

Recovery and Transition briefing

From: Mayor of London
To: Assembly Members
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Introduction

Welcome to the London's Covid-19 Transition and Recovery update for AMs from the Mayor of London.

Every other week you will receive a written briefing from the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority to keep you as a London AM informed on the latest work being undertaken by the London Recovery Board, London Transition Board, and the London Transition Management Group (LTMG).

If you have any questions on London's response to Covid-19, including Transition and Recovery work, you can continue to get in touch with Ffion Meagher, Senior Stakeholder Relations Officer (Transition, Ffion.Meagher@london.gov.uk), or Asif Hussain, Senior Stakeholder Relations Officer (Recovery, Asif.Hussain@london.gov.uk).

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London's Recovery

London Recovery Board and Governance - updates

The London Recovery Board met on 28 July and proceedings were broadcast live, you can view a recording [here](#). Papers for the meeting can be found [here](#).

The Board was presented with a set of eight draft missions for recovery around which further engagement and consultation with Londoners will take place. These eight are:

1. Skills and Employment
2. Green New Deal
3. Digital Connectivity and Inclusion
4. 15 Minute Cities
5. A Strong Civil Society
6. A robust safety net, a good standard of living and the tools to thrive
7. A new deal for young people
8. No one's health suffers because of who they are, where they live, or if, how and where they work

The Board emphasised the need to engage with Londoners from all backgrounds, as well as key stakeholders on not only these missions, but more broadly on Recovery. A public consultation will be launched in August to engage with as many Londoners as possible to inform this work. The coming weeks will be spent refining the draft missions to ensure they are focused and tight.

How can Londoners get involved?

Londoners can be directed to the Talk London public consultation on Recovery that is soon to go live, and can sign up for updates and find out more [here](#).

For more information on how those with difficulties with digital access can also be part of the conversation please contact asif.hussain@london.gov.uk.

Recent Announcements

£1.5bn infrastructure investment announced

The Mayor and London Councils with the London Recovery Board brought together utility companies to deliver projects and jobs needed in the current economic climate. The Mayor announced an investment package of infrastructure works worth up to £1.5bn. The anticipated projects under this investment are:

- Upgrading the gas network to improve the security of London's gas supplies.
- Reducing water leakage by 20 per cent and pollution incidents by 30 per cent by 2025.
- Progressing plans to increase the resilience of the water supply network serving boroughs in north east London; the City and Canary Wharf.

- Ensuring the electricity infrastructure is in place to support electric vehicles, using innovative planning tools to identify the best charger locations and timings.

This is part of the Mayor and the Board's commitment to 'build back better' and ensure recovery makes London a fairer, more equal, greener and resilient city.

Read more about this announcement [here](#).

Covid-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce

The Covid-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce, chaired by Tom Copley, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development and attended by Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regen and Skills, brought together a cross sector-alliance of senior leaders representing local government, housing associations, the private development and construction industries, and unions.

The objective of the taskforce was to develop a recovery plan that ensures housing supply can continue at pace and scale, while also delivering good growth, rather than growth at any cost. This means fair and sustainable growth where development delivers more social and other genuinely affordable homes, which are likely to be in even greater demand in the aftermath of the crisis. The final report of the Covid-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce was published on 22 July and identifies several vital actions that should be taken as soon as possible to get the London housing sector and the wider economy on the road to recovery.

Read the report [here](#).

Green Recovery

The Mayor and the London Recovery Board have been clear that London's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic must be a green and fair recovery.

A green recovery for London will require action beyond City Hall and the collective efforts of all Londoners. Throughout July we delivered several stakeholder sessions. The Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, hosted a roundtable discussion to identify what key expert stakeholders expect from London's green recovery and understand their priorities. The GLA Environment team presented to the London Climate Change Partnership and co-hosted a London Recovery workshop with London Councils involving several key stakeholders.

London's Transition

London Transition Board

The London Transition Board, co-chaired by the Mayor and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has been established to co-ordinate London's response as it emerges from the Covid-19 lockdown, while still controlling the virus.

The Board is made up of senior leaders from across London and provides strategic direction for the next phase of response and restart, focusing on the key issues which London will face over the coming months, including outbreak control and business reopening.

Roles and responsibilities

The Transition Board is responsible for leading activity across London with its partners:

- Working through the London Covid-19 Transition Management Group, co-ordination of system-wide activity, rather than tasking individual organisations
- Identifying, managing and escalating risks, issues and opportunities from transitional arrangements
- Ensuring co-ordination of system responses required from managing both virus transmission risk and the impact of the illness
- Assuring on a cross-agency basis, the resilience of London to transitional arrangements and supporting them in delivering effectively
- Overseeing and sponsoring the work of Strategy Groups focused on key strategic themes agreed by the Board
- Overseeing the work of the London Covid-19 Transition Management Group, which has subsumed previous Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) arrangements, and co-ordinates activity on behalf of the Board

Further information about the Board can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/london-transition-board>

Health and social care

Monitoring local outbreaks

The Mayor is receiving regular updates from PHE on the situation in London boroughs and is working closely with partners to ensure local communities get the support they need. On 23 July Government published a new weekly Contain Framework Watchlist setting out where local areas were of concern, required enhanced support, or needed intervention by Government. To date this Watchlist does not include any London boroughs. Londoners continue to be encouraged to stay at home and get tested soon as

possible if they have Covid-19 symptoms, and to follow the instructions of NHS track and trace if contacted.

Test and Trace

On Wednesday 29 July, a London-wide campaign to address the low awareness of test and trace launched – Keep London Safe. Led by London Councils working with the 32 London borough councils, and supported by Public Health England, the NHS, and Greater London Authority, the partnership will work across borough boundaries and address the challenges of London’s diversity, deprivation and density.

Impacts of Covid-19 on population health and wellbeing

The London Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH), the GLA Health Team and Public Health England (PHE) London are supporting a series of virtual workshops focused on identifying and anticipating the impacts of Covid-19 on population health and wellbeing. A broad range of local, sub-regional and regional stakeholders have been invited to help trace the indirect impacts of the pandemic and identify measures that will support the recovery and renewal of the public health system across London, with a focus on improving population health outcomes and addressing health inequalities. Following the workshops, there will be a thematic analysis of the workshop discussion outputs and this information will be triangulated with evidence collected through a desktop literature review. This will provide vital evidence and recommendations in relation to wider impacts of Covid-19 and recovery from a population health perspective to support the work of the London Transition Board and the London Recovery Board.

Obesity and Covid-19

The Mayor has welcomed the introduction of measures to tackle obesity, commenting that “obesity is a serious problem & increases the risk of people with pre-existing health conditions becoming seriously ill with Covid-19. I'm pleased the Government is at long last supporting the measures we've been taking from City Hall to address the issue.” The measures have been introduced in the context of a new report from PHE which shows that being severely overweight puts people at greater risk of hospitalisation, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admission and death from Covid-19, with risk growing substantially as body mass index (BMI) increases.

Transport

A UCL review on bus driver deaths during the pandemic says that a high proportion of drivers who died from coronavirus became infected before lockdown

TfL asked academics at the Institute of Health Equity to explore the pattern of infection with, and deaths from, coronavirus in the London bus worker population. The [report's](#) findings include:

- Many of the London bus drivers who died from coronavirus were suffering with underlying health conditions, particularly high blood pressure.
- Among the bus drivers who died, most stopped work in the 10 days either side of lockdown on 23 March, suggesting most of them became infected before lockdown.
- A high proportion of drivers who died had a number of personal characteristics which enhanced their risk to coronavirus, such as their ethnicity, and living in areas with above average levels of deprivation in London boroughs with the highest coronavirus death rates in April 2020.

In [response to the report](#), Lilli Matson, TfL's Chief Safety, Health and Environment Officer, said: "The recommendations in this report provide a roadmap for action to further protect bus drivers. It is clear from this piece of work and others that there are certain characteristics that make people more vulnerable to coronavirus. We will work with our bus operators to ensure that they consistently carry out risk assessments and appropriate support is given to those that need it. We will work with the bus operators to prepare a response plan to help us make immediate, consistent interventions in the event of further outbreaks."

TfL's Revised Budget published

On 24 July, TfL published its [draft revised budget](#) for 2020/21, which was considered by the TfL Board on 29 July. This outlines how TfL will continue to support London's recovery from the pandemic, benefiting the UK economy as a whole. Should sufficient Government funding be forthcoming for the second half of the current financial year, these revised plans will enable TfL to maintain its statutory obligation to balance its budget, keep its assets safe and operable, and progress an investment programme focused on safety, active travel and completing projects that aid social distancing or support significant economic growth.

The budget includes upgrades to the Tube network such as finishing the Northern Line Extension, completing the Bank station upgrade and introducing new trains on the Piccadilly line. It also includes continued investment in the far-reaching programme to enable more walking and cycling. TfL also intends to build on recent huge improvements in air quality by expanding the Ultra-Low Emission zone to inner London in October next year. However, the revised budget inevitably involves very difficult choices having to be made about the pace at which the beneficial projects TfL wants to deliver can be funded and completed.

Independent review of TfL's long-term future funding options

The Mayor has announced a review to develop options for funding and financing models. The review seeks to ensure that TfL can deliver the right services for London in the current challenging financial context, invest in new and existing infrastructure and continue to contribute to London's development and sustainability. The review will be carried out by a panel with significant experience of public policy, Government reviews and reform of

public bodies. Their work will be carried out in parallel with the Government's review of TfL's finances and is expected to conclude in September. No limits have been set on the breadth of the review, and the panel is completely independent from both TfL and the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Face covering enforcement

Everyone should be wearing a face covering on TfL services unless they are exempt, and we are pleased that the majority of customers are doing this. Compliance levels are at around 90% during the morning peak and we know some passengers will have a legitimate exemption. The police and TfL's enforcement officers are taking enforcement action when required, including refusing entry, asking people to leave the network and bringing fines or prosecutions if necessary. This is expected to be a last resort as Londoners will want to do the right thing and keep themselves and others safe. Since 4 July, over 45,000 customers have been stopped and more than 230 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued by TfL enforcement officers to those refusing to comply with face covering requirements.

Service levels

As restrictions continue to be eased and more Londoners return to their workplaces, we can expect an increase in footfall across the transport network. To meet this additional demand, TfL has been working extremely hard to build services back up to normal levels. Last week, more than 90 per cent of scheduled weekday services were operating in the peak. Passengers may need to allow extra time for their journeys as TfL is implementing a queuing system at the busiest stations to help manage social distancing safely.

StreetSpace update

Temporary changes are being made to roads to support safe walking and cycling and enable social distancing. So far, 37 StreetSpace schemes have been completed on the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN), creating over 16,000 m² of extra pedestrian space. 40km of new or upgraded cycle lanes have been built or are under construction across TLRN and borough roads. TfL is working closely with boroughs to quickly deliver further schemes, with more than £24m awarded to 30 boroughs for 860 walking and cycling schemes to date and a second tranche of funding to come.

Work started this week to transform Bishopsgate for people walking, cycling and using the bus. The new traffic restrictions between Shoreditch and London Bridge are a key part of the Mayor of London and TfL's world-leading StreetSpace plans, which will radically reduce levels of cars in central London in a bold step towards becoming one of the largest car-free zones in any capital city in the world.

Business, skills and employment

Adult Education Budget (AEB)

The Mayor launched the AEB Covid-19 response fund in May. Strand 1 supports additional provision to meet the immediate demand for learning and skills in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Twenty providers were supported under this strand with a total funding of £4.9m to support additional skills delivery, which is now underway. Under Strand 2, the Mayor earmarked support for capacity building to help skills providers deliver remotely to address the impact of social distancing. Some 77 skills providers were supported through capacity building projects with a total funding of £2.7m.

Working with the M9 to lobby government

The Mayor has agreed a collective set of skills and employment proposals with the M9 group of Mayors, which the M9 have been advocating to government. The proposals include a call for multi-year, devolved skills and employment funding pot to support adult skills interventions, for Mayors to coordinate and commission employment and careers services, and for new flexibilities over apprenticeship funding. The M9 have shared these proposals with the Chancellor (18 June) and the Employment Minister (15 July).

London Transition Board: Business Reopening Strategy Group

The Business Reopening Strategy Group held its first meeting on 20 July, chaired by Simon Pitkeathley from Camden Town Unlimited. It made good progress in identifying the issues facing London's businesses and determined four focus areas to concentrate on: importance of clarity of message over returning to work and leisure activities; building public confidence in use of the transport network; need for ongoing business support, and to continue to open public realm and high street space safely.

Supporting this work is a pan-London Task and Finish group which is coordinating multi-agency activity across London on phases of reopening the capital's high streets, addressing public health, safety and economic recovery issues.

Mayor's Back to Business Fund

So far, the Pay it Forward London campaign has raised £285,000, supporting more than 180 businesses. Due to the success of the campaign, on 30 July the Mayor of London announced a new £1m [Back to Business Fund](#) that will offer up to £5,000 in match funding to small businesses through the Pay It Forward London crowdfunding platform.

The Fund will match every pound raised by an eligible business up to a maximum of £5,000 - or 50% of their campaign target - in sectors which rely on physical trading and have been badly affected by Covid-19 restrictions, including retail, hospitality, leisure, tourism, travel, creative and arts, entertainment and recreation, and health and fitness.

Applications will open on Monday 10 August and businesses are encouraged to register their interest now, start crowdfunding and receive coaching support from Crowdfunder to prepare them for their funding application: <https://payitforward.london.gov.uk/fund>

TfL office and workspace survey

TfL undertook a survey of 336 London businesses to gather insight into plans to return to offices.

- Smaller businesses expect to return quicker than larger businesses: 57% of respondents from businesses with less than 50 employees expect to be fully prepared to start safely returning to work within 4 week of the Government advising it is safe to do so, compared to 51% of respondents from businesses with 500+ employees.
- 72% of respondents expect to implement increased working from home and staggered times to avoid the busiest travel times (65%) as part of the re-occupancy of their offices. About half expect a staggered return to office working on a department basis (48%) and an on-going working pattern alternating 'A' and 'B' teams across the business (48%). Only 5% of respondents expect all employees to return at once.

Culture, creative industries and 24-Hour London

Government support for the arts

The Government has announced how the remaining £1.1bn of its £1.57bn investment package will be distributed across the sector;

- £500m distributed through Arts Council England to support arts and culture institutions including theatres, music and comedy venues and museums;
- £30m distributed through the British Film Institute for independent cinemas;
- £92m allocated to protecting heritage sites through the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England;
- A £270m repayable finance scheme that will be overseen by a new Culture Recovery Board. A member of the Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board, Claire Whitaker, will be on this independent board; and
- The remaining £258m is being reserved for a second round of funding.

A further £500million will be distributed through the Film and TV Production Restart Scheme to support TV and film productions unable to secure insurance as a result of Covid-19. This is good news for London's film sector and will support it in getting back up and running.

The Mayor is concerned however that this package does not include support for freelancers working in the sector or the creative supply chain, which faces huge losses as a result of the pandemic and will be crucial to reopening and economic recovery. The

Mayor also asks that the distributing bodies ensures that the distribution of their funds do not further amplify existing inequalities in London.

The Mayor is calling on Government to delay the tapering of the government contribution to the Job Retention Scheme, due to come into effect on 1 August, to avoid an acceleration of job losses within the cultural sector.

From this date, employers will have to once again pay national insurance and pension contributions for the hours their employees are on furlough. Many businesses in sectors such as hospitality and culture will find it impossible to meet the additional costs as they are still closed or on reduced capacity. Mass redundancies have already been announced at venues including the Royal Opera House, National Theatre, Tate and Southbank Centre.

The Mayor is also calling for an extension to the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

Reopening of the sector

Despite recent announcements on the further easing of lockdown restrictions, many parts of the sector remain closed and therefore at risk, including nightclubs, music venues and theatres. On 1 August there is a planned progression into Stage 4 of Government's five stage roadmap for live performance; resuming indoor performances with a social distanced audience, pending the outcome of a range of pilot performances during July. This is alongside outdoor performances that were able to restart from 11 July. Venues reopening include Ronnie Scott's which will operate at 50% capacity and Regent's Park Open Air operating at 30% capacity.

There is no date set for stage 5 of this roadmap, which is indoor performances without social distancing. The sector is calling the government to provide dates for the earliest that stage 5 can be reached in order to plan financially, prepare 'product' to perform, and reduce jobs losses or permanent closures.

London Transition Board: Arts & Culture Strategy Group

Baroness Bull presented an interim paper to the London Transition Board on the current impact of Covid-19 on the arts and culture sector and the risks and opportunities related to reopening. Concerns which the Transition Board discussed as major risks include; the limitations of the Government's £1.57bn rescue package for the arts which, while a lifeline, will be spread thinly and will not mitigate mass job losses; the urgent need to rebuild consumer confidence; and the severe potential impact of future local lockdowns or a second wave on the sector's ability to recover. The final paper will be presented in September.

The Arts and Culture Strategy Group met for a second time on 28 July, sharing sector intelligence on reopening strategies and early learnings from museums, visitor attractions, theatres and arts centres.

Housing

Rough Sleeping

An extraordinary effort by the Mayor's Rough Sleeping Team, working with London's councils, the NHS, Public Health England and MHCLG, has meant that almost 1,700 people from the streets and winter shelters in the capital have been safely accommodated and supported in hotels procured by the GLA during the emergency – with many more accommodated by boroughs. As lockdown eases, the GLA and London's councils are now implementing the Mayor's In For Good principle – ensuring that no-one needs to leave the hotels without an offer of support, so that they do not need to return to the streets.

The Mayor has recently launched the first year of the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) in London, having secured £66.7m (£57.8m of capital and £8.9m of revenue) from the Government. The RSAP is a £433m four-year national programme to deliver longer-term move-on accommodation for rough sleepers, £161m of which is being made available in 2020/21. Through the RSAP, revenue funding is available to provide up to four years' support to residents for each home delivered. The London prospectus and related documents are available [here](#). The London funding will be combined with the Mayor's £50m Move-On Programme, which will continue to be available to provide homes for victims of domestic abuse.

How can you help?

City Hall is working hard to develop and establish new structures to support Londoners and to improve the city's resilience at this difficult time. You can help by promoting these services:

- Apprenticeships - The [London Progression Collaboration](#) (LPC) - a Skills for Londoners pilot project - has brought London businesses together to build a fund which will cover the costs of apprenticeships for SMEs, to support their recovery from Covid-19. Its Reskilling the Recovery campaign has secured pledges of apprenticeship levy transfer from big businesses including the Amazon, the BBC, Pearson, City University, FTI Consulting and Avison Young, as well as the London boroughs of Haringey and Lambeth. These businesses have pledged to transfer over £1.2m, of unspent apprenticeship levy funds to support the recovery of small businesses. Small businesses interested in accessing funds and apprenticeship support, and large businesses with unspent levy to transfer, can get in touch with the LPC team [here](#).
- **Mental health** – Mental health experts have helped us collate advice on the GLA website to help those who may be feeling down or anxious. The tips can be accessed [here](#). It also includes information on how to access services if Londoners need support with their mental health. Help with how to cope with bereavement and grief during the coronavirus outbreak can be found [here](#).

- **Pay it Forward - Business** owners should visit www.london.gov.uk/payitforward and see how Pay it Forward could help them make their way through the challenges we now face as a city.
- **London Learning at Home** - The Mayor has launched London Learning at Home, which brings together the city's free learning and cultural resources that children can access from home. It can be accessed [here](#).
- **Guidance and support for renters and landlords** - The GLA has collated advice for renters and landlords on their rights during the coronavirus crisis. Please help share the page, which can be accessed [here](#).
- **Volunteering** - [The GLA Coronavirus Volunteering Portal](#) remains live with updated opportunities for Londoners to safely volunteer.
- **Employment Rights Hub** - Many people are concerned about the financial impact of self-isolating or taking time off work. The Mayor's Employment Rights Hub has the latest information about what people are entitled to, including the Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, which is now open for applications. **You can access, and point those who may be concerned, to the Hub [here](#).**
- **Information on Covid-19 for non-UK nationals** - City Hall's EU Londoners Hub has specific information for non-UK nationals on how they can access to healthcare, visas, the EU settlement scheme and employment rights and how they are affected by the crisis. **The Information on Covid-19 for non-UK nationals page can be accessed [here](#).**