mortality management, the economic impact and mental health and wellbeing.

From the start of the lockdown, Transport for London (TfL) has been running as much of our public transport network as possible given the number of staff who have been off sick or self-isolating. Our heroic transport workers have been doing a vital job under extraordinarily difficult circumstances to ensure nurses, doctors and other frontline workers can get to work and save lives. We have taken many steps to ensure that our transport staff are protected during this crisis. This has included rolling out middle-door only boarding across London's buses and a whole host of other measures, including enhanced cleaning and new protective screens. As the lockdown measures start to be eased, TfL will be rolling out a comprehensive

plan for how we can continue to ensure the safety of staff and passengers whilst social distancing remains in place.

The recent economic projections and unemployment predictions underline the sheer scale of the economic and social challenges the virus is likely to cause for many years to come. That's why I'm working closely with the Government, business leaders, trade unions, local authorities and other Metro Mayors across the UK to develop a plan for London's economic recovery to protect jobs, livelihoods and living standards over the coming months.

I will also continue to put pressure on the Government to put all the necessary national measures in place to support workers, businesses and families to ensure COVID-19 does not leave millions of people unemployed, homeless or in poverty.

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There's no doubt we face some extremely difficult days ahead. But I've been so proud and inspired by how Londoners have been responding, and I'm confident that with a concerted and collective effort, our city will once again rise to the challenge and that London will get through this, together.

### **More transparency needed to tackle COVID-19 inequality**

On 7 May, I called for ethnicity to be recorded on all death certificates to expose the disproportionate effect that COVID-19 and other illnesses are having on the capital's black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities.

I'm working hard to do all I can to support and fight for London's diverse communities, but the Government cannot ignore the structural problems in our society that mean minority ethnic Londoners are more likely to work in lower paid jobs, live in overcrowded accommodation and suffer from underlying health conditions which put them at greater risk.

### **New Streetspace plan to overhaul London's streets**

On 6 May, I unveiled a bold new London Streetspace programme which will rapidly transform London's streets to accommodate an increase in cycling and walking when lockdown restrictions are eased.

The capacity of our public transport will be dramatically reduced post-coronavirus as a result of the huge challenges we face around social distancing. Everyone who can work from home must continue to do so for some time to come. The emergency measures included in our major strategic London Streetspace programme will help those who have to travel to work by fast-tracking the transformation of streets across our city.

I urge the Government and boroughs to work with us to enable Londoners to switch to cleaner, more sustainable forms of transport - and reduce the pressure on other parts of our transport network - once the lockdown is eased.

### **A further £1.5 million invested in accommodation for victims of domestic abuse**

On 4 May, I announced a further £1.5 million emergency response fund to provide victims of domestic abuse with safe accommodation and support if they need to flee their homes during the lockdown. It is vital that those who are scared and face the prospect of self-isolating with someone who is violent, threatening or controlling, have urgent access to safe and secure accommodation.

We have seen a rise in domestic abuse over the last few weeks of lockdown and an increase in calls to helplines across the country. My message to those who feel threatened or unsafe and are suffering silently in their own homes, is that the police are there for you. If you are in

danger and you need to phone 999, you should do so, and if you need help you can also call the national domestic abuse helpline who will be there to speak to you.

### **New fund to support London's at risk culture**

The coronavirus outbreak is having a significant impact on every aspect of life in London, and that includes our culture, creative industries and night time economy. These industries are so important to the fabric of our city during the day and night, and they will play a key role in helping us to recover from this public health crisis.

Which is why, on 30 April, together with the Music Venue Trust, the LGBTQ+ Venues Forum, the Creative Land Trust and the British Film Institute (BFI) we created a new £2.3 million emergency fund for those areas most at need. This fund will only go so far so, we need still need the Government to step forward and provide the comprehensive support this industry needs to protect its future.

### **Funding provided to help London's community organisations**

On 24 April, I announced a further £4 million for the London Community Response Fund. This will go towards supporting the vital work of our community and voluntary organisations providing valuable support to Londoners impacted by COVID-19. I will continue to do what I can to support them and urge the Government to step-up and provide the necessary levels of support now and in the future.

### **Dramatic improvement in air quality on London's roads**

London has one of the most advanced air quality monitoring networks in the world. This network has recorded how the lockdown has dramatically improved air quality in the city. On 23 April, I published this new evidence - but this cleaner air should not just be temporary, as Londoners deserve clean air at all times. Once the current emergency has passed and we start to recover, our challenge will be to eradicate air pollution permanently and ensure the gains we have made through policies such as ULEZ continue. It is critical that Government keeps this in mind as part of the country's recovery from the pandemic.

### **New crowdfunding scheme launched to support small businesses**

On 20 April, I launched a new crowdfunding initiative called 'Pay It Forward London'. This scheme was designed to help Londoners support small businesses currently struggling, in industries including hospitality, retail and leisure. This scheme is part of a wider package of help we have been offering to small businesses, including the London Growth Hub which is delivering tailored one-to-one advice to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during the outbreak.

### **More than 1000 London rough sleepers able to self-isolate**

On 14 April, I was proud to announce that more than 1,000 homeless Londoners were able to self-isolate in hotels and other safe locations across the capital. This was made possible thanks to an outstanding coalition of compassionate organisations, charities and individuals who have stepped up to the challenge. This is testament to what can be achieved when we work together.

## **#LondonTogether**

In response to COVID-19 I launched a new campaign - #LondonTogether – to support Londoners through this difficult time. The campaign ensures Londoners can access the information and support they need, and that they hear uplifting stories from their fellow Londoners. The campaign includes public health guidance, access to the support services City Hall is providing, and sharing ways in which they can help in their communities (e.g. donating to local foodbanks). In line with the SCG approach of bringing institutions together to respond to COVID-19, the campaign is working with stakeholders from across London - from local authorities and food banks, to mental health charities and cultural venues – to ensure we reach as many Londoners as possible with this crucial information.

Our #LondonTogether content has included support for Thrive LDN, Clap for our Carers, the 2.6 Challenge, Lockdown Life on TikTok, an interview with Richard Schilling (Dep Clinical Director, NHS Nightingale London), and partnerships with Glamour and Cosmopolitan to promote support services to new audiences. So far #LondonTogether has been used over 26,000 times by over 15,000 individuals sharing inspirational stories and support, social media; and our video content has been viewed over 700,000 times.

## **Protections for private renters**

On 22 March, I called on the Government to implement ‘triple-lock’ protection for private renters affected by COVID-19 to prevent evictions both during and after the pandemic. The three policies that I am calling on them to implement are: immediately increasing welfare support and covering any shortfall in rental payments for those unable to pay due to COVID-19; preventing private landlords from serving Section 8 (arrears) notices where tenants have accrued arrears as a result of COVID-19; and, scrapping Section 21 ‘no fault’ evictions. I also urged the Government to provide additional emergency funding for councils to tackle illegal evictions and for advice organisations who support private tenants.

## **More support for food banks**

On 28 March, I urged Londoners to support the city’s network of food banks to help the most vulnerable people in the city - whether it be a donation of food, money or their time. Last year, I published a report which estimated 400,000 children and 1.5 million adults in London were living in food insecurity. In a city as prosperous as London, everyone should have enough food for themselves and their families.

## **Third anniversary of Westminster terror attack**

Three years ago, our city faced a terror attack in Westminster which sought to divide our communities and destroy our way of life. On 22 March, we were unable to come together as planned - but I know that as a city we will never forget what happened that day three years ago.

## **Mayor’s Question Time**

On 19 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, joined me at Mayor’s Question Time to answer questions from the London Assembly in response to COVID-19.

## **Community events programme**

On Friday 13 March, following the outbreak of COVID-19, I took the decision, in consultation with London's Irish community, to cancel **London's St Patrick's Day** parade and festival. Following Government's advice that large gatherings should not take place, I took a further decision on Tuesday 17 March, to cancel all events on Trafalgar Square until further notice. This included the cancellation of celebration events for **St George's Day** festival on 18 April, **Vaisakhi** on 25 April and **Eid** on 30 May. We were however, able to mark these events on our social media channels and to fly the St George's Cross from City Hall on St George's Day on 23 April.

Our Trafalgar Square celebrations are key moments that bring communities together from across the capital, but it is vital that we take all necessary precautions to ensure the health of Londoners. This is a challenging time for everyone but I want to reassure Londoners that we will continue to follow the advice of the medical experts and take the steps that are required.

## **Call for an end to Female Genital Mutilation**

On 12 March, I launched a grassroots community campaign calling for an end to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The campaign, 'FGM Stops Here', was developed in close partnership with an expert advisory board of survivors, frontline professionals and activists. It highlights the stories of four London women with different experiences of FGM. By amplifying their voices, the campaign aims to challenge the attitudes around this harmful practice within affected communities in London.

On the same day, I announced that local and grassroots organisations supporting women and girls who have been the victim of violence in London would be able to apply for £3.1 million of City Hall funding. These organisations are often the first and only support for many survivors, and are often best-placed to address the needs of women facing multiple disadvantage such as BAME women, those at risk of FGM, disabled women, LGBTQ+ women, and women with no recourse to public funds.

## **People's Question Time in Wandsworth**

On 11 March, I held the GLA's 40th People's Question Time (PQT), which took place at the Battersea Arts Centre in Wandsworth. Chaired by Leonie Cooper AM, I was joined by Assembly Members in answering questions on issues impacting Londoners around Transport, Safety, Air Quality and Environment, Housing and Growing London's Economy. The event had over 350 members of the community in attendance.

# **Policing, Crime and Security**

## **Policing and crime during the lockdown**

Following the announcement of the lockdown measures, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) activated its resilience plan and has been able to work effectively throughout this period, overseeing the work of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), providing a wide range of commissioned services, convening partners and supporting the city-wide response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

I have been in close contact with the MPS throughout this time, and, I have established a Strategic Coordination Group which is co-chaired by four senior figures, including a Deputy Assistant Commissioner from the Met. I want to thank the Commissioner, officers, staff and volunteers of the Met for their hard work at this difficult time, continuing to keep Londoners safe.

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, MOPAC, the Victims' Commissioner for London and the VRU continue to work closely with the wider community safety partnership, including Local Councils, community groups and charities, to help ensure key services are able to offer frontline support, particularly in areas such as domestic abuse, wider victims services and tackling youth violence.

The police have been using additional powers granted to help deliver the public health response to this crisis, with enforcement being the final tactical option following engagement, explanation and encouragement. Londoners have been observing the guidance, as demonstrated by the relatively low number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued. I am very grateful for the continued support of the public in abiding by the guidance, which is absolutely essential in reducing the spread of infection, protecting the NHS and ultimately saving lives.

While overall crime levels have fallen significantly since the lockdown measures were put in place, this is not true of all crime types. For example, there is a significant amount of work underway to tackle domestic abuse during this time. Dangerous driving has also become a growing issue with some motorists taking advantage of quieter roads. This is unacceptable, and Transport for London (TfL) and the Met's Roads and Traffic Policing Command are working together to tackle these dangerous and irresponsible drivers. MOPAC will continue to monitor crime data to identify and take action on any emerging issues.

## **Protecting victims and survivors of domestic abuse**

The lockdown period is an uncertain and worrying time for us all, but especially so for those where home is a place of danger, not a place of safety. My Office for Policing and Crime has been hard at work throughout this period to ensure that the vital support services for victims and survivors of domestic abuse have been able to continue their work at this time of great disruption.

Moreover, the Met has been working hard to bring perpetrators of abuse to justice. In the first six weeks of lockdown, more than 4,000 individuals were arrested for domestic abuse offences, and the Met will be doing everything in their power to pursue these cases through to conviction.

I have also used my position as Mayor to support efforts to reach out to victims and survivors of abuse to encourage them to seek help during the lockdown period. The advice is clear:

- If you are being threatened or attacked at home and need help immediately, call the police on 999. The Met will be there if you need them.
- If you're in danger and need the police but can't speak safely, you can use the Silent Solution System. Just dial 999, listen to the instructions from the operator, respond by coughing or tapping the handset if you can, or if prompted press 55 on your keypad to let the operator know it's an emergency.
- If it isn't an emergency and you want to talk to someone about abuse you are experiencing, call the Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247.
- The stay at home guidance is clear that you can leave your home if you are at risk of injury or harm. If you're being threatened, attacked or controlled by someone you live with, you can leave your home in order to protect yourself and get help.

I also continue to call on those who are worried that they might harm their loved ones to call Respect UK for help and advice on how to manage their feelings and behaviours on 0808 8024 040.

I welcome the continued support from the Assembly in amplifying these messages. While the Government has made some welcome progress on funding for domestic abuse helplines and services for children affected by abuse, more concerted joined up action is required alongside additional funding for services. I have written to the Home Secretary to make these points and continue to lobby on behalf of London.

# Transport

## COVID-19 transport update

I am heartbroken that a number of transport workers have tragically died from COVID-19. My thoughts and prayers are with their families and loved ones at this very difficult time. This is deeply personal - I can't help but think that this could have been my dad or his colleagues and friends. TfL and I continue to offer all the support we can.

We are in the grip of a major public health crisis, with all Londoners having been compelled to make substantial changes to their day-to-day lives to help support the NHS and save others. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of those who have followed instruction, observed social distancing and stayed at home.

I continue to do everything I can to keep transport workers and passengers safe. We have delivered enhanced cleaning of all buses, improved social distancing for drivers and have made their cabs better protected. We are also providing enhanced sick pay so that people don't attempt to work when unwell.

Testing is also an important part in keeping our staff safe, and I welcome the Department of Health and Social Care's decision to make coronavirus testing open to all essential workers, including transport workers, and TfL has been actively encouraging the take-up of testing by all eligible members of staff.

In regard to PPE, the latest advice from the experts, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Public Health England (PHE) is that it is not required in non-care settings and could be counterproductive. This guidance is being constantly reviewed and I have asked TfL look into the availability of PPE stock for transport workers should that advice change.

It has been estimated that around three million masks and three million pairs of gloves would be needed a month to equip all frontline staff on TfL services and we are working with the supply chain to understand how they would be able to meet those needs, should expert guidance change.

TfL has also been operating more stringent and extensive cleaning for some time in an effort to keep passengers and staff safe. Buses and Tubes are cleaned daily with anti-viral cleaner, and a stronger cleaning agent is used periodically to provide further protection from viruses. Bus garages and Tube depots are also cleaned regularly, and social distancing measures have been introduced to make sure that staff remain safe at work.

Our Transport staff are performing a tremendous task in responding to the national emergency, ensuring vital transport links can be kept open so that doctors, nurses and other Londoners making essential journeys can get to where they need to.

TfL has been doing everything possible to continue safely running a basic service for key workers including our amazing NHS staff and because of the actions of Londoners, we have seen Tube and rail passenger numbers plummet by as much as 95 per cent and by 85 per cent on buses. This has enabled the transport network to serve the needs of health and other critical workers across the city.

Targeted measures have been undertaken to control the flow of passengers at Underground stations that remain the busiest, along with the support of the 500 British Transport Police who have been deployed across the rail network. We have also worked with national rail services to manage crowding hotspots together.

TfL has also taken steps to manage the road network differently, lifting the congestion charge and Ultra Low Emission Zone to help health and other workers to get across central London.

In March, I made the decision to temporarily pause all TfL and Crossrail construction work to a temporary Safe Stop, unless they need to continue for operational safety reasons, in order to reduce the number of construction workers needing to travel into central London. I am extremely grateful for the willing help and support for this the industry and the supply chain has shown.

Throughout the pandemic I have sought to help the national effort to reduce the spread of the virus, acting swiftly to support the Government's call for people to stay at home by using every means possible to discourage people from using the transport network, apart from those making absolutely essential journeys. These actions have helped save lives.

I am fully committed to working with the Government to get London moving again as quickly as possible in a way that is safe and sustainable. As soon as the Government advises that people can start travelling again, TfL will work to return to as near as 100 per cent of service as is possible while protecting staff and customers. To boost safety and help staff return to work TfL is, as part of a Government scheme, encouraging its staff to be tested for coronavirus if they have symptoms.

TfL fare income, the main source of revenue, is currently around ten per cent of normal levels and government grant will be required to enable TfL to continue operating effectively beyond May. Constructive conversations with Ministers and officials are ongoing, and I expect an agreement to be reached in time. As part of this, TfL has placed 7,000 staff on the Government's furlough scheme. This represents around 25 per cent of the workforce. TfL is paying the remainder of salaries of all furloughed employees and continues to pay pension contributions, to ensure that people are supported.

I would like to give my immense personal gratitude to every single member of TfL staff. You have done our country a great service at this time of national emergency by ensuring our NHS staff and other key workers are able to get to work and save lives and I thank you for that.

### **COVID-19 Transport for London activity**

There have been ongoing announcements and communications around changes to services that are running and how customers are being asked to keep to the social distancing guidance. The key message remains that people are asked only to make essential journeys. Key announcements included the suspension of congestion charging and ULEZ, support for Transport for London (TfL) tenants, middle boarding of the buses to protect drivers and 7,000 TfL staff being furloughed.

Since the current crisis began, TfL has been working tirelessly to reassure both its staff and customers that their safety was its top priority. One of the earliest measures implemented was on 10 March, with the roll out of an enhanced cleaning regime across all parts of the TfL network which was aimed at limiting the possible spread of the virus. This supplemented the already high hygiene levels on the capital's public transport. Cleaning across the Tube and bus

network now includes additional substances that kill viruses and bacteria on contact in order to reduce the risk of coronavirus spreading.

To facilitate travel for essential workers, I requested TfL introduce the temporary suspension of all road user charging schemes in the capital. In addition, NHS workers were given a code waiving the 24-hour access fee for Santander Cycles, meaning any journey under 30 minutes is free. As well as free access, docking stations near hospitals were prioritised to ensure there is a regular supply of bikes for medical staff to use.

To help those in its property estate, TfL has written to all retail tenants across its estate, including those within arches and Tube stations, to reassure them of the support available to them during the COVID-19 pandemic. On 20 March, it was announced all small and medium enterprises on TfL property across London will receive 100 per cent relief from their rent for three months. All tenants in London Underground stations that have had to be closed to ensure a safe and reliable service for London's critical workers are also being given 100 per cent rent relief and TfL's property managers will be contacting them to discuss individual circumstances on a case by case basis as required.

Following the Prime Minister's statement on 23 March announcing the start of the lockdown, I have supported the Government in issuing clear instructions to stay safe and to stop travelling in all cases other than critical workers making absolutely essential journeys. In response to this, TfL and Crossrail have brought project sites to a temporary Safe Stop unless they need to continue for operational safety reasons. This means that work on all such projects has been temporarily suspended as soon as it was safe to do so. Essential maintenance of the transport network will continue. This ensures the safety of construction and project teams and also further reduces the number of people travelling on the public transport network.

From 28 March, Thames Clipper Services stopped running, with all piers closed until further notice, but we will continue to closely monitor the situation, with the hope of reinstating their services as soon as it is safe to do so.

Tickets purchased to travel after the 27 March are being offered a 12-month extension period. Season tickets were automatically frozen, effective from Saturday 28 March, whilst services are not operating. For season tickets that have already been frozen, these will be automatically reinstated on the first day services resume (source TC website).

On 9 April, TfL announced the temporary postponement of the enforcement of new stricter rules for freight vehicles, which had been due to come into force from October 2020, under the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and Direct Vision Standard, as disrupted supply chains during the coronavirus pandemic have made it more difficult for the new standards to be met on time. TfL continues to work closely with the freight industry and has proposed to begin enforcement of the new rules four months later than planned, at the end of February 2021. This date will be kept under review.

To help address the issue of passengers sitting near the drivers on buses and causing a potential infection risk, TfL commenced a small-scale trial starting the week of 9 April to assess the effectiveness of middle door boarding on its buses, this proved beneficial and the trial was extended across the remainder of the network from 20 April. This has helped ensure that critical workers can continue to rely on London's buses to travel, while ensuring that drivers, who have no option to change seats or move in the bus, can maintain social distancing while working.

On 24 April, TfL announced that 7,000 staff whose work has been reduced or paused as a result of the pandemic were to be furloughed from Monday 27 April for a period of three weeks. This will allow access to funding from the Government's Job Retention Scheme, saving the organisation an estimated £15.8 million every four weeks. This will partly reduce the huge financial impact of COVID-19 whilst constructive discussions continue with Government on the wider revenue support that TfL will need to continue the effective operation of London's transport network.

On 27 April, TfL launched a new campaign reminding people about social distancing when waiting at bus stops, with the installation on special signage and posters designed to remind and emphasise the need for social distancing at our stops. To date the signage and posters have been installed at 161 bus stops and shelters across 27 locations with posters will also appearing on 73 priority bus routes.

The transport network remains crucial in the fight to tackle coronavirus and it will play a similarly vital role in supporting the country's economy as it recovers from the pandemic. TfL has already significantly cut its costs over recent years but nevertheless the success of encouraging the vast majority of people to stay at home has seen its main revenue, fares, reduce by 90 per cent.

The discussions with the Government about the support that is needed are ongoing and have been constructive. We are hopeful for an urgent agreement so that we can continue to provide the city with the vital transport it needs now and going forward.

### **Step-free access now available at four western TfL Rail stations**

Since 12 March, Hanwell, Iver, Langley and Taplow TfL Rail stations now have step-free access available from street to platform for the first time, alongside other station improvements.

These upgrades have been part of a wider programme of accessibility improvements across the TfL Rail network in preparation for the Elizabeth line, which will bring an extra 1.5 million people to within 45 minutes of central London, transforming accessibility, boosting housing and jobs as well as delivering new and better journeys.

Other station improvements to enhance the customer experience include accessible ticket office windows, accessible toilets and customer information screens.

### **4G now available on eastern section of Jubilee line**

From 17 March, customers using the eastern half of the Jubilee line have been able to access full mobile connectivity - helping to remove one of the most high-profile mobile 'not-spots' in the UK.

The pilot section, which covers Jubilee line platforms and tunnels between Westminster and Canning Town, will allow customers to make phone calls, check for the latest travel information, catch up on social media, watch a video and read their emails or the latest news uninterrupted during their journeys.

Following the first pilot section going live, TfL will begin work to expand 4G access to cover platforms and tunnels across the entire Jubilee line. TfL hopes to award a contract to deliver mobile coverage across the whole Underground network later this year, so that other lines can begin to get mobile connectivity from 2021.

## **Fire and Resilience**

### **City of London's International Women's Day Breakfast**

On 6 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended the City of London's International Women's Day Breakfast.

### **London Strategic Coordinating Group**

From 10 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended regular meetings of London's Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) which is co-ordinating London's response to COVID-19.

### **Health Committee**

On 11 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, appeared before the London Assembly's Health Committee to discuss COVID-19 and its impact on London.

### **Meeting with the Chief Medical Officer**

On 11 March, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty, to receive an update on COVID-19.

### **London Fire Brigades Union meeting**

On 13 March, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with representatives from Fire Brigade Unions to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade firefighters.

### **Mayor's Advisory Group**

On 16 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended the Mayor's Advisory Group focussing on the business and economic impact and response to COVID-19.

### **Meeting with Major General C J Ghika CBE**

From 20 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met regularly with Major General C J Ghika CBE to discuss the part the British military have played in London's response to COVID-19.

### **Call with NHS London and Public Health England**

On 23 March, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, took part in a conference call with NHS London and Public Health England (PHE) to discuss London's response to COVID-19.

## **COVID-19 Assembly Members Leaders updates**

From 27 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, provided twice weekly updates to the Leaders of the London Assembly Groups on London's response to COVID-19.

## **Mortality Planning call**

On 27 March, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a mortality planning call to discuss the response to excess deaths due to COVID-19.

## **City Hall Council Leaders Update**

From 6 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross alongside my Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, and Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) co-chair Eleanor Kelly attended daily calls with London Councils Leaders to update them on London's response to COVID-19.

## **London Fire Commissioner**

On 8 April, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe for an update on the work of London Fire Brigade.

## **Visit to Breakspear Temporary Mortuary Facility**

On 17 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, along with the GLA's Chief Officer, Mary Harpley, visited Breakspear temporary mortuary facility.

## **Faith & Belief Sector Resilience Call**

On 21 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, opened a call to representatives from the Faith & Belief Sector to thank them for their ongoing support on a range of issues effecting communities due to COVID-19.

## **London Fire Commissioner**

On the 22 April, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of London Fire Brigade.

## **COVID-19 Interim National Review**

On 22 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, as Chair of the London Resilience Forum, took part in a COVID-19 Interim National Review. Consisting of partner agencies and cross government departments, the group was tasked to seek a shared understanding of the COVID-19 emergency so as to make timely recommendations to strategic governance, prioritising actions which may help communities and Local Resilience Forums.

## **Pandemic Multi-Agency Response Team Visit**

On 30 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, visited a Pandemic Multi-Agency Response Team (PMART) which has been set up to reduce pressure on front line staff to provide a 24-hour response to COVID-19 deaths that occur in the community.

## **Grenfell Tower Inquiry Steering Group**

On 30 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a Grenfell Tower Inquiry Steering Group meeting to oversee the Greater London Authority's work in implementing the recommendations of the Phase 1 report and to prepare for Phase 2.

## **SCG stakeholder engagement**

The Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) is proactively engaging with London politicians. As Chair of the London Resilience Forum, Dr Fiona Twycross hosts twice-weekly meetings with Assembly Group Leaders and London Councils Leaders so issues are raised, resolved, and communicated effectively. Assembly Members, some Peers, and London MPs now receive a weekly briefing every Thursday, the first one was sent on 30 April. If you would like to receive this briefing, please contact [Ffion.Meagher@london.gov.uk](mailto:Ffion.Meagher@london.gov.uk).

My Deputy Mayor also held an initial meeting on 1 May with Co-Chairs of the SCG, John Barradell and Eleanor Kelly, for London MPs to address key questions and concerns about London's response to the outbreak. The SCG also monitor an inbox ([SCGElectedAssemblyCommsUnit@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:SCGElectedAssemblyCommsUnit@cityoflondon.gov.uk)) to which all London politicians can submit questions and receive a timely and accurate response.

## **Fire Brigades Union Meeting**

On 1 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, called the General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, Matt Wrack, to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade firefighters.

## **London Fire Commissioner**

On 6 May, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of London Fire Brigade.

# **Growth, Skills and Regeneration**

## **Funding for London's Underground Asset Register**

I am pleased that the Geospatial Commission has committed to fund the GLA to continue London's Underground Asset Register for another year. This online tool is a pilot project that has built a digital map of London's underground assets across six London boroughs in order to improve the safety, efficiency and coordination of utilities works and development. The new funding will help the GLA to take learning from the successful pilot phase and expand coverage to eight additional London boroughs and expand use cases. The extension will support the Geospatial Commission to scale the approach to benefit other areas across the UK.

## **Boosting 'good growth' projects**

On 10 March, I announced £24 million of funding through the third round of my Good Growth Fund to support more than 40 forward-thinking regeneration projects across the capital. Several projects will also receive a share of £2.3 million to deliver improvements in air quality.

Launched in 2017 and delivered in partnership with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), the Fund strives to make London a fairer and more inclusive city by strengthening civic networks at a local level, encouraging innovation and supporting great design. So far, I have supported 138 projects through the Good Growth Fund, allocating more than £75 million to projects which give power to local people, make better places and grow prosperity across London.

### **Supporting community-led ideas**

On 10 March, I pledged £343,500 through the seventh round of Crowdfund London to support 14 community-led regeneration projects backed by over 2,000 Londoners. Crowdfund London, which is supported through the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) and delivered with civic crowdfunding platform Spacehive, helps Londoners realise innovative ideas that make a difference to their local areas. To date, over the six rounds, Crowdfund London has supported 118 successful campaigns with £2.1 million of pledges, attracting a further £2.7 million from 17,000 campaign backers.

### **COVID-19 and London infrastructure work**

On 13 March, City Hall signed up to the statement published by London Funders outlining our commitment to working with grant-funded initiatives and supporting the work our partners are doing across communities in London. I recognise that the COVID-19 outbreak will have a significant impact on organisations across the capital and that funding beneficiaries might need to be supported differently.

My Regeneration and Economic Development team is working with more than 200 funding recipients across a range of programmes to support them with the development of their projects, including discussing financial flexibilities and any other adjustments necessary to enable them to continue delivery.

### **Small Projects and Equipment Fund Round 2**

On 16 March, I awarded £4.21 million to over 30 skills providers through my Small Projects and Equipment Fund, which is part of the Skills for Londoners Capital Fund. This money will support projects which upgrade the capital's skills infrastructure. The programme allocates capital funding from the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) to help providers equip Londoners with the skills they need to access employment and enable businesses to recruit the capital's talent. Successful projects will deliver skills in a wide range of areas – from the creative industries, construction and the built environment to digital skills and offender learning – and across a range of institutions, from further education and sixth form colleges to private or third sector providers.

### **Working with utility providers to respond to COVID-19**

On 24 March, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skill, Jules Pipe CBE, wrote to members of the London Infrastructure Group to request that utilities providers only carry out essential works during the lockdown period in order to reduce demand for public transport services, alleviate crowding and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus both during travel and on sites. GLA officers are in weekly contact with utility providers to understand and help facilitate their response to the crisis and ensure they continue to deliver essential services across London, including to vulnerable customers.

## **COVID-19 and construction work on regeneration projects funded by City Hall**

On 24 March, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skill, Jules Pipe CBE, wrote to all organisations in receipt of regeneration funding from City Hall to reiterate that only essential, safety-critical construction work should take place during the lockdown in order to reduce demand for public transport services, alleviate crowding and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus both during travel and on sites.

## **Adult Education Budget Policy and Support to London's Skills Providers**

Following the Government announcement on 18 March, that all schools, colleges and early years settings would close to students (apart from those whose parents are key workers) until further notice, I took the urgent decision to ensure all our Adult Education Budget (AEB) funded providers would have their funding secured for the foreseeable future so they can continue to support London learners now and in the future. These measures – some of which go further than the Government's offer to providers outside London – have been well-received by the sector.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of all FE staff helping to keep London learning. I intend to make further announcements in due course on the steps we will take to aid AEB providers in the recovery and to help them support Londoners now and in the future.

## **Keep London Learning**

As part of City Hall's efforts to encourage online learning during the COVID-19 lockdown, we are supporting and co-funding the development of the Keep London Learning website, an initiative of Lifelong Learning Central London (LLCL). This is a direct response to COVID-19 for some of London's most vulnerable learners. The portal will provide Adult Community Learning (ACL) for current and new learners, along with addressing digital exclusion. The platform was 'soft launched' on 20 April, initially covering the 13 adult education services of LLCL. This will inform further development of the site and expansion across other boroughs.

## **Supporting London's Higher Education sector**

On 22 April, I wrote to leaders of London's higher education institutions expressing appreciation for the way they are responding to the COVID-19 crisis. This includes steps to protect the welfare of staff and students, as well as their contribution to world-leading research on the disease and wider community support. I also acknowledged the incredible pressure the sector is under at this time and directed institutions to support from London & Partners on international student recruitment. London's higher education sector will play an important role in London's social and economic recovery from COVID-19 and I expressed the importance of us working together in the coming months.

## **Construction Academy teams up with London Growth Hub to support SMEs**

On 27 April, I was pleased to announce that my Mayor's Construction Academy (MCA) hubs have joined forces with the London Growth Hub business advice team, to provide construction SMEs with free business support during the crisis. Businesses can book one-hour telephone consultations to discuss any matters of concern and get help with accessing government finance schemes. More information on this and other support available for the construction sector through our partners, can be accessed on the MCA pages of the GLA website.

## **European Social Fund 2019-23 Programme Round 3 Launch**

On 7 May, City Hall launched the third round of funding for the European Social Fund (ESF) 2019-23 programme. This round of funding comprises £20 million for seven projects: Gangs Prevention; Targeted NEET; SEND NEET; Careers Clusters; Early Years; STEM Sector Skills and Creative Sector Skills. These projects will support Londoners with complex needs to gain skills and find (or remain in) work, education or training. This programme is part of our COVID-19 response as it provides targeted skills development and employment support to Londoners who are disadvantaged in the labour market, and who are likely to be further disadvantaged by the impact of COVID-19 on London's economy.

## **Housing**

### **Protections for private renters**

On 22 March, I called on the Government to implement a 'triple-lock' protection for private renters affected by COVID-19 to prevent evictions both during and after the pandemic. The three policies that I am calling on them to implement are:

- immediately increasing welfare support and covering any shortfall in rental payments for those unable to pay due to COVID-19;
- preventing private landlords from serving Section 8 (arrears) notices where tenants have accrued arrears as a result of COVID-19; and,
- scrapping Section 21 'no fault' evictions.

I also urged the Government to provide additional emergency funding for councils to tackle illegal evictions and for advice organisations who support private tenants.

### **Tom Copley formally starts as Deputy Mayor for Housing**

On 23 March, Tom Copley formally took up his position as my new Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development. We've begun making progress fixing the housing crisis in London, including starting the highest number of new council homes in the capital in 34 years, but this pandemic challenges us like never before. I know that Tom shares my ambitions for the housing sector, and together we are working to help the sector emerge from this crisis with improved resilience, a greater sense of co-operation and an ability to deliver the genuinely affordable homes that London so desperately needs.

### **Letter to the Secretary of State to highlight impact of COVID-19 on housing**

On 25 March, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to highlight the impact that COVID-19 will have on housing in the Capital. I welcomed the initial measures put in place by Government including mortgage holidays and an increase in Local Housing Allowance rates but highlighted that these measures do not adequately protect the housing needs of all Londoners.

The letter called on the Government to implement a range of additional measures across the private rented sector, welfare system, homelessness services and building safety in order to ensure that:

- nobody falls into debt or becomes homeless as a result of the impacts of COVID-19;
- the number of households who are living in accommodation that may exacerbate the transmission of the virus is reduced; and
- local authority services with a responsibility to assist people facing or experiencing homelessness are adequately supported

### **Deputy Mayor Tom Copley attends meeting of the London Housing Panel**

On 23 April, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, attended a meeting of the London Housing Panel to discuss the GLA's response to COVID-19 and the new Housing Delivery Taskforce. The London Housing Panel was established by my office and Trust for London in 2019, and provides a structured forum for a group of 15 civil society and voluntary organisations to discuss and influence my housing policies.

At the meeting, Tom Copley gave an overview of the new Housing Delivery Taskforce and what it is aiming to achieve. He invited the London Housing Panel to nominate a representative to be part of the expert panel advising the Taskforce, particularly around issues relating to the delivery of social housing. Tom then took questions from the Panel relating to the Taskforce, the GLA's wider work on COVID-19 and housing more broadly.

### **First meeting and inception of the CV-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce**

On 23 April, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, chaired the inaugural meeting of the COVID-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce. This is a new cross-sector taskforce of senior leaders in housing delivery to represent a diverse range of views and perspectives from across the private sector, housing associations, local councils and unions.

The taskforce has been formed to forge a response and recovery plan to effectively overcome challenges to housing delivery resulting from the necessary lockdown measures to slow transmission of the virus. The overarching objective of the taskforce is to develop a recovery plan that ensures housing supply can continue at pace and scale. The second meeting, which was held on 7 May, provided an opportunity for the taskforce to discuss challenges faced by the construction industry and potential solutions that will protect capacity and improve resilience in the construction sector.

### **Rough sleeping**

In recognition of the specific needs and vulnerability of rough sleepers, I am working with the Government, the NHS, boroughs and charities to protect people sleeping rough from COVID-19 and enable them to follow Government guidance around self-isolation, social distancing and handwashing. As at 30 April, the GLA had procured 13 hotels and there were around 1,200 rough sleepers being accommodated and supported in these and other safe accommodation. I am now working with partners to ensure that once the lockdown is lifted no-one needs to leave either this, or emergency accommodation secured by London's boroughs for rough sleepers, without an offer of support to end their rough sleeping.

# The Economy, Business and Enterprise

## Mayor's Advisory Group on Business Impacts

On the 16 March, I convened a Mayoral Advisory Group (MAG) to bring together the business community and related stakeholders, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 and existing options to help mitigate the situation. The MAG attendees updated me on the current state-of-play for London business, preparedness and options and asks for mitigation. This meeting allowed me to hear directly from business leaders and have a clear picture of what was happening, what could be done to help and what more the Government should be doing. While the MAG meeting took place shortly before the formal announcement of the lockdown, at the meeting such measures were very much expected by those taking part.

Following the MAG, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister to stress the urgency of the need for business support measures. I noted that London, and the world, was facing not just a public health crisis but an economic one, and if the Government were to fail to act immediately, thousands of businesses, and hundreds of thousands of jobs and livelihoods, may be lost, with severe and long-lasting social, economic and fiscal consequences.

I have continued my engagement with key business groups in the weeks following the meeting and continue to make the case for comprehensive support for London's businesses and the self-employed. A Business Impacts sub group of the Strategic Coordinating Group, including many of the same representatives was established following the MAG meeting.

## Pay It Forward London

On Monday 20 April, I launched Pay It Forward London, a new crowdfunding initiative aimed at helping Londoners support businesses which are struggling during the current pandemic, in industries including hospitality, retail and leisure. Through the platform, small businesses will be able to pre-sell goods and services on a promise to deliver in the future. Londoners can pledge funds to support their favourite local businesses during this crisis, for example by paying upfront for future meals, haircuts, tickets to events and much more. Londoners can also 'nominate' their favourite local businesses to encourage them to sign up.

Our partner, Crowdfunder, who are delivering the platform, has waived its usual fees and covered transaction costs for small businesses affected by coronavirus.

The initiative, which is funded by the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), is already helping many small businesses which have had to close their doors in recent weeks and are struggling with cashflow, with hundreds of businesses signing up and raising thousands of pounds already.

## London Growth Hub

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, I tasked my Enterprise Team to extend the London Growth Hub's capacity to support micro and small to medium size businesses through the crisis. To that end, the London Growth Hub pivoted its support from a face to face offer to one-hour advisory sessions by phone or virtual meeting for businesses impacted by COVID-19. Since 18 March the team has held over 400 of these sessions with individual businesses.

Due to high demand by businesses to speak with an advisor my officers have secured time from other business-facing teams within the GLA family (the Mayor's Construction Academy, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation) , to ensure that businesses don't have to wait more than three days to receive the information they require. I have also invested an additional £1 million into business support activity that will help businesses through the current crisis, during the subsequent release phase and through recovery.

My officers have also created a COVID-19 Hub on the London Growth Hub website that contains updated information on Government schemes, business support and factsheets, to support businesses in their understanding of issues such as job retention schemes and furloughing, managing existent commercial contracts and insurance.

I have also commissioned data gathering through surveys, that will support the GLA's understanding of how businesses, particularly small and micro businesses are being affected by lock down phase and what measures can be put in place to support the recovery of businesses. The London Growth Hub currently has a survey embedded into the COVID-19 page, which businesses accessing information can complete on a voluntary basis. To date 300 businesses have responded, and the top three themes emerging as a concern for businesses are: cash flow, declining sales and property costs.

YouGov have now been commissioned to deliver a representative survey of London businesses and meanwhile my officers are capturing data from Local Authorities, Business Improvement Districts and business organisations, that will help inform my lobbying and advocacy work.

### **Lobbying for support for self-employed Londoners**

On 13 April, I wrote to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy highlighting the need for additional support for self-employed workers in London. It is estimated that 25-30 per cent of self-employed Londoners may not be eligible for the support in its current form through the Self-employment Income Support Scheme. Those currently impacted include approximately 100,000 Londoners have become self-employed in the latest 12 months and approximately 79,000 who are directors of the smallest companies.

### **MedCity**

On 18 March, I approved the release of £200,000 grant funding for MedCity during 2020/21. MedCity is co-funded by Research England and aims to promote and grow London's life sciences sector.

For several weeks my officers and I have been in regular contact with MedCity, which established and is chairing the London Testing Alliance, bringing together London universities and research institutions to support the coordination of London's testing capacity.

## Environment

### **London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) Green Finance report launch**

On 4 March, my Sustainable Development Commission published 'Financing London's Future' a report exploring the need for additional green investment in order to achieve my target of making London a zero carbon city. The report sets out a roadmap to boost green investment in London. For London to play its role in tackling the climate emergency, large-scale investment far beyond City Hall provision is needed with Government, banks, pension funds and others playing a role.

### **Bunhill 2 Energy Centre**

On 5 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, officially opened Bunhill 2 Energy Centre in Islington. This world-first scheme uses waste heat from the London Underground to provide low carbon, affordable heating and hot water to more than 1,350 homes, a school and two leisure centres in the nearby area. City Hall funded the early feasibility work for the project, and I convened the partnership of Islington Council and Transport for London that has developed and delivered this innovative heat and power network.

### **Warmer Homes 2 launch**

On 10 March, I launched the second phase of my Warmer Homes programme which provides heating, insulation and ventilation improvements for low income owner occupiers and private tenants. This £4.75 million programme will improve 1,188 homes. It is supported by the Warmer Homes Advice Service, my pan-London fuel poverty advice and referral programme.

Suitable adjustments have been made to Warmer Homes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic including prioritising works especially for vulnerable Londoners who have broken heating, as well as ensuring distancing measures are employed for essential home visits.

Eligible households can apply now at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/improving-quality/warmer-homes>

### **C40 Global Mayors Call on COVID-19**

On 27 March and 15 April, I joined two Mayoral meetings convened by C40 to share experience and learn lessons on the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The calls were attended by over 40 global mayors and led by C40 Chair, Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles. I updated attendees on the response underway in London and the steps we have taken in the capital during the last month. I also expressed my support for C40's plans to support Mayors in driving a green recovery in cities that ensures continued ambitious climate action. The C40 calls are an example of how we are using existing global city networks to support the response to the pandemic.

### **Retrofit Accelerator – Homes**

On 2 April, in partnership with Sutton Housing Partnership, my Retrofit Accelerator – Homes programme secured £3.1 million from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's 'Whole-House Retrofit Competition'. Funding will be used to 'whole-house' retrofit

up to 45 homes in the London borough of Sutton over the next 18 months. ‘Whole-house’ retrofitting means installing energy efficiency measures that bring existing homes up to a zero-carbon standard, significantly cutting the cost of fuel bills and carbon emissions. The competition’s wider goals include achieving cost reduction in deep retrofit through process innovation, which fully aligned with the objectives of Retrofit Accelerator – Homes.

### **Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces**

My Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces programme will now continue until 2022, with thanks to match-funding from City Hall and the European Regional Development Fund. The programme provides free support and technical assistance to London’s public sector organisations to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions from their buildings.

On 24 April, Turner & Townsend were reappointed as the Programme Delivery Unit for this extended period. They will work with my team to help the public sector select buildings to be retrofitted, present business cases and efficiently procure the retrofit work. The Accelerator programme is supplemented by a new national Energy Performance Contracting framework, RE:FIT. The fourth iteration of this framework, launched on 24 April, includes 16 pre-approved service providers to ensure retrofit work can be procured quicker and with confidence.

### **Planning application for waste incinerator in Belvedere, Bexley**

On 9 April, the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma MP, announced his decision to approve the Cory application for a new incinerator in Belvedere, Bexley. I have been clear that no more energy from waste incinerators are needed in London and had called on Government to decline planning permission for this new incinerator. The GLA has worked through the examination process to demonstrate that this facility is not needed to manage London’s waste and will have a detrimental impact on recycling rates, climate change and air quality. Officers are now reviewing the detail of the ruling and I will comment further once we have fully assessed the details of the consent order.

### **Low Emission Zone and Direct Vision Standard**

On 9 April, I asked Transport for London to postpone the enforcement of stricter rules for freight vehicles being introduced as part of the Low Emission Zone and Direct Vision Standard schemes for four months. This was to allow the freight industry to focus on its core operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new rules will take effect on 26 October, but no charges will be payable or enforced for non-compliant vehicles under those new standards until the end of February 2021. The new start date of enforcement will be kept under review.

### **London Plan energy guidance**

On 15 April, I published guidance to support my world-leading London Plan energy policies which will be introduced this year. These publications will guide planning applicants in:

- how to comply with my zero-carbon target for all major developments;
- how to calculate and reduce whole life-cycle carbon (including the embodied carbon from construction);
- and how to monitor energy performance post-construction to ensure design meets reality.

Collectively these policies form the basis of the planning system's response to the climate emergency in London and will ensure we are building net zero developments in the capital.

### **London Power new tariff launch**

On 23 April, my fair-priced, green energy company, London Power, unveiled new options for customers:

- Go carbon neutral - on top of having 100 per cent renewable electricity as standard, all gas used by customers on this plan will be offset, meaning Londoners can warm their homes whilst reducing their carbon emissions;
- Lock-in prices - an option to fix low prices for two years.

These options are available alongside the existing, competitively-priced *my london fixed yearly plan* for electricity and gas, launched in January 2020. These new options allow Londoners to save money and do even more for the environment by reducing their carbon footprint further with London Power.

### **London Plan circular economy guidance**

On 23 April, I published a pre-consultation draft of my Circular Economy Statement Guidance. This sets out how Circular Economy Statements should be prepared for referable planning applications (as required by draft London Plan Policy SI7) and is aimed at helping developers adopt circular economy design principles in major development schemes that help cut waste and promote innovative materials, reuse and recycling.

### **Changes in air pollution in London during the COVID-19 outbreak**

On 23 April, I published new evidence which shows dramatic improvements to London's air quality as a result of the halving of traffic due to the COVID-19 lockdown. This was in response to environment ministers' call for evidence which will feed into the Government's response to COVID-19.

The evidence shows:

- A dramatic improvement in air quality. A 40 per cent reduction in harmful Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), especially at roadside sites;
- Two of London's busiest roads Oxford Street has seen a reduction in daily average of 47 per cent NO<sub>2</sub> and Marylebone, 48 per cent;
- Despite the current improvements, London has experienced particulate pollution episodes. This demonstrates London's poor air quality is not purely as a result of traffic pollution and further action is required on other sources, including domestic burning and agricultural emissions.

Evidence from the Breathe London air quality monitoring network will also be submitted to Defra, which shows similar reductions in NO<sub>2</sub> across the city.

The evidence can be found here:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london\\_response\\_to\\_aqeg\\_call\\_for\\_evidence\\_april\\_2020.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_response_to_aqeg_call_for_evidence_april_2020.pdf)

## **Ultra-Low Emission Zone ten-month report**

On 23 April, I published new data that shows a 44 per cent reduction in roadside NO<sub>2</sub> in central London since the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone. In January, there were 44,100 fewer polluting vehicles being driven in the central zone every day with 79 per cent of vehicles in the zone now meeting the ULEZ emissions standards – up from 39 per cent in February 2017.

The ULEZ report is available here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/central-london-ulez-ten-month-report>

## **Waste management COVID-19 response**

Through the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) I have been supporting the continuation of waste management services in London throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. LWARB established a London waste management capacity sharing platform (subsequently merged with a similar national platform) allowing local authorities to identify where spare capacity exists with municipal or commercial waste operators that can help maintain critical local authority recycling and waste services where required.

LWARB has also produced social media campaigns to encourage people to minimise the waste they produce and manage any potentially infected waste in line with government guidelines in order to limit the strain on borough services and protect human health and the environment. LWARB have also created a platform whereby local authority officers can ask questions and share advice and best practice.

My officers have also responded to consultations run by Defra on developing non-statutory guidance on prioritisation of local authority waste services and the re-opening of Household Waste Recycling Centres.

## **Education and Youth**

### **Supporting young Londoners during the COVID-19 pandemic**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, is holding weekly meetings with the London Borough of Brent's Director of Children's Services, who leads on education for the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS). Following the Government closure of schools, nurseries and other childcare settings to the majority of children on 20 March, these meetings discuss the challenges which London's early years sector, schools and pupil referral units are facing and explore ways in which my team and I can provide support.

My Deputy Mayor and officers are also in close contact with other key stakeholders from across London's education and youth sectors. My lead officer for early years is part of the Department for Education's Early Years Response Group – raising key issues and helping to support London's early years sector through this unprecedented and difficult time. My team are also meeting regularly with London Councils and working with them, in particular, to analyse DfE data on the number of education settings still open in London, and the number of children

attending. It's crucial that enough nurseries and schools remain open to provide places for vulnerable children and to meet demand from our city's critical workers.

### **London Learning at Home**

My London Curriculum team has reached out across the city to bring together free learning and cultural offers that children can access from home while schools are closed. I want to support teachers and parents during this challenging time, and ensure that young Londoners still feel connected to the incredible people, places and culture of their city. The new searchable webpage focusses on London-specific offers, which add to the national list of online education resources published by the Department for Education. Teachers and parents can search by age range, subject, key stage and organisation to find what they need, as well as specifying the level of adult supervision required for each offer.

Our resources can be found at: [www.london.gov.uk/learning-at-home](http://www.london.gov.uk/learning-at-home)

### **Support from the Peer Outreach Team**

To support young Londoners during the COVID-19 pandemic, members of my Peer Outreach Team have recorded a series of Instagram clips in partnership with Content Creatives and the Consumer Action Group. These give practical advice to young Londoners on employment rights, finances and coping with extreme hardship. The team are planning to record some more clips which will focus on other key issues such as support for young carers, police power, in partnership with my Office of Policing and Crime and mental health, in partnership with Thrive LDN.

### **Visit to Kool Kidze Preschool in Newham**

On 10 March, before lockdown restrictions came into place, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, spent a fantastic morning at Kool Kidze Preschool in Newham. My Deputy Mayor was joined by Councillors Julianne Marriot and Jane Lofthouse from London Borough of Newham. Kool Kidze is a core partner of the Working Together Hub - one of three Early Years Hubs which I have funded until December 2020 to support access to quality early education in London.

Following the government closure of nurseries and other childcare settings to the majority of children in March, I am pleased to say that all three of my Early Years Hubs have continued to play a role in providing advice and support to their local settings. Many of these settings have had to close and all are facing huge uncertainty. My education and youth team are working closely with hub leads to ensure that they can best support local nurseries and childminders over the coming months.

### **Supporting local youth organisations**

Local projects funded through my Young Londoners Fund (YLF) have had to adapt and in some cases reduce their services because of current restrictions. My education and youth team has been gathering feedback from them and on 2 April, hosted an online 'Share and Learn' event which gave youth services a chance to share examples of how they are continuing to deliver projects to support young Londoners. It was attended by projects funded my YLF, as well as my Office of Policing and Crime and London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

I am supporting London's Young People's Foundations as part of my Young Londoners Fund local networks. Alongside 11 other local networks, they are supporting youth organisations across London over three years to delivery high quality services to young people. Leads from each local network are meeting regularly to share the challenges youth organisations are facing and how they are helping them.

On 10 March, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, spoke at a special event hosted by the John Lyons Foundation. It celebrated the success of its established YPFs in eight London boroughs and also launched the Young People's Foundation Trust, which has been established to support the growth of the existing YPFs.

In recent weeks the YPFs have had to adapt their delivery in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The West London Network (YPF) for example, has been running weekly online seminars on a range of topics such as digital delivery, funding and safeguarding when working online.

### **Letter to Secretary of State for Education**

In May, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson CBE MP, urging him to take further action to support London's early years providers, schools and young people amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

Without greater financial support from the government, I believe that the sustainability of London's early years sector is under immediate and long-term threat. I requested further government support for early years providers, including more one-to-one business support and help to prepare for recovery. I also urged the government to provide financial support to the sector, supporting nurseries and childminders to cover costs beyond their salary bills. To secure the longer-term financial sustainability of the sector, I believe that nurseries and childminders must have access to a government-funded Recovery Fund to help them get back on their feet.

Looking beyond the early years, I expressed concern about the current proposals for the grading of GCSE and A level exams and asked the Secretary of State to provide further guidance for teachers on how to ensure more accurate grade predictions and reduce inconsistencies across schools and pupils. Since unconscious bias in teacher assessment could lead to under-prediction for some students, it is also vital that the government provides clear information on the grading appeals process that is easy for both students and parents to understand.

I also urged the Secretary of State to accelerate and expand the roll out of the government's digital access scheme for school children here in London. I am concerned about the limitations of the current scheme, which offers digital devices and broadband connection to Year 10 students and younger children who receive support from a social worker or are care leavers. We need the digital access scheme to be rolled out to children across secondary school and beyond.

## **Communities and Social Policy**

### **Black Majority Church Leader's Breakfast**

On 6 March, I held another quarterly Black Majority Church Leader's Breakfast meeting. These meetings are an opportunity to continue connecting with leaders from Black Majority Churches

across London and their concerns as well as updating on the programmes and wider work at City Hall. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired the meeting.

### **Advisory group on impact of COVID-19: senior community and voluntary sector stakeholders**

On 17 March, I convened an advisory group to bring together senior community and voluntary sector stakeholders to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London's communities and voluntary sector and needs across London. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard also attended this meeting.

### **Advisory Group on impact of COVID-19: London's faith and belief sector and communities**

On 20 March, I convened an advisory group to bring together senior faith and belief leaders to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London's faith and belief sector and communities. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard and my Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime, Sophie Linden, attended this meeting.

### **Bi-monthly meetings with the faith and belief sector**

My Community Engagement team have convened bi-monthly meetings with the faith and belief sector. These calls are convened in partnership with London Boroughs Faiths Network and the Faith Forum for London. To date, four calls have taken place to ensure the sector is well informed of essential information and support around mortality and funerals, mental health, bereavement support, funding, volunteering etc. from City Hall, the Strategic Coordination Group and partners. 130 faith leaders from across London join these calls.

### **Digital Support system**

In response to COVID-19, working with organisations in the Digital for Good sector my Community Engagement team have launched a Digital Support system, to enable charities to access essential digital support as they have had to move their teams and delivery of services online. Working in collaboration with expert digital support organisations and volunteers, since the launch of the systems at the end of March, we have connected 30 organisations with digital and tech support, ensuring their organisations can continue to deliver their vital work.

### **COVID-19 Community Response Survey**

In order to ensure the needs of all Londoners and at-risk groups are identified and supported, my Community Engagement team have set up the COVID-19 Community Response Survey. 250 civil society organisations have been recruited to take part in a weekly 5-minute pulse survey that identifies patterns of need and the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups. The results are shared with the Strategic Coordination Group, Civil Society, Funders and other stakeholders.

### **Employment Rights Hub**

To help Londoners whose work and income has been affected by COVID-19, my Equality and Fairness officers have updated my online Employment Rights Hub to provide information on employment rights in the context of the crisis. This includes information on employers'

obligations to workers and what government support packages are available. On 20 April, the site was updated to include translations of the content in 20 languages, which broadens its accessibility to more of London's diverse workforce.

### **Letter to Secretary of State for Work and Pensions**

On 14 April, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions welcoming the changes that have been made to the welfare system in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. I urged her to make further changes to ensure that everyone who needs it can access financial support immediately and that the incomes of the most vulnerable households are protected. This included calling for an end to the Universal Credit five-week wait, the lifting of no recourse to public funds conditions, and the suspension the benefit cap, the two-child limit, and all types of sanctions.

### **The Ubele Initiative's panel event: the disproportionate effect of Covid-19 on BAME communities**

On 27 April, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, spoke at The Ubele Initiative's panel event discussing the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on BAME communities. Several speakers contributed to the discussion including Professor Kevin Fenton, Public Health England's London Regional Director.

### **Letter to the Home Secretary**

On 29 April, I wrote to the Home Secretary to outline my concerns that immigration policies are compounding health inequalities and called on the Government to suspend No Recourse to Public Funds and to suspend NHS charging regulation and data sharing with the Home Office, which are undermining efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 and leaving many key workers and their families exposed.

### **COVID-19 advice and health information translations**

In May, a new project was launched to support Doctors of the World's translations of COVID-19 advice and health information for the next three months. Up until now, they provided translations in 48 languages largely through the pro-bono work of translators and partner organisations. It is essential that all Londoners, some of whom have limited English skills, have access to updated guidelines on the coronavirus outbreak.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on the Somali community in London**

On 6 May, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, spoke with representatives from Somali community and voluntary organisations. The meeting was hosted and chaired by the Director of the Council of Somali Organisations, Kahiye Alim. This event was an opportunity to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the Somali community in London. Discussions focussed on some of the key findings from recent research by Anti Tribalism Movement (ATM) on the impact of COVID-19 on Somali Londoners and also how we are working to support Londoners through the pandemic.

## Health

### **Weekly meeting with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman**

From 2 April, I have been meeting weekly with the Regional Directors of PHE and NHS London to discuss important aspects of the COVID-19 response in London. I am being provided with regular assessments of the trajectory of the pandemic and we discussed what this means for the action being taken in London by PHE and the NHS. I have also been given regular updates on the status of NHS bed and staffing capacity including the establishment of the Nightingale hospital. Through these meetings, I have both challenged, and offered the support of City Hall, on a number of urgent issues including the provision of PPE to key workers and clinical staff; testing and contact tracing; how to best support Londoner's mental health; and the impact on BAME Londoners. I will continue to meet weekly with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman over the next month to discuss their important role in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Meeting with Professor John Newton, Government Advisor on COVID-19 testing**

On 15 April, I met with Professor John Newton who had been appointed as Advisor to the Government on COVID-19 testing along with colleagues from PHE, NHS, local government and MedCity. I raised a number of challenges with the implementation of the national testing programme in London including the location of testing sites, access to testing for key workers and the specific challenges for the London's BAME communities. Important links were made with the generous offers of support being received from London's life sciences sector to enhance diagnostic capacity. It was agreed that officers from Department of Health and Social Care would continue to work closely with the multi-agency response in London.

### **Mental Health Leaders Meeting**

On 27 April, I convened a meeting of senior leaders from across the mental health and care system, including the community and voluntary sector, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Londoners' mental health and wellbeing and explore what more we could do. My Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, also attended. Clear areas for action emerged from the meeting which my health team is now taking forward. I want to do all I can to support Londoners mental health and wellbeing during this current crisis and as we move into the recovery period.

### **Mental Health Communications**

It is absolutely vital that we support Londoners to speak openly about their mental health and to access help if and when they need it. I am continuing to use my channels to help break down stigma and to signpost Londoners to the wealth of support that is available to them. This includes working closely with partners like Thrive LDN, and promoting tools like Good Thinking and Every Mind Matters.

We are also sharing messages under the banner of #LondonTogether, to help motivate and inspire Londoners as we come together to support each other through this difficult time. As part of this I am celebrating what Londoners are doing to support their mental wellbeing and to signpost to support. Key moments to date in this ongoing piece of work is the #LondonTogether video we produced with a whole range of Londoners speaking about how they are feeling, and the Instagram Live interview I had with Glamour about how lockdown is

impacting my own mental health. I am also using platforms like Talk London to continue the conversation about mental health and how we are all coping directly with Londoners.

## **Team London, Sports and Volunteering**

### **Community Sport Sector Consultation**

On 27 March, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, hosted a virtual conversation with key stakeholders in the community sport sector. This call focused on discussing the impact of COVID-19 on the sector, and exploring options to help mitigate the situation.

The participants, including grassroots community organisations and strategic partners, were able to express their concerns regarding the current crisis and sharing new ways of delivering activities to continue supporting Londoners. My commitment to the flexible funding pledge issued by London Funders was met with particular enthusiasm.

This meeting was followed up by further consultation with community stakeholders.

### **Team London Nightingale Volunteers**

On 31 March, my Team London and EURO 2020 volunteers were deployed in record time to assist at the NHS Nightingale Hospital. The volunteers are supporting the operation of the Clinical Training Centre. To date, 250 volunteers have completed 1200 shifts, totalling 7000 hours of volunteering. The volunteer roles include, welcoming, directing and registering up to 400 clinicians per day. Take up of all NHS Nightingale shifts has been very good with all shifts filling up within a day or two of being released. The feedback from volunteers has been very positive and NHS staff have taken the time to thank Team London and recognise how vital the support has been to their work.

### **London Funders Grant Statement**

I, along with over 250 other funders from across the UK, have signed up to the London Funders Grant Statement. This is our commitment to civil society organisations to offer support to all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement aims to offer reassurance to the sector during this unprecedented time and commits us to working in an adaptable way with our grantees, listening to their needs and being flexible in terms of how funding is used, relaxing deadlines and acknowledging that agreed outcomes may not be achieved as originally set out.

### **London Communities Response fund**

By Friday 24 April, I had committed a total of £5 million to the London Communities Response fund, a new emergency support fund to help VCS organisations affected by the impact of the coronavirus. The fund includes contributions from City Bridge Trust, Bloomberg and others and now stands at over £16 million. Grants are available for organisations for food, essentials and changing their delivery models to meet the needs of communities.

## **Third sector support**

On 2 April, I wrote to the Chancellor asking him to support the third sector. In response to COVID-19, civil society organisations (CSOs) have stepped up support for the most vulnerable Londoners, but they're financially stretched and at risk of collapse. Following the Government's announcement of a £750 million package for charities, my policy teams and Deputy Mayors for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement; Culture and the Creative Industries; Regeneration and Skills and Environment and Energy have been working on a submission to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport inquiry. The intelligence - driven submission highlights the immediate impact of the pandemic on Civil Society, Culture and Sport, the gaps in the Government's package, stresses that CSOs are part of the fabric of our society and thus calls on the Government to take a holistic approach not only to their survival, but their medium and long- term recovery, resilience and agency.

## **Talking COVID-19 and Sport Series**

On 15 April, my Community Sport team launched a collaboration with London Sport, delivering a new series of online seminars aimed at providing practical solutions to the challenges faced by the community physical activity and sport sector amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

Talking COVID-19 and Sport webinars take place fortnightly and explore topics ranging from navigating government financial assistance and civil society funding to the role of leadership in times of crisis, bringing cross-industry expertise to help provide practical guidance and inspiration to grassroots sport bodies.

## **Corporate In-Kind Offer**

My volunteering and social action team, Team London, in partnership with The City of London Corporation and The British Red Cross, and as part of the Funders, Communities and Voluntary Sector sub-group to the Strategic Coordination Group has launched a route for organisations to contribute in-kind offers to support London's needs during this pandemic. Examples include, the donation of space from numerous London Football clubs for the NHS to serve as venues for outpatient services, testing, and parking for ambulances, the offering of 30,000 frozen meals to support shielded groups, and 250,000 face masks to be provided to shelters and hotels serving rough sleepers.

# **Culture and Events**

## **Culture at Risk Business Support Fund**

On 30 April, I launched a new emergency £2.3 million fund to support culture and creative industries at risk due to the impact of the coronavirus. The culture and creative industries and nighttime economy are incredibly important to London and will be integral in its recovery after the coronavirus crisis. The industries are worth £52 billion to the capital's economy a year and account for one in six jobs. However, many businesses are currently struggling and cannot access Government support. The new Culture at Risk business support fund, which includes funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, will help protect some of London's most at-risk businesses – grassroots music and LGBTQ+ venues, creative workspaces and independent cinemas. City Hall is working with the Music Venue Trust, LGBTQ+ Venues Forum, Safer

Business Network, Creative Land Trust, BFI and Film London to deliver this much-needed support.

### **World Cities Culture Forum**

My Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired five webinars with twenty-eight cities from the World Cities Culture Forum. World cities are at different stages in the pandemic and sharing learning is valuable but the creative economy has been hit hard across the globe. Sessions have had a regional focus on cities in Europe, China and the USA along with topic based sessions on recovery planning, best practice to support reopening, visitor strategy and behavioral insights, philanthropy and funding. Member cities have been sharing common challenges facing their culture sectors and creative workers. My Deputy Mayor has also created regular briefings to share intelligence about culture and creative industries and the impact of COVID-19 across world cities.

### **Virtual Panel Discussion with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

On 17 April, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, took part in an online panel discussion about COVID-19 and the cultural and creative industries. Hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in partnership with the World Cities Culture Forum, my Deputy Mayor spoke to over 800 audience members about emerging trends and actions London is taking to secure one of our key industries.

### **Meeting with Minister of State for Digital and Culture, Caroline Dinenage MP**

On 2 April, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries Justine Simons, OBE met with the Minister of State, Caroline Dinenage, alongside colleagues from the culture sector to highlight the significant impacts felt by cultural and creative organisations by the COVID-19 crisis. My Deputy Mayor highlighted the need to widen the support available to stop freelancers and businesses falling through the gaps in current government support.

My culture team has held regular meetings with officers from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to convey the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown measures on culture and the creative industries and provide a coordinated response for London and the UK.

### **Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board – Extension of appointments**

Members of my Cultural Leadership Board appointees will serve on the board until May 2021 due to the extension of the current Mayoral term. The Ambassadors have been providing invaluable insight and leadership in this time of crisis, and my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, will work closely with them to support the sector throughout this period.

### **Annual Creative Enterprise Zones Conference**

On 9 March, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired the opening session of a conference held at City Hall marking one year of the UK's first Creative Enterprise Zones. A panel, which included Mayors and Leaders of Croydon, Hackney, Lambeth, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets, discussed the impact of the Zones so far, current issues affecting creatives, and how boroughs can better support the sector through innovative

policy and planning. The keynote session was chaired by John Newbiggin OBE, one of my Cultural Ambassadors, and discussed how the creative industries can help reinvigorate the UK's High Streets.

### **Supporting Creative Workspace Virtual Roundtable**

On 6 April, my Culture Team convened a roundtable with representatives of the Creative Workspaces and Artists' Studio sector on the impact of COVID-19. The roundtable was attended by 15 affordable creative workspace providers from across London who shared their experiences and responses to the crisis. Evidence gathered from this activity and further contact with providers and tenants has provided robust data which has informed the Culture at Risk Business Fund.

### **Supporting Creative Workspace Specialist Support**

On 31 March, my Culture Team commissioned the Outset Contemporary Art Fund to provide additional, specialist support for creative workspaces. The culture sector is facing unprecedented challenges and many businesses risk insolvency without further action. Outset, supported on pro bono basis by Dechert LLP, will help Creative Workspaces and Artists' Studios understand their legal position regarding rent and require support with opening dialogues and negotiating with their landlords.

### **Virtual Night Surgeries**

My Night Czar, Amy Lamé, held six virtual Night Surgeries, with industry bodies and night time venues to discuss the impact of COVID-19. These surgeries have provided vital intelligence to inform City Hall's response. Issues highlighted included difficulty accessing business interruption loans, government grants and meeting ongoing costs, such as rent payments. Night surgeries also focused on what support businesses will need to reopen safely once we come out of lockdown.

An additional surgery was held to hear directly from night workers who are keeping essential services going, including health, police and food delivery. They highlighted issues around access to facilities such as supermarkets when coming off shift and toilets while on deliveries.

### **Night Time Borough Champions Network**

My Night Czar, Amy Lamé, held two virtual meetings of the Night Time Borough Champions Network. Local authorities are key partners in our work to support London at night, especially as we look at how to revive high streets and local economies safely after lockdown. The meetings focused on the challenges that boroughs are facing in engaging with night time businesses while closed and what support and guidance boroughs can offer these businesses when they are allowed to reopen.

### **Virtual Borough Culture Officer Roundtable**

On 29 April, my Culture Team convened a roundtable with culture officers from across London boroughs to continue gathering intelligence on the impact of COVID-19. 29 boroughs were represented and 63 people attended. The meeting explored common areas of concern including: loss of income for cultural organisations, venues, workspaces and freelancers, approaches to adapting programmes and sharing initial planning on recovery and transition

beyond lockdown. My Culture Team shared their work on: the Culture At Risk Office, Night Time Economy and wider sector and global intelligence to inform future planning for recovery.

### **Centre for London Roundtable with Freelancers from the Creative Sector**

On 24 March, My Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, co-hosted a virtual roundtable to discuss the emergency facing self-employed freelancers in the creative industries. This roundtable was convened by Centre for London and attended by freelancers, trade unions, sector bodies, arts organisations and others. Following the meeting, Justine Simons OBE wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, on 25 March to express the shared concerns.

### **Culture Seeds Programme**

On 6 March, my Culture Seeds programme closed for applications with the final panel meeting was held on 20 March. Since May 2018, the programme has awarded £1.03 million to 244 projects across all London boroughs – 40 per cent of funding has been awarded to projects that focus on reaching BAME participants, 42 per cent to projects involving young people and 21 per cent to projects for older people. Projects include a dementia choir in Bexley; Caribbean kite-making in Hackney; sewing workshops for newly arrived communities in Haringey; and zine-making workshops for young people on a housing estate in Hammersmith and Fulham.

### **London Borough of Culture – Waltham Forest Evaluation**

On 6 March, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, welcomed guests for a day of discussion about Waltham Forest's year as London Borough of Culture. Colleagues from a number of London boroughs as well as Coventry and Medway attended along with researchers, funders and creative practitioners from across London to hear how Waltham Forest engaged over 500,000 residents and involved all of its 88 schools in its year as my first London Borough of Culture.

## **International**

### **Meeting with EU Ambassador to the UK**

On 9 March, I met with the EU Ambassador to the UK, HE Mr João Vale de Almeida, to discuss opportunities to work together to promote the rights of EU Londoners, and to ensure London's voice and expertise is heard in EU institutions

### **COVID-19 International Updates**

On 27 March and 15 April, I took part in C40 organised video conferences with Mayors of other major cities to update them on London's response to the coronavirus pandemic, discuss plans for a C40 Recovery Taskforce, and to hear first-hand about the responses they are taking in their own cities.

On 31 March, I wrote to the Foreign Secretary to highlight the plight of Londoners and other residents stranded overseas and to ask for confirmation that EU Londoners and other non-British residents will be included in the UK's repatriation scheme.

On 31 March, I signed a joint letter with the Mayors of Paris, Brussels, Lisbon, Warsaw, Florence and Budapest, calling on national governments, European institutions and manufacturers to work together on the production of PPE, medical equipment and medicines.

On 8 April, I wrote to the First Secretary of State to ask the Government to review its guidance on the use of non-medical face coverings by members of the public, citing the fact that many of our closest international partners had already done this.

On 20 April, I wrote to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to offer condolences following the mass shooting in Nova Scotia, which has become the deadliest such incident in Canadian history.

On 22 April, at the request of the FCO, I spoke to the Mayor of Tehran, Professor Pirouz Hanachi, about the response of London and Tehran to the coronavirus pandemic. I also raised the plight of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and other dual nationals in prison in Iran, to which Mayor Hanachi agreed to relay my comments to the Iranian Government.

On 27 April, I wrote to the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Transport to request an update on the Government's strategy for tightening international arrivals procedures once the lifting of lockdown measures begins, given many other countries have introduced compulsory testing, tracing and/or quarantining of international passengers.

On 29 April, I joined a video conference hosted by the Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller, with Mayors from other major cities. We discussed the importance of non-medical face coverings when social distancing is not possible; exchanged views on the necessary criteria for easing lockdowns, with low infection rate, contact tracing and sufficient levels of PPE for care settings common to each city; and shared London's work with rough sleepers and the Pay It Forward campaign, which has been of particular interest to other cities.

## **London Legacy Development Corporation**

### **COVID-19 response**

With events cancelled at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and playgrounds closed, London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) has been working to ensure that the parkland remains open and a safe, clean space for people to use, especially for those who do not have access to their own gardens. LLDC has worked with other parks around the capital to encourage safe usage of their parkland and to promote the positive physical and mental benefits of open spaces for Londoners including support for World Urban Parks week (28 April – 1 May).

The main exterior screen at London Stadium has been used as a focus each Thursday to thank the NHS and other key workers for their help and to reinforce public health messages to Park users.

LLDC has worked closely with local social enterprises to support their efforts to re-purpose their businesses, such as Badu Sports providing online exercise classes for local youngsters and Bikeworks which is providing a local delivery service for food and medicines for hard to reach groups. LLDC has also instigated a three-month rent holiday for small businesses to help them through these difficult times.

While construction work on Stratford Waterfront has been halted, the new Carpenters Land Bridge, installed on Christmas Day 2019, has been shortlisted for seven awards in the Institution of Civil Engineers' annual awards. The bridge linking the East Bank institutions to the office development at International Quarter was installed by the GRAHAM construction company and designed by architecture firm Arquitectura.

Planning meetings have continued with two planning applications approved on 17 March from Guinness Housing Trust which will increase the amount of affordable housing from the currently permitted 27 per cent to 49 per cent of the 965 homes (447 affordable and 518 market sale) at Bromley by Bow. The tenure mix within the affordable homes equates to 32 per cent London Affordable Rent and 68 per cent Shared Ownership, an improvement on the 18 per cent London Affordable Rent and 72 per cent Intermediate previously approved. The increase in affordable homes is a result of additional funding from Guinness and from the LLDC using s.106 funds to increase the amount of London Affordable Rented homes in the project from 41 to 144, with a significant uplift in family (3 bed) units in the London Affordable Rent tenure (to 37 from the 5 previously permitted).

In addition, permission has also been granted for a new primary school for 420 pupils on Sugar House Island for a three-storey building comprising 2,703sqm, with rooftop playground and MUGA and ground floor playground.

## **Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation**

### **COVID-19 update**

The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation's (OPDC) main priority over this period has been to support frontline COVID-19 response activities to help vulnerable residents and businesses in the OPDC area, working with the local boroughs and the GLA. As part of this, OPDC donated £60,000 to each of its local boroughs to support urgent food provision services. This includes supporting LB Hammersmith & Fulham's move to merge its foodbanks into one central delivery hub in Olympia. OPDC's donation stocked it with food for a month of operation. Some of OPDC's staff have been redeployed to the GLA's Rapid Response Unit and London Funders, as well as local councils, to help coordinate services and emergency grants.

OPDC launched its own support services in April, teaming up with the London Enterprise Partnership (LEAP). Staff received training to become London Growth Hub Advisors and are contacting community groups and businesses in the OPDC area, working with Team London, LEAP and the three local boroughs to target Covid-19 support where it's needed. To further support Old Oak and Park Royal businesses, OPDC's Chair, Liz Peace CBE, and my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE have written to the Chancellor urging him to extend business rate relief and other business support measures to businesses in the area in danger of being forced to halt operations because of COVID-19.

OPDC is continuing to process planning decisions via remote meetings. The first committee to implement these temporary remote procedures will be OPDC's Planning Committee in May to determine HS2's Schedule 17 planning application for design of the new station at Old Oak Common.

OPDC has continued to work closely with colleagues at Network Rail, High Speed 2 and the local boroughs to prepare a revised strategy for taking forward the regeneration ambitions for the wider Opportunity Area. This has taken on a fresh impetus with the recent decision by Government to issue the formal Notice to Proceed to HS2, which includes the major new transport interchange in Old Oak.

## Planning

### The London Plan

On 13 March, the Secretary of State responded to my Intend to Publish version of the London Plan, including 11 specific directions to modify the Plan. I have considered his response and the wider context of the coronavirus crisis. It is crucial that I do everything I can to support London's development industry and wider economy in the recovery from the coronavirus crisis.

On 24 April, I wrote to the Secretary of State requesting that we work constructively together to publish the London Plan as quickly as possible to support planning decision-making in these challenging times. I have asked GLA officers to engage with MHCLG officials on amendments to the modifications from the Secretary of State to ensure the directions are workable in practice.

### Planning Decisions

My Planning service has shifted to a remote delivery model as a consequence of the coronavirus crisis and continues to process decisions and provide advice to applicants. We are working to ensure that hearings for called-in applications can continue on the same schedule as previously anticipated, subject to applicants completing the necessary steps to proceed.

### Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

*Elizabeth House, York Road, Waterloo, LB Lambeth*

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

*Higgs Industrial Estate, Loughborough Junction, Brixton, LB Lambeth*

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

*1 Creekside, Deptford, LB Lewisham*

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

*Axion House, Silver Road, LB Lewisham*

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

*29-43 Oxford Street and 16, 17-19 Soho Square, City of Westminster*

I have written to City of Westminster stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

## **Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)**

I have asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following Stage 1 referrals:

- 1 Morland Gardens, Stonebridge, Brent
- Clapham Common, Lambeth
- 227 Wood Lane, White City, Hammersmith & Fulham

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

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

### *Former Master Brewer Site, Freezeland Way, LB Hillingdon*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

### *Nine Elms Parkside, South London Mail Centre, LB Wandsworth*

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

### *Land to rear of 416-444 High Road, 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.

### *Morrisons Supermarket, Yiewsley, LB Hillingdon*

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

### *100 Jersey Road, Osterley, LB Hounslow*

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

### *Napier House & New Plymouth House, Rainham, 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.

### *Recorder House/One Station Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge*

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

### *57 Greenford Road, Greenford, 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.

### *36-46 Albert Embankment, LB Lambeth*

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

### *301-303 Ilderton Road, 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.

*Former Webbs Industrial Estate, 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.

*Friary Park Estate, Acton, 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.

*Grahame Park Estate, Plots 10,11 and 12, LB Barnet*

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

*Barratt Industrial Estate, 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.

*Former St Georges Hospital site, 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.

*Westhorpe Gardens and Mill Grove Estate, LB Barnet*

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

*1 Olympic Way, 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.

*Island Site, Wellington Street, Woolwich, Greenwich*

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

*LTDA Taxi House, Woodfield Road, City of 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.

*Safari Cinema, Harrow, LB Harrow*

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

*Argenta House, Brent, 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.

*St Pancras Commercial Centre, Camden, LB Camden*

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

*5 Kingdom Street, City of Westminster*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

*100 Burnt Oak, LB Barnet*

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

*8 Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, LB Lambeth*

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

### **Delegated Planning Decisions (Combined Stage 1 and 2)**

*Development site, Silvertown Way flyover arches, LB Newham, Stage 1 & 2*

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.

### **Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)**

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, under powers I delegated to him, has asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following Stage 1 referrals:

- 2-10 Ossory Road, Old Kent Road, Southwark
- Meridian Grand, Advent Way, Edmonton, Enfield
- Garages adjacent Trevithick House, Rennie Estate, Southwark
- Kidbrooke Village Phases 3 and 5, Greenwich
- B and Q Chiswick, Hounslow
- Alma Estate, Ponders End, Enfield
- Land opposite Wodehouse Court, Ealing
- 61-65 Holborn, City of London
- 3 Shortlands, Hammersmith & Fulham
- Beufort Park, Barnet
- The Albion, 48 Woolwich Church Street, Greenwich
- 114 – 150 Hackney Road, Tower Hamlets
- 61-65 Holbon, City of London
- 1,2,3 and 9 Watkin Road, Brent
- The Hireman, 14-22 Ossory Road, Southwark
- Bianca Warehouse, 41-43 Glengall Road, Southwark
- Potters Fields, Southwark
- 555 White Hart Lane, Tottenham, Haringey
- Albert Island, Royal Docks, Newham
- Marian Place Gasholders Site, Tower Hamlets
- Poultry Market, General Market and Annex Buildings West Smithfield, City of London
- Ilford Retail Park, Redbridge
- Credon House, Verney Road, Southwark
- Nanaksar Primary School, Beaconsfield Road, Hayes, Hillingdon
- Thoresby House, 1 Thoresby Street, Hackney
- Land at Bashley Road, Park Royal, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation
- Plot 22 Albright Industrial Estate, Rainham
- Imperial Fields, Tooting and Mitcham Football Club, Merton

## Stopping up order

Highway at/adjacent to Granville Road, Mortimer Close and Llanelly Road, LB Barnet  
Under Section 252(5A) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, I have decided, having regard to the special circumstances of the case, that it is unnecessary to hold an inquiry.

## Key Engagements

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

- I hosted a breakfast meeting with representatives of London's Black Majority Churches on 6 March to discuss how we can work together to tackle violent crime in London
- I met with Rebekah Brooks, CEO News UK, and News UK editors on 6 March
- I joined the March4Women on 8 March
- I had an introductory meeting with HE Mr João Vale de Almeida, the new Ambassador of the European Union to the UK, on 9 March
- I visited London Bridge Underground Station on 10 March to see Transport for London's new enhanced cleaning regime on the London Underground
- I chaired the London Economic Action Partnership Board Meeting on 11 March
- I met with Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, on 11 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended People's Question Time at Battersea Arts Centre, Wandsworth on 12 March
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 12 March
- I had my regular meeting with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 12 March
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 12 March
- I attended the GLA Apprentices Graduation Ceremony on 13 March
- I had my regular meeting with the Fire Brigade Unions on 13 March
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London and Crossrail on 16 March
- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 16 March ahead of the Transport for London Board Meeting
- I attended COBR on 16 March
- I chaired a meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Group on 16 March to review the Business and Economic impact of COVID-19
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 17 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined the Transport for London Board meeting conference call on 18 March
- I hosted a conference call of the Mayor's Advisory Group on 18 March to review the impact of COVID-19 on the Voluntary Sector
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 19 March
- I met with the Prime Minister on 19 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Faith Group Leaders to review the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended COBR on 20 March

- I joined a conference call with the London COVID-19 Senior Sub-Group, chaired by the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 22 March
- I joined a conference call with the Prime Minister on 22 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Trade Union General Secretaries on 23 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended COBR on 23 March
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, on 24 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on transport in London
- I joined a conference call with Paul Scully MP, the Minister for London, on 24 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu on 25 March to discuss policing and security
- I joined a conference call with the London COVID-19 Senior Sub-Group, chaired by the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, on 25 March
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 25 March
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 25 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with the General Public Sector Ministerial Implementation Group, chaired by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on 26 March
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Paul Plant, my Statutory Health Advisor and the Interim London Regional Director for Public Health, and Kevin Fenton, incoming London Regional Director for Public Health on 26 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with the Mortality Planning Sub-Group of the London COVID-19 Strategic Coordinating Group on 27 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a C40 Mayoral Webinar on 27 March to discuss the initial responses of London and other major cities around the world to COVID-19
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 30 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I made a virtual visit to the Nightingale Hospital at London Excel on 31 March
- I joined a conference call with Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing, Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, and John Barradell, Chair of the London Strategic Coordinating Group, on 31 March to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the Metro Mayors (M9) on 1 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 1 April
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 2 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster, on 2 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Faith Communities in London
- I hosted a conference call with the Most Rev Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, on 2 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Faith Communities in London

- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 2 April
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP, the Leader of the Opposition, on 2 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing, Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, and John Barradell, Chair of the London Strategic Coordinating Group, on 2 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Imam Mohammed Mahmoud, Senior Imam, East London Mosque, on 3 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Faith Communities in London
- I hosted a conference call with Harun Khan, the Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, on 3 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Faith Communities in London
- I hosted a conference call with the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis on 3 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Faith Communities in London
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland, on 3 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I made a virtual visit to Transport for London's Network Management Control Centre, Palestra on 6 April
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 6 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 7 April
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 8 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Mrs Trupti Patel, President Hindu Forum UK, on 8 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Faith Communities in London
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, London Fire Commissioner, on 8 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted a conference call with the Rt Hon the Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE, Director of Network of Sikh organisations, on 8 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Faith Communities in London
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 8 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing, Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, and John Barradell, Chair of the London Strategic Coordinating Group, on 8 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland on 9 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 9 April
- I hosted an introductory conference call with Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, the new Shadow Home Secretary, on 9 April
- I attended COBR on 9 April
- I joined a conference call with the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland on 15 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 15 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London

- I joined a conference call with Professor John Newton, Director of Health Improvement for Public Health England and National Advisor to Government on Testing, on 15 April to discuss the implementation of the national testing programme in London
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 15 April to discuss remediation of high-rise buildings with unsafe cladding
- I joined a C40 Mayoral Webinar on 15 April to discuss ongoing city responses to COVID-19, and plans for a C40 Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task-Force
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, with the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland on 15 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I joined a conference call with Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing, Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, and John Barradell, Chair of the London Strategic Coordinating Group, on 15 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 16 April
- I joined a virtual meeting of COBR on 16 April
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 20 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing, Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, and John Barradell, Chair of the London Strategic Coordinating Group, on 20 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 21 April
- I hosted a conference call with the Mayor of Tehran on 22 April to discuss the response of London and Tehran to the coronavirus pandemic, and raised the plight of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. This call was facilitated and supported by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO).
- I made a virtual visit to a London Ambulance Service training exercise to prepare LFB firefighters to drive ambulances and transport patients, in Wembley on 22 April
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 22 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 22 April
- I joined a conference call with the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, on 23 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted an introductory conference call with Sarah Jones MP, the new Shadow Minister of State for Police and the Fire Service, on 23 April
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 23 March
- I hosted an introductory conference call with Jim McMahon MP, the new Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, on 24 April
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP, the Leader of the Opposition, on 27 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call on 27 April to bring together senior leaders from the mental health and care system to discuss the impact of COVID-19 for Londoners mental health
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 28 April

- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 28 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing, Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, and John Barradell, Chair of the London Strategic Coordinating Group, on 28 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with the Metro Mayors (M9) on 29 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I joined a conference call on 29 April with the Mayor of Berlin and Mayors of Berlin's other 'Partnership Cities' to discuss our responses to COVID-19, the use of non-medical face coverings, and how to ease lockdown measures
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 29 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the Economic Recovery Working Group, chaired by Simon Clarke MP, Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 29 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I joined a conference call of the Metro Mayors (M9) on 30 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 30 April to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 30 April
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Prime Minister on 1 May with the Metro Mayors (M9) to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I joined a conference call with the First Ministers of Scotland & Wales on 1 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP, the Leader of the Opposition, on 4 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with Sir David Sloman, NHS Regional Director for London, on 4 May to discuss the Nightingale Hospital
- I made a virtual visit to an emergency domestic abuse accommodation that MOPAC has secured for those escaping domestic violence who need to leave their homes and have a safe space to self-isolate, on 4 May
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 5 May
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 5 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing, Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, and John Barradell, Chair of the London Strategic Coordinating Group, on 5 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 6 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, London Fire Commissioner, on 6 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular conference call with Sr Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 7 May

ENDS