Item 4

London Assembly
10 September 2008
Third Mayor's Report to the Assembly

This is my third report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 3 July to 27 August.

100 days in office

In August I completed my first 100 days in office and have worked hard deliver on the promises I made to Londoners - especially on tackling crime, delivering value for money and improving the quality of life.

During this time I have brought in a series of early measures including banning alcohol on public transport, raising the London Living Wage and a £60 million affordable housing scheme. Strong foundations have been put in place to deliver on these commitments with a new team in City Hall and there is a new way of doing things.

A change of leadership at City Hall now means there are no oil deals with foreign dictators; greater transparency through the publication of adviser's job descriptions, register of interests and salaries online; less waste on things like The Londoner and closer co-operation with the Boroughs.

In the coming months I will work to tackle the major long term issues for London – crime, transport, housing and the 2012 Olympics. This means further action on crime, the first budget, reshaping the London Development Agency, implementing real savings at City Hall and taking action on housing and the environment.

Transport

I announced on 19 August that I would continue as Chair of Transport for London; that Tim Parker would be standing down as First Deputy Mayor and that he would remain on the Transport for London Board and advise me on the reform and improvement of London transport. My personal involvement is crucial to being an effective Mayor, and to ensure appropriate democratic accountability to the people of London.

New Bus for London competition launched

At a launch event in the London Transport Museum on 4 July, which showcased the evolution of public transport in London over the decades, Transport for London Commissioner Peter Hendy joined me in putting out a challenge to would-be designers to submit their ideas for a new bus for London to replace the iconic Routemaster.

As well as potentially seeing their design on the streets of London, the best designer will pocket a first prize of £25,000. The competition is the first step towards delivering my vision of a 21st Century version of the Routemaster.

Budding designers are encouraged to submit their designs in one of two categories:

- ‘Design a bus for London’. Entrants will have the option of submitting a design for a specific part of the bus or a ‘whole bus’ design. In this category, designs will have to be quite detailed and must comply with guideline specifications as provided by Transport for London. A number of drawings will be required, as well as written documents providing reasoning and more detailed descriptions of the design and features of the bus.
- ‘imagine a bus for London’. In this category, entrants can submit single design concepts for particular features of the bus, or a sketch of the overall look. The judges will be looking for the best ideas rather than detailed technical designs. Entries will be judged in four age categories: under 11, 11-15, 16-18, and over 18.

The new bus should have a stylish, imaginative design which will have a big impact on the streets of London. Key features the designers must consider include an open platform to allow passengers to board and alight quickly and easily; good use of interior space; accessibility; and green technology.

The competition ends on 19 September.

Launch of London’s ‘ summer of Cycling’

On 21 July I launched the capital’s Summer of Cycling, which aims to encourage more Londoners to take to their bikes.

Over the coming months, along with Transport for London, I will be promoting cycling through innovative events and the ongoing “You’re better off by bike” campaign. The aims of this campaign are to encourage existing cyclists to use their bikes more regularly, and promote cycling to the estimated 1.1 million Londoners who have access to bikes but don’t use them.

The campaign will culminate in the hugely popular Sky Sports London Freewheel event on 21 September. At this year’s event, participants will enjoy a carnival atmosphere and views of some the capital’s most spectacular landmarks as they bike along a car-free central route past the Tower of London, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Trafalgar Square, and Buckingham Palace.

Latest TfL figures show that while one in three people in the capital have access to bicycles, only half of these have actually used a bike in the past 12 months. That means that over a million Londoners have left their bikes to gather dust over the past year.

£25 congestion charge scrapped

On 8 July I delivered another promise made in my election manifesto by ending proposals for the CO2 Charge, which would have charged owners of large family cars £25 a day to drive in the Central London Congestion Charge zone. The High Court has now confirmed that the paper work necessary to end the proposal has been completed and the CO2 charge is no more.

As a result there will be no increase in charge for drivers of Band G vehicles from October 2008. The Band A and B discount, which would have resulted in thousands of cars driving in the zone for free and adding to congestion, has also been removed. Ending the CO2 charge at this stage means that Transport for London will save approximately £10 million that was still due to be spent on implementing the scheme.

A charity is set for an unexpected financial windfall from the scrapped proposal. As the decision on the C02 charge is being overturned Porsche is entitled to have its legal costs paid by Transport for London. However Porsche have offered to donate the money they receive to Skidz, a charity that provides young people, particularly those with few advantages, with mechanical skills and training that could lead to future employment. Skidz will use the money to set up a branch in Hillingdon.

My commitment to making the congestion charge fairer and more effective for Londoners is well known. And I am delighted that we have been able to scrap the £25 charge, which would have hit families and small businesses hardest especially in these uncertain economic times. I believe the proposal would actually have made congestion worse by allowing thousands of small cars in for free.

Congestion Charging five years on - traffic levels still down but congestion rises back to pre-charging levels

More than five years after the Congestion Charge was launched, and over a year after the western extension began, traffic in central London remains 21 per cent lower than pre-charge levels and traffic entering the western extension has fallen by 14 per cent.

The Sixth Annual Impacts Monitoring Report published on 6 August by Transport for London revealed that 70,000 fewer cars are now entering the original zone each day compared to pre-charging levels, with 30,000 fewer cars entering the western extension.

The report also revealed that decreasing levels of road space in both the original and western zones has caused congestion to return to levels experienced before the charge was introduced, and this together with a widespread programme of water and gas main replacement works has resulted in greatly reduced road capacity.

The Congestion Charge has proved successful in cutting traffic coming into London but on its own it has not resolved the problem of congestion. Therefore, in response to the increase in congestion levels, I have asked Transport for London to accelerate the delivery of my plans to introduce a more comprehensive approach to easing congestion.

In addition to scrapping the CO2 charge, as reported, that risked thousands of small cars flooding central London other measure include: delivering a plan for the re-phasing of traffic signals to get traffic flowing more smoothly, without prejudice to the needs of pedestrians and vulnerable road users; exercising new powers that came into force in May 2008 to fine utility companies that cause delays through badly planned work, and I am seeking greater powers to control their activities and bringing forward plans to allow motorbikes to ride in bus lanes, and I expect the first lanes to open later this year.

TfL is also now reviewing all major schemes that could reduce the capacity of the road network, with a view to minimizing the impact on traffic flow and is currently developing plans for the introduction of a Paris-style bike hire scheme which is expected to encourage more Londoners to leave their cars at home

Second phase of London Low Emission starts

The second phase of the London Low Emission Zone began on Monday 7 July with lorries over 3.5 tonnes, buses and coaches driving within the zone now required to meet an emissions standard of Euro III for particulate matter or face a £200 daily charge.

Initial Low Emission Zone results prove positive

Around a third of lorries over 12 tonnes operating in Greater London are significantly cleaner than they were one year ago, according to Transport for London's first monitoring report examining the impact of the Low Emission Zone

The report, published on 14 August, set out the conditions prior to the start of the scheme on 4 February 2008 and provides a baseline against which the scheme impacts can be analysed in future.

It showed that ninety-six per cent of vehicles affected by the first phase of the scheme, lorries over 12 tonnes, are compliant with the emissions standards of the Zone compared to 70 per cent during 2007.

Using the network of cameras that have been put in place to monitor the scheme, TfL is able to measure changes in the emissions performance of affected vehicles and estimate the impact of the Low Emission Zone on air quality, public health and the economy.

Electric Cars

On 22 July I announced that I will almost treble the number of charging locations by providing another 100 across the city. I am keen to encourage London's Boroughs to reduce parking charges for electric cars. An Electric Vehicle Partnership for London will also be created to encourage the car industry to accelerate the delivery of new technology and to increase the level of support for drivers of electric cars in the capital.

We cannot ignore the fact that ground based transport, excluding aviation, accounts for 22 per cent of London's emissions of CO2.

Electric cars provide zero emissions at their point of use. If we can help make these cars affordable, attractive and easy for Londoners to use then I believe we can put London in pole position when it comes to the use of this type of technology.

The use of electric vehicles is already being encouraged in the capital. They are exempt from the congestion charge and Transport for London helped the Boroughs to fund a programme to introduce charging points. The development of a website that provides information on the location of charging points has already been funded.

In the capital the Metropolitan Police and Transport for London already use electric smart cars and hybrids. Plus they encourage their suppliers to invest in electric vehicles.

Transport for London begins improvement of Croydon Tramlink

In the first of a series of improvements to the Croydon Tramlink, Transport for London has introduced an increase in tram service on the Beckenham Junction and Elmers End routes so

that trams now run more often in the evenings and on Sundays. The new service delivers a 15min waiting time where previously, there was a 30-minute wait between trams on these routes.

This will make travel more convenient for passengers and brings the tram timetable into line with the Transport for London's policy of providing a "turn up and go" service, this is particularly important as one of the major reasons for Transport for London taking control of the Croydon Tramlink in June was to improve the service for the passengers who rely on it.

Crossrail Bill gains Royal Assent

The Crossrail Bill gained Royal Assent on 23 July and was marked by an event at Liverpool Street Station where I was joined by the Transport Commissioner Peter Hendy, Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly, the Executive Chair of Cross London Rail Links and Network Rail.

Parliamentary approval of the Bill means that the project is on track to open to passengers in 2017. It will mean more capacity and faster journeys for passengers, as well as a £36bn boost to the wider UK economy.

The line will run from Maidenhead and Heathrow in the west through tunnels under central London - with new stations at Paddington, Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Farringdon, Liverpool Street, Whitechapel, Isle of Dogs (Canary Wharf) - then out to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east.

British Transport Police launch London Underground Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Police officers will be out on patrol on Tube stations and trains more than ever before following the launch of new British Transport Police (BTP) Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) on 1 August. These have been created to cut crime and provide a highly visible presence at Tube stations and will work in partnership with other BTP teams, London Underground and DLR staff and the Metropolitan Police Service to address crime issues affecting the Tube.

At present BTP has 30 Neighbourhood Policing Teams, comprised of officers from BTP's existing establishment, now operating right across the London network which will link closely with their communities to address local priorities.

Under the national Neighbourhood Policing model, the teams will spend a minimum of 85% of their time doing work that directly impacts their neighbourhood, allowing them to be on proactive patrol more than ever before.

The teams build on the successes delivered by the reassurance team policing model which was introduced on the Underground following the provision of additional Transport for London (TfL) funded officers in the past few years.

These new policing teams for the tube will work alongside the additional 440 uniformed officers for the bus network which I announced in May to tackle the number one issue for Londoners, crime and safety.

Diversity boost for licensed taxi drivers

Almost one in three applicants for the London taxi 'Knowledge' is now from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background.

The figures released on 22 July by Transport for London's Public Carriage Office (PCO) showed that London's black cabs are increasingly reflecting London's diverse communities.

Since the launch of a TfL initiative in 2005 to encourage more applications from these groups, the proportion of applications from people of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds has increased by over 50 per cent.

The campaign started in 2005 with the 'Put yourself in the driving seat' campaign which aimed to increase awareness among Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities about the career opportunities available as licensed taxi drivers.

Black taxis are an instantly recognisable part of London life, and an incredibly important part of our transport network. It is a welcome reflection of the hard work that Transport for London have been putting in, that this world renowned service is now becoming truly reflective of the diverse communities it serves.

London taxi fares to increase if fuel prices reach 154p per litre

On 30 July the Transport for London Board announced that should diesel prices reach 154p per litre between now and February 2009, taxi fares in London will go up by 50p per trip to help drivers meet the increased costs of running a taxi.

This decision was reached following consultation with organisations representing London's travelling public, businesses and the taxi industry. The cost of fuel has risen 27 per cent since TfL determined 2008 taxi tariffs, following its annual review of fares.

If fuel prices don't hit the 154p per litre mark before February 2009, the increased cost of fuel over the course of 2008 and the financial burden taxi drivers have faced as a result will be reflected in the April 2009 fares revision.

The additional 50p charge, if it is introduced, will be added to the meter by the driver at the start of each trip. It will be authorised by a sticker in the taxi stating that TfL has introduced the supplement as a result of the high cost of fuel.

Blackfriars Underground station to close for redevelopment

Network Rail and London Underground and announced on 5 August the closure of Blackfriars Underground station from 2 March 2009 until late 2011 as part of Network Rail's Thameslink upgrade programme.

During this time Network Rail will be redeveloping the Blackfriars station complex and works being carried out will include platform lengthening to accommodate the new longer trains, a new entrance to the complex on the south bank of the river Thames and the redevelopment of the Tube station.

Once completed, customers will get a new upgraded station with step free access, increased capacity and better interchange facilities between the Tube and National Rail services.

During this time, District and Circle line services will not stop at the station and customers are advised to use nearby Temple and Mansion House stations.

Transport for London announces termination of Oyster contract

On Friday 8 August Transport for London announced that it had given notice to terminate the £100m a year contract with TranSys, to maintain and develop the Oyster card system. The move will bring to an end the current contract with TranSys, the consortium whose principal partners are EDS and Cubic, in 2010.

Transport for London expects that any new contract will deliver enhanced services for less money, saving Transport for London millions over the next few years. Transport for London is keen to improve the Oyster card to make it even more attractive for Londoners and will work to make sure this happens both quickly and in a way that represents the best value.

Oyster system outages

The Oyster system suffered two major outages on Saturday 12 July and Friday 25 July.

The first incident resulted in 72,000 cards being disabled and 48,000 customers being overcharged for their journey. In the case of the latter all passengers were automatically refunded. Gates on the Tube and rail systems were left open until the fault was rectified. Buses were left without Oyster readers for much of the day. The cause for this incident seems to have been that TranSys carried out a test for which there was no written procedure or process.

On Friday 25 July gates on the Tube were left open again as a result of incorrect data tables sent out by EDS. Two sets of tables were sent out on consecutive days that clashed with each other resulting in corrupt data for pay as you go journeys on the Tube. The fault was rectified around 10:30am and gates returned to service after that.

Incidents of this nature have been rare in the six years that Oyster has been in service.

The loss of revenue from both incidents is more than a million pounds but Transport for London is determined that Transys should pay for these costs rather than Transport for London or Londoners.

'Hack' of the Oyster card system by Dutch academics

Researchers from Radboud University in the Netherlands claimed in June that they were able to 'hack' the Oyster system and travel for free on the Underground. This follows their earlier claims to have hacked the Dutch version of Oyster that uses the NXP (Philips) MiFare chip, a common component to the Oyster card. Transport for London did identify a fraudulent card on the system earlier this year. A genuine Oyster Pay As You Go card was purchased and then data copied from it. The genuine card was then used on the system, reducing the balance and the copied data then loaded back onto the card (i.e. restoring original balance). The card was discovered during routine daily tests that take place on the system and disabled, to prevent it being used to travel again.

Security is the key aspect of the Oyster system and Londoners can have confidence in the security of their Oyster card and personal data. TfL runs daily tests for cloned or fraudulent cards and any found would be disabled within 24 hours of being discovered. Therefore the

most anyone could gain from a rogue card is one day's travel. Using a fraudulent card for free travel is subject to prosecution.

This was not a hack of the Oyster system. This was a single instance of a card being manipulated allowing the user to load credit back onto the card.

No personal data is stored on Oyster cards. The card only contains three pieces of information. This is information on the last eight journeys, any value or tickets stored on the card and a unique card identification number. Information which is communicated between Oyster card and reader is encrypted.

There was no security breach. Londoners can still have confidence in the security of their cards and details on the Oyster system.

Budget

Budget 2009-10

On 22 July I issued my formal budget guidance for the preparation of next year's budget submissions to the Greater London Authority and the functional bodies. The guidance sets out a budget development process designed to ensure my budget proposals are an accurate reflection of my priority aims and objectives so that real progress can be made in achieving my new policy agenda. This includes tackling crime, delivering value for money and improving the quality of life for Londoners as my top priorities.

The process itself will be similar to last year with interim information sought at the end of September and full business and budget plan submissions at the end of November. However, my intention is that value for the London taxpayer should drive the development of forward plans with the Greater London Authority and functional bodies rigorously pursuing efficiency savings, including savings from joint working across the Greater London Authority group. This means that the financial planning guidelines are more stringent than those issued last year, as it is my clear objective to avoid increasing any further, if at all possible, the burden of the precept for Londoners. This will be a challenge for the Greater London Authority and functional bodies, since it will require additional savings to be identified over and above those that have already been included in existing forward plans, but I firmly believe this is a realistic objective.

Policing and Community Safety

£700,000 funding for anti-crime youth projects

On 29 July I announced £700,000 of new funding for anti-crime youth projects whilst visiting Brixton Road Youth Centre. The funding will pay for a number of educational programmes for young people. 'Calling the Shots' run by the From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation and 'Watch Over Me' run by the Kids Task Force are both aimed at tackling gun and knife crime through targeted educational programmes and guidance for young Londoners. The third project, Miss Dorothy, is designed to teach seven to eleven year olds about personal behaviour, crime and safety.

All projects will be funded by the Metropolitan Police as part of their commitment in partnership with me to cut crime and make London safer for young people.

Initiative to break the cycle of re-offending

On 16 July I gave my strong support to a new initiative to help break the cycle of re-offending by convicted criminals and build on the success of the Safer Neighbourhoods Programme.

The £5.5 million 'London Diamond Initiative' will be piloted in three London boroughs, from Autumn 2008. A team of police officers and a probation officer in each borough will work with offenders when they leave prison to provide active help and support to stop them re-offending.

The scheme is being funded jointly by the Metropolitan Police Service, the Government and local councils.

Highlighting further advance in the fight against knife crime

On 9 July I visited Mile End Tube Station to meet police officers at work on the anti-knife crime operation, Blunt 2.

I used the opportunity to highlight the further advances in the fight against crime and to call on the Government to do more to enable the police to track people through the criminal justice system.

Operation Blunt 2 was launched on 15 May to tackle the unacceptable levels of serious youth violence with knives being carried and used on London's streets. In just seven weeks 1437 people were arrested for possession of weapons and other knife-related crimes, 32,395 searches were conducted and 731 knives recovered by the police in London.

Dedicated police team to tackle youth knife crime

On 4 July I gave my backing to the Metropolitan Police Service's decision to establish a dedicated 75-strong Blunt 2 taskforce to bear down on youth knife crime.

These teams will build on the co-ordinated activity already being carried out under borough-wide Blunt 2 operations and will work in the areas of London worst affected by knife crime.

Home Affairs Select Committee

On 15 July I gave evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee, accompanied by my Deputy Mayor, Kit Malthouse. The session was part of the Committee's inquiry into 'Policing in the 21st Century.' In my evidence I talked about my plans to tackle knife crime and gang culture in London and emphasised the importance of dealing with root causes. I also spoke about the need to de-glamorise knife crime and the potential for using role models to help persuade young people of the evils and stupidity of carrying knives.

London Development Agency

Cycling centre for 2012 hopefuls

On 19 August I opened a cycling centre for 2012 hopefuls in the London Borough of Redbridge. I was joined by Commissioner for Sport Kate Hoey and Sydney gold medallist

Jason Quealy in trying out the state of the art £4.5m centre which was built by the London Development Agency for community and competition use.

The 2km circuit and off road trail is the first piece of physical sporting legacy in London linked to 2012 and replaces Eastway Cycle Circuit which is being turned into the VeloPark for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. After 2012 the VeloPark will return to community use meaning London will have two of the best cycling facilities in the country.

At the opening, people received free coaching by British Cycling through the LDA's Summer of Sport (SoS) programme. SoS offers more than 600 free sporting events across London to increase sport activity in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Environment

London Energy Partnership Forum & Low Carbon Zones

On 3 July I welcomed more than 150 delegates to the London Energy Partnership's Annual Forum. At the Forum, keynote speaker Lord Adair Turner of the new statutory Climate Change Committee outlined how the Committee will evaluate progress towards the Government's climate change targets. Other themes covered at the event included progress towards London's decentralised energy target, biomass energy, fuel poverty and Borough climate change indicators.

At the Forum, I announced a new Low Carbon Zones initiative to deliver 'greener', low carbon solutions to households and businesses in London. Six new Low Carbon Zones will join four existing pilot projects supported by the London Energy Partnership in Barking, Wembley, Elephant and Castle and Mitcham.

I will be taking this work forward in close collaboration with the Energy Saving Trust, EDF Energy and British Gas along with other energy suppliers and the London Energy Partnership to deliver these zones. In September, we will publish details of how the six new zones' locations will be chosen.

City Hall staff volunteer scheme

On 11 August I confirmed my manifesto commitment to encourage all Greater London Authority staff to spend time out of the office helping to 'clean and green' London. I also announced that along with my senior advisers I will also sign up to the scheme and lead by example.

I believe City Hall staff can encourage more Londoners to volunteer by spending at least one day a year volunteering themselves for one of the many organisations that are dedicated to protect and enhance the environment.

I unveiled a list of organisations that I recommend staff to get involved with, including: the Environment Trust, the London Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, Dogs Trust, Trees for Cities, Blue Cross - pet charity, British Trust Conservation Volunteers, Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers, Enfield Conservation Volunteers, Lea Valley Park Volunteers, Epping Forest Conservation, Spitalfields City Farm and the Trust for Urban Ecology.

Social Inclusion

The Community Toilet Scheme

On 12 August I called on businesses across London to open their toilets to the public to help ease the problems caused by the lack of public lavatories.

I want every London borough to sign up to the Community Toilet Scheme, which provides businesses with small grants to open their toilet facilities to the public. The scheme is already running successfully in several boroughs.

The Community Toilet Scheme is a common sense and cost effective solution to the lack of public toilets in London. It is also an ingenious way around the high costs normally associated with running them.

Older people and families with young children in particular find the lack of publics toilets inconvenient and an incredible burden when out and about. I am supportive of small measures that make a big difference to quality of life in London.

In the longer-term want the Government to face up to its responsibilities and provide Londoners with the greater public amenities they deserve by changing current legislation and providing local authorities with more funding for essential services.

Fair pay for all Londoners

On 10 July I announced that that I am increasing the Living Wage for London to £7.45 per hour, which is nearly 35 per cent higher than the national minimum wage, set by Government and recognises the particularly high and rising costs of living in the capital.

Following this announcement, on 28 July, at Barclays in London Docklands, I officially launched ´A fairer London: The 2008 Living Wage in London´, the report which explains why the current Living Wage for London has been increased from £7.20 to £7.45 an hour to meet the increasing cost of living in the capital. I used this opportunity to call on the capital's employers to work towards raising pay for their low paid staff to the level of the London Living Wage to help meet the high costs of living in this city.

I made the call as I welcomed the news that Haden Building Management, which is supplying facilities services to the Metropolitan Police, will pay all 406 staff on the contract at least the new London Living Wage rate of £7.45 per hour from November and Ealing Council has committed to introducing the London Living Wage in key contracts from September.

This announcement also received further employer-led support for the London Living Wage with Barclays confirming that it has increased already market-leading base pay rate of £7.50 to £7.73 per hour for its third-party employees working in Greater London. A total of around 1,000 cleaning, mailroom, gym and catering employees working across 370 Barclays branches and offices throughout the capital have directly benefited from these increases.

The Greater London Authority group, which has been actively implementing the London Living Wage across its workforce and sub-contractors since 2005, has seen over 1,000 directly and indirectly employed staff benefit from this new fairer level of pay. This figure will

pass the 2,000 mark as soon as the pay of most Metronet cleaners on the tube network is raised to the level of the London Living Wage from next month.

Economic and Business Policy

Capital's Small Shops

On 31 July I honoured a key election pledge to support London's small businesses when I outlined measures to ensure that more affordable small shops are provided for in new retail developments.

Under the new measures developers will enter into legally binding agreements to provide an agreed number of affordable small shop units when major retail schemes are proposed. Work has already started on developing the details, which are proposed to be brought forward as alterations to the London Plan in the next eight months or so.

I also chaired my first business summit since being elected which was attended by representatives from across London's business community.

London Business Board

On Tuesday 29 July I met, for the first time, with the London Business Board. We had an extremely productive meeting and discussed, amongst other things, Olympics Legacy, Transport and the current housing situation in London.

Bi-Annual Business Summit

On Thursday 31 July I fulfilled my manifesto commitment by holding the inaugural Bi-Annual Business Summit at City Hall. The summit was attended by representatives from across London's diverse small business community and provided an opportunity for them to raise the concerns of business directly with me.

At the summit I outlined my plans to support the capital's small shops, including the use of section 106 agreements to secure affordable retail units for small businesses.

Beijing Olympic Games 2008

Attendance at the 2008 Games

On 20 August I flew to Beijing for a few days to attend the 2008 Games and carry out my formal duty to accept the Olympic flag from Beijing Mayor Guo Jinlong at the closing ceremony on Sunday 24 August.

On my first day I met Beijing Mayor, Mr Guo Jinlong, to discuss Beijing's successful Games and the lessons that London can learn. I congratulated Mayor Guo Jinlong on staging a spectacular Games and added that my team would return to London with a wealth of experience which we will be putting to use in planning for the 2012 Games.

We have been blown away by the Beijing Games but not intimidated and I am committed to London delivering an equally good Games in 2012 as well as delivering the right legacy for the capital to get lasting value from the colossal investment that is being made.

In my meeting with Mayor Jinlong, we also discussed strengthening the links between London and Beijing and building on the longstanding relationship between London and Beijing. We agreed to work together to encourage tourism, business links, trade, educational exchanges and cultural relations.

At the closing ceremony I officially received the Olympic flag, which was handed to me by IOC President Jacque Rogge. On Tuesday 26 August I flew back to London with the flag, which will be flown outside City Hall, where it will remain for the next four years until after the closing ceremony of the 2012 Games. To mark London's commitment to stage the most unified Games in 2012 the Olympic flag will be raised jointly with the Paralympic flag outside City Hall, following the Beijing Paralympic Games in September.

Delegations to Beijing

As the host of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games London has a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences of Beijing in hosting the largest sporting event in the world. Therefore, prior to the Games, I gave approval for the Greater London Authority delegations (12 people in total) to attend:

- The opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics 2008
- The closing ceremony of the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games 2008
- Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games 2008 as part of the Greater London Authority's observer programme.

I also gave approval for the allocation and use of funding to cover the costs associated with the same (£167,000 approximately).

Details of the delegates, dates of travel and duration of stays were as follows:

Name	**Dates of travel**
My visit	20- 26 August, 15 – 19 September
Ian Clement Deputy Mayor of London	5 – 12 August
Neale Coleman, Adviser on Olympics	20- 26 August,
Roisha Hughes Private Secretary	15 – 19 September
Guto Harri Director of Communications	20- 26 August, 15 – 19 September
Sara Cadisch Adviser	10-26 August
Dan Ritterband Director of Marketing	10-16 August

Lan Feng Senior International Relations Officer	5 – 12 August, 15 – 19 September
Peter Lewis Business Manager Olympics Sport & Regeneration	4 – 15 August
Daniel Hawthorn (OTG)	11 – 22 August
David Morris Senior Policy Adviser Disability & Deaf Issues	4 – 13 September
Ursula Hoermannsdorfer Assistant	4 – 13 September
Assistant	4 – 13 September

Deputy Mayor Ian Clement officially represented me at the opening ceremony and attended a number of additional events whilst in Beijing focussed around meeting key business people and potential sponsors for the London 2012 Olympics.

Guto Harri accompanied me to provide support in terms of handling the media whilst in China.

Neale Coleman has worked on London's Olympic plans since the start and both advised me on issues related to London's Games, as well as learning from the experiences of Beijing to help ensure that London's plans are as fully informed.

There are few experiences comparable to the Olympics and therefore this was the last chance London had to learn from an actual fully functioning summer games before the city hosts the 2012 games. The people who attended the Official Observer Programme were able to directly feed their learning into the planning and delivery of the London 2012 Games so helping to make it is as successful as possible – both in terms of the infrastructure provision and the 'experience' of athletes and spectators.

Officers from the International Relations team provided support to my delegation in terms of logistics, protocol, and information briefings as required.

As part of the Official Olympic Observer Programme David Morris is attending the Paralympic Games to take learnings that will be utilised in ensuring that the London 2012 Olympic Games meets all equalities requirements.

Beijing 2008 Medal winners heroes parade

On 18 August I announced that in conjunction with the British Olympic Association and the British Paralympic Association that medal winners returning from the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games will be given a heroes parade through the streets of London on Thursday 16 October 2008 to reflect the excitement and pride of the country in our athletes' superb

victories, we've set a date in the diary now when we can cheer all our heroes and honour their extraordinary feats at this summer's Games.

London House

On 7 August 'London House', the city's trade and shop window to China and other eastern markets, opened for business for the duration of the Beijing Games. The trade facility provides the London Development Agency its partners, private businesses and the British Government with a venue from which to promote the capital as a place to visit, study and do business.

Ian Clement, Deputy Mayor for Government Relations, represented me at the opening of the London House in Beijing.

Think London, Think Creativity

On 22 August leading figures from creative industry companies around the world participated in a roundtable and panel discussion at London House organised by Think London, the foreign direct investment agency for London. The 'Creative Industries and London 2012' discussion provided a forum for Chinese companies from the creative industries sector to debate and question the experts about the potential business opportunities that London and the run up to 2012 will offer.

Launch of the Road to London

On 25 August Think London started a major initiative for London which will encourage Chinese businesses to invest in London before the next Olympics starts. Following the closing ceremony of the Games a launch event was held at the Red Sandalwood Museum in Beijing which saw a branded London taxi setting off for a three-month tour of 12 Chinese cities, taking the message to companies, that London is open for business and the ideal location for Chinese companies wishing to globalise. The taxi carries classic a personal message from me that we want Chinese businesses looking to expand overseas to call us in London first to see what magnificent opportunities our capital offers, both as a great place to operate and access western markets, as well as a great place for overseas staff to live.

Deloitte will be sponsoring the Road to London and Think London's primary partner is the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

The tour will also be supported by Ministry of Commerce, All China Federation of Industry and Commerce, China International Promotion Agency, China Netcom, Bank of China and UK Trade and Investment.

Open invite to big sporting events in London

During my visit I also unveiled plans to develop London as the number one sporting destination for nation and international sporting occasions by giving my full support and backing to Events for London, the organisation that will lead on attracting, growing and developing major sporting and cultural events in London.

London has already made its mark as a top destination for international sporting events following the hugely successful hosting of the Grand Départ of the Tour de France,

which attracted over two million spectators, and the first ever National Football League regular season game to be held outside the Americas.

With preparation for the 2012 Games in full swing and the offer of the most diverse and interesting cultural attractions in the world, London is already making the shortlist as a key destination for event organisers.

Events for London, the recently created partnership between the Mayor of London, Visit London, and the London Development Agency, will help event organisers and sponsors to maximise the impact, audience and benefits of holding major sporting and cultural events in London.

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

'Wow' factor sought for London 2012's legacy

On 21 August, whilst in Beijing, I called on businesses and organisations from around the world to submit truly groundbreaking ideas to contribute to making the Olympic Park a spectacular success once London's Games are over.

As Chairman of the Olympic Park Regeneration Steering Group, I launched 'London Calling' – a prospectus setting out the ambitions for the Olympic Park after the Games and challenging global investors to submit exceptional ideas for its development.

Entrepreneurs, innovators and investors should go to www.2012londoncalling.co.uk to submit their ideas. All entries will be evaluated by a panel including my advisors, local government leaders and private sector entrepreneurs. Those who submit the best ideas will be engaged by the London Development Agency to work up their plans for incorporation into the emerging legacy masterplan.

Full venues at London Games

During my trip to Beijing I witnessed some fantastic sport but noticed a significant number of empty seats, which is something I want to avoid in London in 2012, as it is such a waste. The chance to watch the world's greatest athletes performing at their very best is a real privilege and they have a right to expect a capacity crowd. Therefore, I am determined that Londoners, who are paying extra for these games, have their fair opportunity to witness the action. I am particularly keen to ensure our school kids experience this spectacle.

We will be working on a whole range of ideas to achieve this. I want to see us emulate the scheme that was so successful in Sydney where thousands of young people were invited into the Olympic Park and then given the chance wherever possible to see events where there were empty seats.

I also want to see corporate sponsors ensure their tickets are used and any unwanted tickets are passed on for others to use using the same system that works well each year at Wimbledon. And we will want to see ticketing systems that mean corporate sponsors have to provide assurance their tickets will be used or else reallocated.

Funding agreement setting out terms of grant from the Greater London Authority to the Olympic Delivery Authority

I approved and signed a funding agreement setting out the terms of grant from the Greater London Authority to the Olympic Delivery Authority for 2008-09, to part-fund the Olympic Delivery Authority's investment in regeneration, infrastructure and facilities required for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Legacy Masterplan Framework

Throughout the summer the London Development Agency have been consulting residents of East London and across London about their thoughts and priorities for the Olympic Park after the Games. A team of world-renowned masterplanners and architects are working with the local boroughs and local people to help us craft and create a sustainable and high-quality new quarter for London.

Government Liaison

Meeting with Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State

On 3 July I met with Jack Straw MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, to discuss the future use of the Beam's Reach site. We also briefly discussed the issue of tracking young people through the criminal justice system.

Meeting with Secretary of State for Transport

On 9 July I met with Ruth Kelly MP, Secretary of State for Transport. We had a useful discussion covering a range of issues, including London Underground, Crossrail, Heathrow expansion, Phase 2 of the East London Line extension, Oyster and national rail, Thames Gateway Bridge, and concessionary fares for young people.

Meeting with Home Secretary

Along with Deputy Mayor, Kit Malthouse, On 10 July I met with Jacqui Smith MP, Home Secretary. Our discussion focused on tackling knife crime and gangs in the capital.

Meeting with the Minister for the Olympics and London

On 17 July I met with Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for the Olympics and London to discuss various Olympics-related matters.

Local Government Relations

London Government leaders reception

On 8 July I hosted the London Government leaders reception in the London Living Room to which key players from across London government and the public service sector were invited.

London Councils' Annual Summit

On 12 July I attended London Councils' Annual Summit. The theme for this year's conference was about engaging with local people and the nature of community leadership, including encouraging a more diverse range of people to stand as Councillors in the 2010 local elections. Speaking in front of hundreds of council leaders and senior staff at the London Councils Summit, I vowed to continue my work to make London a more civilized city for everyone to live and highlighted how small changes can make a big difference to the quality of life for millions of Londoners.

Exhibition Road

On 17 July I met with Councillor Merrick Cockell, Leader of Kensington & Chelsea; Councillor Daniel Moylan, Deputy Leader of Kensington & Chelsea; David Prout, Executive Director of Planning and Borough Development; Graeme Swinburne, Director of Transportation and Highways; Sir Jeremy Dixon, Architect/ Director, Dixon Jones; Sarah Rubinstein, Architect, Dixon Jones; Rita Gardner, Director, Royal Geographical Society and Sharon Ament Chair, Exhibition Road Cultural Group/ Director of Public Engagement from the Natural History Museum. The group gave a detailed presentation on their plans for Exhibition Road and we are now looking at how the Greater London Authority Group and others may be able to assist in progressing this project. Kensington and Chelsea also gave a commitment to finding space for the Velib scheme within the borough.

Meeting with Leader of the London Borough of Wandsworth

On 18 July I met with Councillor Eddie Lister, Leader of the London Borough of Wandsworth and discussed issues of concern to the borough and the 2M group. As a result of our discussions, my Deputy Mayor for Government Relations, Ian Clement, will meet with Wandsworth and Transport for London to see if enforcement issues on red routes can be resolved.

Meeting with Leader of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

On 31 July I met with Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, Leader of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. Cllr Greenghalgh presented a comprehensive picture of the challenges Hammersmith & Fulham faces but also the opportunities for regeneration and development.

Children and Young People

London Youth Offer

I have approved the development and publication of marketing materials and opportunities to promote the London Youth Offer, jointly delivered by the Greater London Authority's Children and Young People's Unit and the London Development Agency and the receipt and use of a London Development Agency financial contribution of £20k to the Greater London Authority Marketing Unit in this regard.

I have agreed the production of a Pan-London Practice Observation Programme with potential 'Charter Mark' and associated resource toolkit and a contribution from the Children and Young Peoples Unit's of £25k from 08/09 programme budget to develop a pan-London approach to observing practice in young people's services. It will aim to increase standards across the board and assist with both workforce development and evaluation of Greater

London Authority/London Development Agency funded youth programmes. It will also seek to draw from existing 'kite' and charter marks specifically using a qualitative approach to improving services.

I approved the engagement of the Mayor's Office Peer Outreach Team to inform the delivery and promote the messages of the London Youth Offer and the receipt and use of a London Development Agency financial contribution of £5k in this regard.

I have also approved the Children and Young Peoples Unit's contribution of £30k from 08/09 programme budget to deliver a Mayor's Office Awards initiative and contribute to a London-wide campaign in partnership with key stakeholders to celebrate young people's achievement and improve and increase positive images of young people in the media.

Young Londoners' Fund

The second stage of the Young Londoners' Fund has just been completed. In total 57 out of the 402 expressions of interest were invited to submit a full application and some extremely interesting and innovative projects have been put forward. The full applications will now be subject to assessment by moderators, young people and eventually the Fund programme board, and I expect between 15 to 20 projects to be funded. Final decisions will be being made in early October and I would anticipate most projects up and running by early 2009.

London Youth Offer Conference

I have given my approval for the Greater London Authority's hosting of a London Youth Offer Conference in November 2008, and the receipt and use of a financial contribution from the London Development Agency of £25k to the Children and Young People's Unit in this regard. I will be hosting my first youth Conference at City Hall on 3 November. Its theme will be of "Young People – Responsibility, Aspiration and Opportunity". It is aimed at decision makers and practitioners working with children and young people across London. There will be the opportunity to showcase good practice, including on projects funded by the London Development Agency, and bring people together to work out solutions to the complex issues facing young people and communities.

A range of areas will be covered that are of particular importance to London including young people, conflict resolution and territorialism; young people culture and sport; making services less hard to reach; schools based prevention; youth involvement in decision making; and improving the employability of young people. The conference will also see the launch of the Reel Change film, made by Summer Uni with the involvement of over 100 young people over the summer. The film gives a snapshot of what young people in London are experiencing in their lives at the moment, which I hope will offer help to the Greater London Authority, the Metropolitan Police Service and all other agencies in our work with young Londoners.

Young Inspectors Project

My Peer Outreach Workers team of young people have presented their interim report to Government Office for London of 'The Young Inspectors' Pilot Project'. This project forms a key part of the ongoing challenge and opportunity to support improvements in children and young people's participation and engagement in borough decision-making.

Young London Matters commissioned our Peer Outreach Workers to review and inspect local authority Children and Young People's Plans, alongside local young people, and advise on

improvements to local engagement mechanisms. The London Boroughs of Haringey, Greenwich, Kingston Upon Thames, Waltham Forest, Hounslow and Lewisham participated in this pilot.

This was an exciting opportunity for young people to lead on this project in a key area of local authority work explore sustainable approaches to engaging the voices of children and young people in local decision-making that impacts on their lives.

The interim report findings and recommendations highlight both effective practice and areas for improvement, and offer a springboard for all London boroughs to enhance the experience and quality of young people's involvement in local participation and consultation activities.

Housing

First Steps Housing Programme scoping project

On 29 July I appointed Tribal Consulting to carry out a short scoping project on my new First Steps Housing programme. The consultants will work with the Greater London Authority and partners to review the existing low cost home ownership market, and the potential to develop new products and delivery models through First Steps. The project will cost £24,700 and is being funded by English Partnerships, at no cost to the Greater London Authority. The consultants are expected to report by early September.

Settled Homes Initiative

On 15 August I approved £11,300 funding for an expert review of the Settled Homes Initiative (SHI), fulfilling a commitment in the bidding prospectus for the Regional Housing Pot Targeted Funding Stream 2008-11. The 2006-08 London Regional Housing Pot funded six SHI projects (see MAF3043) that aimed to develop models that capitalised the funding of temporary accommodation in order to provide permanent social housing – so called temporary to permanent housing schemes. However, a range of issues has impacted on the delivery of these projects. In order to inform the evaluation of the current SHI bids in the 2008-11 Targeted Funding Stream, it is necessary to undertake an expert and objective assessment of the issues impacting on delivery in the previous round. The funding is within existing housing budgets and will be transferred to the London Development Agency which is leading the evaluation of bids for the 2008-11 Target Funding Stream.

£60 million to tackle empty homes

On 8 July I attended the launch of English Heritage's 'Heritage at Risk' register, which details listed buildings at risk of being lost through neglect. I used this opportunity to announce a £60 million rescue package to tackle the capital's empty homes problem to help deliver my manifesto commitment to reduce long-term empty homes to 1% of London's total housing stock.

The £60 million is part of the 2008-11 Regional Housing Pot, for which I am responsible for setting the strategic direction. The empty homes funding will focus on bringing long term abandoned properties, derelict buildings and listed buildings at risk back into residential use to provide much-needed affordable homes. In doing so it will benefit neighbourhoods by tackling properties that have become an eyesore and a magnet for anti-social behaviour.

An audit of London's dilapidated and abandoned buildings will also be commissioned to draw attention to the worst properties and encourage action to be taken against them.

Mayor's Fund

I have confirmed my agreement to support the establishment of the Mayor's Fund For London as a charitable company limited by guarantee. I have also given my agreement to act as the Fund's Patron and agreed for the application of GLA resources to establish the Fund during its initial set up period and for the Fund being housed at City Hall apying a nominal rent to the GLA.

Culture and events

London Freewheel

I have given approval for the Greater London Authority to organise and deliver a London Freewheel event in London on 21 September, for up to 40,000 participants.

I approved allocating a total budget of £1m to the Event, which will be met by a £1m contribution from Transport for London and for the Greater London Authority to enter into sponsorship arrangements with suitable corporate sponsors for the Event and to undertake and manage the marketing and promotional aspects for the Event, including the design and construction of an Event website.

I also approved the award of a contract to Limelight Projects as the Event Management Company to produce this event following the conclusion of an OJEU procurement process which commenced earlier this year.

Greater London Authority Cultural Campaigns Programme Budget

I agreed to release the budget of £160,000 from the Greater London Authority Cultural Campaigns Programme Budget to deliver Open Rehearsal. Open Rehearsal is in its fourth year and is a pan London Cultural Initiative which showcases the work of London's cultural and creative industries and offers the public a unique behind-the-scenes insight into the creative process and the development of creative work.

This budget has been drawn from £20,000 core Greater London Authority budget for cultural campaigns and £140,000 of LDA funding from the Events for London Budget.

Sixth London Mela

My office supported London Mela 2008, one of Europe's largest outdoor Asian festivals, which took place at Gunnersbury Park, London W3 on Sunday 10 August and my Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes attended the event on my behalf. It attracted up to 65,000 people to an exciting family friendly programme featuring live music, outdoor theatre and visual arts. The event, produced by Ealing Council in partnership with Hounslow Council has been running for six years.

Highlights of this year's London Mela included a main stage line-up of British Asian music, Bhangra and Bollywood. Other stages featured classical and contemporary artists from

different Asian communities, spectacular aerial performance and Muslim devotional music. The event grows from strength to strength and has built a strong reputation with its broad based programme celebrating Asian arts, culture and creativity.

Older People's Assembly

On 7 July I spoke at the sixth London Older People's Assembly, 'Positive Ageing and the City: health and social care for Older Londoners', organised by the London Older People's Strategies Group. Attended by over 200 older Londoners from across the capital, the event offered the opportunity to debate topics such as keeping active and healthy, social care eligibility, funding, and the importance of lifelong neighbourhoods. The report from the day will feed into the next draft of my Health Inequalities Strategy. At the event, an attendee raised the issue of public toilets and I agreed to support Help the Aged's public toilet campaign. I am currently looking at how work can be taken forward to promote the need for more public toilets.

James Oyebola's portrait in City Hall

On 27 July I unveiled a portrait of the boxer James Oyebola at City Hall, a year to the day after he was shot and killed in Fulham night club after telling patrons to stop smoking on the premises. The *Big Issue* founder, John Bird, Kelly Oyebola (James' brother) and artist, Danny Keen, joined forces to produce a work of art that would serve to inspire young people to achieve great things. The painting was hung on the Lower Ground Floor of City Hall for a week, before being transferred to its permanent location in the Greater London Authority's library. Also present at the unveiling were Mr Oyebola's family and friends, as well as members of the public and the media.

UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

On 23 August 2003 I issued a statement in recognition of UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. The UNESCO day is an opportunity to make links between past and present forms of slavery in the ongoing struggle to eliminate all forms of global discrimination and inequality.

The Greater London Authority is also supporting the work of Memorial 2007, London-based charitable company, which is working to erect a permanent memorial in London's Hyde Park to the Africans affected by the Transatlantic Slave Trade. A maquette of the chosen design is currently on display at City Hall.

Black History Month 2008

I gave approval to enter into contracts with organisations and individuals to deliver a series of events and initiatives as part of the Mayor of London's Black History Month 2008 programme, for the total overall programme costs of £132,000.

The tendering and award of each contract will comply with the Authority's Contracts Code.

I approved the allocation of £57,000 from the 2008/09 Culture Initiatives budget towards the overall programme costs and approved receiving £75,000 in funding from the London Development Agency as contribution to the total overall programme costs.

London Notting Hill Carnival

Notting Hill Carnival, one of Europe's largest masquerades, took place over the bank-holiday weekend in 23-25 August. The theme for this year's carnival was 'Welcoming the World', harmonising with the Olympic Handover and emphasising the multicultural nature of London and visitors to London.

The event attracted close to 1,000,000 people and has done so for a number of years. This year, there was a giant screen near Ladbroke Grove, which broadcast the handover events in Beijing and London. The safe and secure operation of this internationally renowned event is paramount, and therefore funding was directed to support Carnival's stewarding operation. In addition, this year Police patrolling Notting Hill carnival deployed a range of measures in a bid to discourage knife crime which had my full support. Stations near the carnival route were fitted with mobile metal detection arches, while at least 600 British Transport Police officers patroled trains and stations using drug detection dogs and handheld metal detectors.

As part of the weekend activities, 'Carnival in the Park/Panorama' was held on Saturday 23 in Hyde Park. This event helped widen the very concentrated 'footprint' of Carnival, in an effort to facilitate more effective crowd management and safety, and provide an alternative Carnival attraction in a more secure family oriented park setting. The many visitors who came to London over the 'Carnival weekend' experience elements of the activities that took place during the Carnival parade, which are showcased at this event.

Sunday 24 was the Carnival's Children's Day, with a shorter Carnival route reserved for families with children and young people, and where spectators could view the participation of young people in Carnival. Monday 25 was a much bigger and busier event, which saw Notting Hill filled with the sights, sounds and tastes of the Caribbean, with colourful and ingenious costumes, carnival floats, and the ubiquitous Steel bands, static and mobile Sound Systems.

I approved the provision of funding of up to £150k to London Notting Hill Carnival Limited (LNHCL) as a contribution towards its costs of producing and organising Carnival in the Park on 23 August, as part of wider carnival-related activities in Hyde Park over the 2008 Notting Hill Carnival bank holiday weekend.

Simcha In The Square

I gave approval to procure and award contract to a production company to produce and manage Simcha In The Square cultural event on Trafalgar Square on Sunday 14 September 2008 on behalf of the Greater London Authority and event organizers the Jewish Music Institute (JMI); and granted £2,000 funding to JMI to meet a proportion of its costs in staging the event; and approved receiving and using £50,000 funding from the London Development Agency for the above.

Pride

I supported the annual Pride London celebrations on Saturday 5 July, and headed up the parade on foot as it made its way from Oxford Street to Trafalgar Square. Pride London is the most important event in the UK celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) rights.

I was unable to attend the Trafalgar Square element of the event, but my Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes AM attended as my representative and spoke from the main stage, reaffirming my commitment to a pan-London anti-homophobic bullying

project, tackling homophobic violence and supporting Pride London's bid for World Pride in 2012. Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes then visited many of the LGBT community stalls in Trafalgar Square. The event had a programme of live music, entertainment and speeches from a range of prominent LGBT organisations and groups.

Rise Festival

On Sunday 13 July, we staged the Rise Festival in Finsbury Park and my Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, and my Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Industries Policy, Munira Mirza, attended the Festival on my behalf. The tagline of Rise was changed this year, with an emphasis on celebrating what unites the diverse communities of London, not a negative event highlighting differences and focusing on grievances. Certain political aspects of the event were changed or removed, and there was a new focus on increasing the range of community grass roots organisations invited to be involved.

These changes were explained to the unions, who have historically been linked to the event, but unfortunately they withdrew their support. This was very disappointing, however, I am eager that this does not become a barrier to future collaboration between the Greater London Authority and the unions as we recognise the important role they play in the lives of Londoners.

The success of the Rise Festival was seen in the highest attendances at the festival to date. Over 100,000 people come together in a celebration of what unites the diverse communities of London – and celebrated the multicultural and diverse fabric of the city.

Carnaval Del Pueblo

I supported Carnaval del Pueblo, held in Burgess Park on Sunday 3 August.

The event has been held for over 11 years and developed into the largest event for the Latin American community in London. It consisted of a parade and carnival in Southwark and even with inclement weather attracted an audience of over 80,000 people from a wide cross-section of the Latin American community.

Holodomor Remembrance Day

My Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes hosted, on my behalf, a Remembrance Day event on 4 July to mark the 75th Anniversary of the 'Holodomor', a systematic mass famine which starved to death millions of Ukrainians, who were then part of the USSR. Richard received the torch of remembrance from His Excellency Ihor Kharchencko, Ukrainian Ambassador.

World Capital of Sport

French magazine Le Figaro awarded London the distinction of the world capital of sport and whilst in Beijing and wanting to build on the momentum behind the London Games in 2012 to sustain the capital as a major sporting venue, I promised to do everything I could to stage the 2015 Rugby World Cup in London.

Slavery memorial Statue

On 18 August I gave my support to a campaign to erect a permanent slavery memorial statue in Hyde Park. Memorial 2007 want to erect a memorial in London's Hyde Park to

commemorate the millions of enslaved Africans whose lives were sacrificed during the transatlantic slave trade. The sculptor Les Johnson has been chosen to create the statue and a maquette of the chosen design will be exhibited at City Hall from 18 August–1 December to mark International Slavery Memorial Day on 23 August.

Trafalgar and Parliament Squares

Trafalgar Square Festival

The Trafalgar Square Festival, a free outdoor Street Arts festival held between 7-24 August, was organised by my Events for London team and delivery realised through the Squares Management Team. The festival has been held for four years, and this year attracted in excess of 100,000 people over the 3-week period.

Featuring brand new commissions from the UK and overseas, the festival contained colourful and unusual outdoor performance designed to make the fullest possible use of Trafalgar Square, showcasing the diversity of performance and culture found in London, the UK and around the world. The 2008 programme featured innovative international work performed in the UK for the first time and inspired by China, Olympic and Sporting achievement and Images of London.

For the duration of the festival, I gave my approval for the provision of a screen for the Trafalgar Square Festival to show live coverage from the Olympic Games between 7-24 August, which captured the excitement of the Olympic Games and celebrated the relationship between sport and culture. A giant screen was installed at the foot of Nelson's Column, which broadcast coverage of the Beijing Games, each day from 8am-9pm, starting with the opening ceremony on Friday 8 August.

I approved receipt and use of £100,000 from secured London Development Agency funds to cover the direct and associated costs of placing a high quality screen on Trafalgar Square for the duration of the Festival to be used to show highlights from the Beijing Olympics and for use by performers from the Festival programme.

In addition I agreed the delegation to the Sponsoring Director of authority to approve and sign Sponsorship agreements on behalf of the Greater London Authority in respect of sponsorship income secured.

I also gave approval for an allocation of up to £68,000 from Greater London Authority funds towards the cost of the screen in the event that this cannot be raised from LOCOG and other sponsors/donors.

Makeover of Trafalgar Square’s listed fountains

On 28 July I announced plans to give the landmark fountains in Trafalgar Square a professional makeover, to enhance the world famous attraction in time for the Olympics, and which includes the installation of an innovative 'green' energy lighting system.

Trafalgar Square is one of London's most famous destinations attracting 13 million people every year. Its two fountains, first installed in 1845, including bronze statues of mermaids, a merman, dolphins and tritons, will be cleaned and where necessary repaired, by an expert

restoration team. This will help preserve and protect the monument for the enjoyment of future generations.

The lights that currently illuminate the fountains are now beyond repair and will be replaced with a LED lighting system. This will cut the carbon footprint of the fountain lighting by an estimated 90 per cent saving 16,400 kg of carbon every year, as well as saving thousands of pounds on energy bills. The new lighting system will also provide permanent coloured lighting effects for the first time.

The Squares Management Team will manage this project and work closely with the Sponsorship Team to secure a sponsor for the works.

Proposal to part pedestrianise Parliament Square is halted

On 6 August I announced that proposals for a £18million scheme to part-pedestrianise Parliament Square will not proceed, due to serious concerns about increased traffic congestion, loss of green space, and cost.

Over the coming months and years, essential projects such as the redevelopments at Victoria station and Elephant and Castle, and the work associated with Crossrail, will add pressure to the road network. I felt adding further pressure through the Parliament Square scheme could cause serious traffic problems in the event of a major incident or unplanned works, and compound the problem of congestion, which Transport for London have just revealed has now returned to pre-charging levels.

I also felt strongly that the proposal to pave over much of the Square would mean the unacceptable loss of green space in central London.

I requested revisions to the scheme that could address the issues of congestion and the loss of green space. Having considered detailed plans and revisions, I remained unconvinced and was further concerned that the £18 million proposals were not fully funded. For these reasons, it was felt the scheme could not be progressed.

We will now look at other, more imaginative ways of improving the square, without affecting traffic flow.

Skills

Launch of the Skills and Employment Strategy, London's Future

On 17 July I launched the capital's first Skills and Employment Strategy, London's Future. The Strategy, developed by the London Skills and Employment Board, sets out the blueprint for the changes that are needed to improve job and skills opportunities for Londoners and the capital's employers over the next five years.

London's Future is a key tool in reaching out to those Londoners who have been failed by our education system. It represents a 'second chance' for many to garner the skills necessary to get them into employment and will help prevent those on the margins of London society from gravitating towards crime.

The link between unemployment and crime is clear and that is why a major part of London's Future focuses on giving those who have been failed by our education system a second chance to get back into work and away from a life of crime. There is money and political will out there and I want to harness both, to reform the skills system so that Londoners are made aware of the opportunities that are available and get that vital chance to share in the capital's success.

GLA Organisation

Infrastructure Works on City Hall

I have agreed the proposed capital infrastructure works on City Hall 2008/9 and noted the capital works on City Hall Infrastructure that has slipped from 2007/08.

IT asset disposal partner

I have approved a procurement to select an IT asset disposal partner for a period of three years with the option of a 1 year extension and approved the award of the above contract to a supplier offering the best value and most economically advantageous tender.

Greater London Authority's transition arrangements

I approved an award of a contract for interim change management and related high-level HR services to J. Saint Consulting Ltd in the period from June to December 2008 (with a maximum total value of £78,000).

I approved extension of the Greater London Authority's current contract with Veredus for the supply of a specialist consultant as Assistant Director of Transition in the period May to September 2008 (payable at a rate of £780 per day plus reasonable expenses up to an aggregated maximum of £90,000).

I agreed an award of a contract for services pursuant to a review of the Greater London Authority's functions to a specialist consultant in the period May to July 2008 (with a maximum value of £25,000); and

I approved related exemptions from the requirements of the Greater London Authority's Contracts Code of Practice in this regard.

Final Report from the Forensic Audit Panel

I made a manifesto commitment to launch an immediate review of City Hall finances and report initial findings within the first 100 days. One week after I was elected I announced the formation of a Forensic Audit Panel.

On 15 July I welcomed the publication of the final report which recommends potential efficiency savings with the Greater London Authority of £7.7 million or approximately 10 to 15% of the overall budget.

Framework of Consultation

I have agreed to admit 13 named service providers to the GLA Framework of Consultation and Market Research Services within the following Lots: Annual London Survey, Periodic Telephone Polls, Ad-hoc Telephone Polls, Internet Surveys, Face-to-Face surveys, Questionnaire Analysis and Qualitative Research. This will replace with immediate effect the existing Framework for which the Agreement is due to expire in September 2008.

I have also agreed to hold a mini-competition amongst the short listed suppliers for Lot 1 and award a contract to one supplier to conduct an annual London-wide survey for the duration of the framework.

I have also given approval to delegate authority to the Director of Marketing for the award of contracts called off under the framework, which are in excess of £50,000.

IT Equipment and Facilities

I approved the commencement of a joint EU compliant tender with TfL to purchase mobile telephony, mobile data and BlackBerry services associated hardware and accessories.
I approved to extend the Greater London Authority's current photocopier contract with Annodata Limited due to expire in January 2009 for a period of 6 months.

I approved the commencement of a mini competition exercise using accessible public sector framework agreements for the supply and maintenance of MFD/photocopier equipment for City Hall.

I approved the commencement of an EU compliant tender to purchase Security Guarding framework services for the ad-hoc supply of SIA licensed security officers to supplement the in-house team at City Hall and for certain external events.

I gave approval to extend and vary the FM contract for catering and hospitality with Jill Bartlett for a further one year in line with the provisions set out for contract extension in the original contract and to revise the mechanism for setting annual declared annual profits.

I also gave approval to extend the existing Porterage contract with OCS by a further two years in accordance with the original contract terms and to negotiate revised rates for years four and five.

Occupational Health Services

I approved the Greater London Authority's delegation to Transport for London, pursuant to section 401A of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, of its functions relating to the provision of occupational health services to Greater London Authority staff. The arrangement would be for an initial term of three years and would continue thereafter from year-to-year or until terminated in accordance with the terms of the delegation agreement.

I approved the Greater London Authority agreeing with Transport for London such arrangements as may be required within the delegation arrangements for meeting the costs arising from the Transport for London implementing the delegation arrangements.

I agreed to delegate to the Director of Corporate Services acting in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (without a requirement for a further Director's Decision Form) authority to approve the final terms of the delegation agreement

including the terms upon which the Greater London Authority and Transport for London will share costs, provide insurance and indemnity and termination arrangements.

I agreed to delegate to the Director of Corporate Services authority to execute on behalf of the Greater London Authority the form of delegation agreement agreed by the Greater London Authority and Transport for London.

Appointments

Sir Simon Milton, Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning

On 14 July I announced my intention to appoint Sir Simon Milton as Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning.

Anthony Browne, Policy Director

On 21 July I appointed Anthony Browne as Policy Director.

Transport for London Board

On 14 August I made further appointments to the Transport for London board. Seven previous board members have been reappointed. They are Christopher Garnett, Tony West, Eva Lindholm, Mike Hodgkinson, Patrick O'Keeffe, Judith Hunt and Peter Anderson. Christopher Garnett has been nominated by me to be the Deputy Chairman of the Board subject to the confirmation hearing process of the London Assembly. The six new members of the board are Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, Bob Oddy, Steve Wright, Keith Williams, Charles Belcher and Daniel Moylan.

Mayoral Advisor, Olympics

I confirmed my decision to establish with effect from 1 May 2008 the following posts under S67 (1) (b) of the GLA Act 1999, for an interim period up to 1 September 2008.

- Mayoral Advisor, Olympics

Director of Marketing

I confirmed my decision to establish with effect from 1 July 2008 the following post under S67 (1) (b) Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended) ("the GLA Act 1999").

- Director of Marketing, Mayor's Office

On 1 July I wrote to Jennette Arnold informing the Assembly of the reappointment of Neale Coleman as Mayoral Adviser on the Olympics and the appointment of Dan Ritterband as Director of Marketing.

London Sustainable Development Commission

I have approved the appointment of Paul de Zylva, Coordinator Friends of the Earth England, as interim Chair of the London Sustainable Development Commission.

London Waste Recycling Board

On 11 August, I appointed Peter Jones to be my independent member on the London Waste and Recycling Board, and approved the terms and conditions of appointment of all board members and their remuneration.

On 15 August London Councils and myself announced the team who will sit on London's new Waste and Recycling Board and spearhead the fight to drive up recycling in the capital. Boosting London's recycling rate and sending less waste to landfill is a top priority for my administration.

The London Waste and Recycling Board was set up as a way to bring together everyone involved in managing the capital's waste to boost recycling and reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. I announced in May that I would Chair the Board, which will have a budget of £60million and I have also pledged up to £24million of additional London Development Agency funds to support the work of the Board.

London Councils has appointed the remaining six members, four borough representatives and two independent representatives, Councillor David Williams, Councillor Daniel Moylan, Councillor Clyde Loakes, Councillor Colin Hall. Peter Calliafas and Valerie Owen OBE are the two independent representatives.

London Development Agency Board

I have announced my appointments to the London Development Agency Board and confirmed my intention that Harvey McGrath is to remain as Chair, subject to the confirmation hearing process of the London Assembly. The twelve members of the Board, including the four statutory elected members, officially took up their roles on Friday 1 August 2008, for a term of four years.

The full London Development Agency Board is as follows:

Harvey McGrath, Steven Norris, Susan Angoy, Ian Barlow, Fran Beckett, Megan Dobney, Ann Humphries, Edmund Lazarus, James Cleverly AM, Cllr Peter Truesdale, Cllr Mike Freer, Jeremy Mayhew.

London Food Board

On 5 August I appointed Rosie Boycott as Chair of the London Food Board to help improve Londoners' access to healthy, locally produced and affordable food.

Rosie's appointment as Chair of London Food will start on 13 September 2008. London Food is co-ordinated by the London Development Agency.

London Plan

On 9 July I published the report 'Planning for a Better London' having given approval for its printing and publication.

The report sets out how I intend to improve the quality of life for Londoners through the capital's planning system and specifically through revising the London Plan, the city's statutory strategic planning document.

The report outlines how I will be changing London's strategic planning policies and describes how I want to build stronger partnerships with local communities, London Boroughs and those developing in the capital. There will be less emphasis on detailed targets and more emphasis on collaboration and consensus around priorities that are agreed between myself, boroughs and others involved in planning for London. It supports stronger policies to ensure new developments are better designed to cut down on crime and anti-social behaviour and sets out how the London Plan needs to press for real progress in reducing London's carbon footprint, concentrating on achieving clear carbon reduction outcomes, rather than being overly prescriptive about use of particular technologies.

This new approach will not sacrifice London's crucial need to grow to accommodate a rising population and an expanding economy, and to do so whilst protecting London's Green Belt and open spaces from development. Key changes proposed include abolishing the 50 per cent London-wide affordable housing target, but committing to a programme of securing 50,000 new affordable homes over the next three years. Instead of a London wide 50 per cent target, the new approach will involve agreeing individual affordable housing targets with London boroughs.

I will also introduce additional protection for London's historic heritage and, in particular, its World Heritage Sites. While I support new tall buildings in appropriate locations, elsewhere it may be appropriate for more weight to be given to local context.

The document invites comments on the issues it covers and the proposals it outlines by 10 November 2008.

Re-development of Ward's Corner

On 22 July I appealed to Haringey Council to stop the proposed demolition of the celebrated Pueblito Paisa market in Seven Sisters. This much-loved market is vitally important to the Latin American community and home to many local traders.

The proposed re-development of Ward's Corner would pull down the market and only offer space to a handful of people, which is unacceptable. I want the Council to urgently review this proposal and put the livelihood of the traders and the thousands of locals who rely on this market at the core of their decision.

New community school in Holland Park

On 25 July I approved a proposal to replace the existing Holland Park Community School with a brand new facility which will provide an extra 100 school places, increasing the overall capacity to 1500 pupils including 300 sixth formers.

The proposal will also deliver 20 per cent more outdoor space and sports pitches, improved informal outdoor space, and an Olympic-size indoor swimming pool and gymnasium, all of which will now be available for use by the local community outside school hours.

Whilst some new residential development will be allowed on the existing site to fund the school's redevelopment the developer has agreed to build over 83 affordable housing units off site equating to 50 per cent of all new housing being delivered as part of the scheme.

Planning and Development Control

On the 3 September 2008 I will take back my planning role, currently delegated to the Deputy Mayor for Government Relations, and I will start to make decisions at my regular planning meetings. All my decisions will be made available on the website.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Holland Park School, RB Kensington and Chelsea
I have written to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

The Deputy Mayor, Government Relations, under powers I delegated to him, has sent letters in response to the following statutory referrals:

Rowley Lane Sports Association, LB Barnet
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Barnet stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Land at Warren Lane, LB Greenwich
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Greenwich stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Harrow College, Lowlands Road, LB Harrow
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Harrow stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Hackney Marshes Playing Fields, LB Hackney
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Hackney stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Terminal 5 Hotel, Heathrow Airport, LB Hillingdon
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Tavern Quay Business Centre, LB Southwark
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Southwark stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

61-63 Great Suffolk Street, LB Southwark
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Southwark stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Car park at southeast junction of Prestons Road & Yabsley Street, LB Tower Hamlets
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Grand Union, Ladbroke Grove, RB Kensington and Chelsea

Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

56 Bloemfontein Road, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Aldgate Bus Station, Corporation of London
Ian Clement has written to the City of London stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

former Bishop Challoner School, LB Tower Hamlets
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Crossharbour, London Arena Site, Phase II, LB Tower Hamlets
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

former Parcelforce Site, Edgware Road, LB Barnet
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Barnet stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Langley Park School for Boys, LB Bromley
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Bromley stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Tesco Site, Yiewsley, LB Hillingdon
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Lords Cricket Ground, City of Westminster
Ian Clement has written to the Westminster City Council stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Land at the corner of Lavington Street and Great Suffolk Street, LB Southwark
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Southwark stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Former EMI site, Blythe Road, Hayes, LB Hillingdon
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

UEL Barking Campus, LB Barking & Dagenham
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Haggerston West and Kingsland Estates, LB Hackney
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Hackney stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Mogden Sewage Treatment Works, LB Hounslow

Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Hounslow stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Kender Triangle NDC, LB Lewisham
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Lewisham stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

25 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, LB Tower Hamlets
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Planning Decisions (withdrawal of directions to refuse)

Croydon Vocational College, LB Croydon
Ian Clement has written to the London Borough of Croydon withdrawing the direction to refuse on this application.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

The Deputy Mayor, Government Relations, under powers I delegated to him, has asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- St Paul's School, Barnes, LB Richmond
- 144-152 Bermondsey Street, LB Southwark
- Eltham Hill Technology College, LB Greenwich
- Land at the corner of Lavington and Great Suffolk Streets, LB Southwark
- 157 Waterloo Road, LB Lambeth
- Woodberry Down Estate, LB Hackney
- Bloemfontein Road, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Elizabeth House, LB Lambeth
- Orchard Hill Hospital, LB Sutton
- Bestway Cash and Carry, LB Barnet
- Riverside Sewage Treatment Works, LB Havering
- Surrey County Cricket Club - The Oval, LB Lambeth
- GE Lighting Site, LB Enfield
- The 02, Phase 2, LB Greenwich
- Turks Boatyard, RB Kingston
- Wards Corner, Seven Sisters, LB Haringey
- Scottish Widows Site, LB Hounslow
- St Andrews Hospital, LB Tower Hamlets
- Middleton Road Playing Fields, LB Merton
- Wood Wharf, LB Tower Hamlets
- Lord's Cricket Ground, City of Westminster
- The Hamptons, Green Lane, Worcester Park, LB Sutton
- Woolwich Site, Watling Street, LB Bexley
- Mooring in Millwall Cutting and South Dock, LB Tower Hamlets
- Cockpen House, LB Wandsworth
- 50 – 57 High Holborn (45 – 51 Bedford Row), LB Camden
- Land at Downtown Road, LB Southwark

- World of Golf, Sidcup By Pass, Chislehurst, LB Bromley
- 36-44 Lodge Road, City of Westminster
- BskyB, Harlequin Avenue, Brentford, LB Hounslow
- 51 College Road, Harrow, LB Harrow

Informal Planning Applications

London City Airport, LB Newham
I have written to London Borough of Newham and provided representations to this application.

Development Plans

The Deputy Mayor, Government Relations, under powers I delegated to him, has asked officers to send a letter giving a response to the following development plans:

- Harrow Council Core Strategy - *Preferred Options Consultation*, LB Harrow
- Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan – *Preferred Options Consultation, LB Barking and Dagenham*

Decisions made under delegation to Head of Planning Decisions

- Draft Transportation SPD, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- South eastern car park, central parade, LB Croydon
- Richmond College Planning Brief - *consultation draft*, LB Richmond
- Orpington Town Centre Masterplan – *consultation draft*, LB Bromley
- Paddington station and environs – *consultation draft*, City of Westminster
- Draft Housing Space Standards and Requirements - *consultation draft*, LB Croydon
- Site Allocations - Issues and Options consultation, LB Barking & Dagenham
- Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation, LB Waltham Forest
- Planning Obligations & Dwelling Conversions Interim Planning Policy SPD – *consultation drafts*, LB Waltham Forest
- Land bound by River Lea, City Mills River and the Greenway, contained within Planning Delivery Zone 3A, Submission of second stage reserved matters for the Olympic Stadium, ODA

Key Engagements

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

- I spoke at the National Liberal Club on 3 July
- I met with Senior Managers from Transport of London on 3 July
- I met with Jack Straw MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, on 3 July
- I met with the Aga Khan on 4 July
- I met with the Mayor of Istanbul on 4 July

- I launched the competition for the new Routemaster on 4 July
- I had dinner with Peter Hendy on 7 July
- I attended the Kings Cross Station Memorial Event on the Anniversary of the London Bombings on 7July
- I met with Lord Feldman on 7 July
- I met with Stephen Shakespeare on 7 July
- I attended the London Leaders Reception on 8 July
- I attended the launch of the "Heritage at Risk" register on 8 July
- I met with the Chinese Ambassador on 8 July
- I attended a Blunt 2 operation on 8 July
- I met with Senior Managers from Transport of London on 8 July
- I met with Harvey McGrath and Peter Rogers on 9 July
- I spoke at the London Festival of Architecture Reception on 9 July
- I visited Canary Wharf on 9 July
- I met with Ruth Kelly MP, Secretary of State for Transport on 9 July
- I spoke at the Board of Jewish Deputies Presidents Dinner on 10 July
- I attended the Bureau of Leaders on 10 July
- I met with Jacqui Smith MP, Home Secretary, on 10 July
- I had lunch with Eric Fellner, Head of Working Title Films & Adrian Wootton, Chief Executive of Film on 11 July
- I attended an event to promote National Marching Youth Music Week on 11 July
- I met with Patience Wheatcroft on 11 July
- I met with Jennette Arnold AM on 15 July
- I met with John Yates and Tim Goodwin on 15 July
- I met with Theresa May MP on 15 July
- I met with Senior Managers from Transport of London on 15 July
- I met with Andrew Boff AM on 16 July
- I attended the Centre for Social Justice Awards on 16 July
- I opened the Olympic Arts Schools Project at City Hall on 16 July
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 16 July
- I met with Lilly Allen on 16 July
- I attended the Olympic Board Meeting on 17 July
- I attended the launch of the London Skills & Employment Board Strategy on 17 July
- I attended the Think London Reception on 17 July
- I met with Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for the Olympics and London, on 17 July
- I met with the BBC on 18 July
- I met with John Biggs AM & the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Group on 18 July
- I met with John Spurling on 18 July
- I launched the "Summer of Cycling" on 21 July
- I met with David Higgins on 21July
- I met with Tony Arbour AM on 21July
- I attended the Olympic Funders Group on 21 July
- I attended the Conservative Assembly Members Summer Reception on 22 July
- I spoke at a Conservative Future Function on 22 July
- I met with Gareth Bacon AM on 22 July
- I went on a Putney River Trip with Richard Tracey AM on 22 July
- I attended a Crossrail Event on 23 July

- I met with Richard Rogers on 23 July
- I attended the opening of the Hadrian Exhibition at the British Museum on 23 July
- I met with Lord Coe on 23 July
- I met with Jenny Jones AM and Darren Johnson AM on 24 July
- I chaired the London Resilience Forum on 24 July
- I met with Senior Managers from Transport of London on 24 July
- I visited Holland Park School on 24 July
- I had lunch with Richard Lambert on 25 July
- I met with Cllr Lurline Champagnie on 25 July
- I met with Tessa Sanderson on 25 July
- I attended the Big Issue Event at City Hall on 28 July
- I met with Simon Hughes MP, Kate Hoey MP and the organisers of the Thames Festival on 28 July
- I met with Jonathan Evans, Director General Security Services on 28 July
- I visited Brixton Road Youth Centre on 29 July
- I met with Victoria Borwick AM on 29 July
- I met with Harvey McGrath & Peter Rogers on 29 July
- I met with David Ross on 29 July
- I met with the London Business Board on 29 July
- I met with Patrick Mercer MP on 29 July
- I chaired the TfL Board Meeting on 30 July
- I met with Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor of LA on 30 July
- I attended the Business Summit on 31 July
- I met with Sally Greene on 31 July
- I launched 30 British Transport Neighbourhood Policing Teams on 1 August
- I met with Jennette Arnold AM on 1 August
- I met with Brendan Barber on 1 August
- I met with the Centre for Social Justice on 1 August
- I met with the British Paralympic Association on 18 August
- I hosted a round table on serious youth violence on 18 August
- I met with Greater London Authority Unison reps on 19 August
- I met with Peter Hendy on 20 August
- I met with the Mayor of Beijing on 21 August
- I met with the President of BOCOG & the First Deputy Mayor of Beijing on 21 August
- I met with Sir Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham on 21 August
- I met with Chris Roberts, Leader of Greenwich on 21 August
- I attended the London 2012 & Beyond Reception on 21 August
- I visited the Olympic Village on 22 August
- I attended an Events for London Lunch on 22 August
- I attended the Think London Creative Industries Reception on 22 August
- I had dinner with the Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, David Ross, Paul Deighton & David Higgins on 22 August
- I attended the Think London lunch with the Bank of China on 23 August
- I attended the UKTI Celebration Event on 23 August
- I attended the Alex Hua Tian Event on 23 August
- I attended the Venture Capitalist breakfast on 24 August
- I attended the Beijing Olympic Closing ceremony on 24 August

- I attended the London House Handover Party on 24 August
- I had a tour of the Olympic Site with Lord Coe on 24 August
- I met with representatives from Geely & SLTI on 25 August
- I met with Geong CEO on 25 August

Ends