London Assembly
28 January 2009
Seventh Mayor's Report to the Assembly

This is my seventh report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 4 December 2008 to 14 January 2009.

Policing and Community Safety

More Police Officers for Outer London Trains

I delivered another key manifesto pledge on 6 January when I announced an additional 50 British Transport Police officers to patrol trains and stations in outer London.

I was joined by London's Transport Commissioner, Peter Hendy, and the British Transport Police (BTP) Chief Constable, Ian Johnston, to unveil the plans at Bromley South station in South London.

Transport for London (TfL) will be investing more than £6m during the next two years to fund the extra officers on non TfL services as part of the Mayor's commitment to clamp down on low-level crime and disorder at outer London rail stations.

The teams of officers, to be rolled out over the first few months of 2009, will provide visible reassurance, particularly after dark, as well as community engagement at more than 100 stations and routes in London's outer boroughs.

They will also work closely with the existing BTP neighbourhood policing teams on the London Underground and Overground services as well as the TfL funded Metropolitan Police Service Safer Transport Teams, Transport Operational Command Unit (TOCU) and local borough Safer Neighbourhood policing teams. The officers will work alongside the 30 new transport policing teams which will be rolled out across London by June 2009.

Anti-burglary Campaign

On 24 December, I praised the success of the Metropolitan Police's anti-burglary campaign, Operation Spotlight, which has led to 593 arrests and 1426 fewer offences compared to the same time last year.

Since Operation Spotlight was launched on 17 November the police have targeted known and wanted burglars across the capital through policing operations and have run an advertising campaign to remind Londoners of simple steps to make their home secure.

There has been a reduction of 1426 offences compared to the same period in 2007 and police have made 593 arrests, of which 250 have been charged with residential burglary and a further 200 charged with other criminal offences.

Safer Travel at Night

On 5 December, I launched the Safer Travel at night campaign for the Christmas period, which included:

- The Cab Enforcement Unit (which is part of the TfL-funded, Metropolitan Police's Transport Operational Command Unit) receiving more funding for officers to enable them to increase night-time operations in touting hotspots. The Unit targets illegal cab drivers on the streets and has made over 4,000 arrests for touting and cab-related offences since 2003. The City of London Police also stepped up enforcement activity against illegal cabs in the City.
- Representatives from TfL and the police hitting the streets to hand out 'safer travel at night' information in areas known to be illegal cab hotspots.
- The launch of a hard-hitting TV, radio and online advertising campaign designed to warn women of the dangers of illegal cabs. The ads also promoted Cabwise, TfL's text service, through which anyone in London can request the numbers of licensed cab companies in their area.
- TfL also continued to work with boroughs to provide late-night marshalled taxi ranks in areas that are particularly busy late at night. These include Bromley, Beckenham, Kingston and Romford in outer London, and Cranbourn Street (near Leicester Square) and Liverpool Street in central London.

The award-winning Safer Travel at Night campaign has been very successful to date, with cab-related sexual offences down 44 per cent since 2002*.

As the festive season went into full swing, I also advised commuters to be extra careful with their belongings when travelling through a series of new security posters, designed both to reassure passengers and minimise unnecessary delays on public transport.

* Metropolitan Police Service statistics

Transport

21st Century Routemaster

I was delighted to announce the winning designs of the "New bus for London" competition on 19 December.

The competition was set following a need to produce a new bus fit for the 21st Century and I was amazed by the scale of the responses we received, with ideas coming from all over the world, and in our joint winners, two stunning designs that help us to go forward and produce a truly iconic bus fit for 21st Century London.

The judges were so impressed with the ideas submitted in the 'whole bus' design category that a joint first prize was awarded to Capoco Design Ltd and a collaborative entry from Aston Martin and Foster + Partners. The two runners up prizes in the 'whole bus' design category were awarded to Jamie Martin, a 29 year old transport design graduate, and another collaborative entry from Héctor Serrano Studio, Miñarro García and Javier Esteban.

Like the rest of London, I will be waiting eagerly to see how these ideas evolve into the final design that will appear on our roads.

Over 700 entries were received from five different continents and the sheer scale of the response to this competition clearly shows how much it caught the imagination of Londoners and others worldwide. We now have a wealth of fantastic ideas to present to the bus manufacturers who will create the final design of the new bus for London, due to hit the streets in 2011.

The next step in delivering the new bus for London is to pass the winning design ideas on to bus manufacturers to develop into a final proposed design. Transport for London expects to award a contract to develop and build the first new bus for London towards the end of next year, after a competitive tendering process. The first of the new buses will be on the streets of London by 2011.

Bendy buses

On 5 December, I announced, in line with my key manifesto pledge to phase out bendy buses, that three bus routes – 38, 507 and 521 – will no longer use bendy buses when their contracts expire next year.

TfL has awarded new contracts to Go Ahead to operate routes 507 and 521 with 12 metre single deck buses from next summer, and to Arriva to operate route 38 with double deck buses from next autumn, when the current bendy bus contracts expire.

Stronger measures to deter fare evasion

From 11 January, a new £50 penalty for non-payment came into effect as I introduced strengthened measures to deter more people from failing to pay for their journey.

The increase in penalty fare is from £20 to £50 on Bus, Tube, Docklands Light Railway and London Overground and after a public consultation from £30 to £50 on Tramlink.

Fare evasion costs Londoners £70 million a year, which is cash that belongs to all Londoners and that should rightfully be part of the record amount TfL is spending on improving public transport. These changes to penalty fares will provide a far stronger deterrent to those individuals who would otherwise try to short-change their fellow passengers.

The early payment reduction to £25 and the more flexible payment methods introduced will encourage prompt payment. However, the simple way to avoid this penalty altogether is to make sure you pay the correct fare for your journey in the first place.

Motorcycles to use TfL bus lanes

On 5 January, I fulfilled a manifesto pledge by allowing motorcyclists to use the majority of bus lanes on the Capitol's red routes for a 18 month trial period. The impact of the trial on all road users will be monitored closely before a decision is made about whether it should become a permanent arrangement.

In January, localised maps will be available on the TfL website that detail exactly which TfL bus lanes across London are open to motorcyclists. The change will only apply to

TfL bus lanes that operate with the flow of traffic. Motorcyclists are advised to familiarise themselves with the bus lanes open to them as well as checking the signs before entering any bus lanes.

A Code of Practice for the safe use of bus lanes by motorcyclists has been put together by the motorcycle industry to mark the beginning of the trial. Both TfL and the Metropolitan Police have approved the code, a copy of which will be posted on Transport for London's website.

TfL will take formal representations about the trial during its first six months of operation. Any unauthorised entry to a bus lane could result in a Penalty Charge Notice of £120 from TfL or other local authorities.

Full speed ahead for Crossrail

On 4 December, Andrew Adonis (Transport Minister), Sir Michael Snyder of the City of London Corporation and I announced an agreement with the City of London Corporation that will help deliver Crossrail on time and on budget.

The City of London Corporation has agreed to make a direct contribution of £200m to the Crossrail project. In addition, the City Corporation will seek contributions from businesses of £150m, and has guaranteed £50m of these contributions. This confirms the City's full support for Crossrail and is the latest in a series of milestones for the project, including the announcement last month of BAA's £230m funding contribution.

The Transport Minister and I also announced the signing of a series of core funding and governance agreements that will underpin the project.

As Europe's largest construction project, the delivery of Crossrail will provide a boost of at least £20 billion to the UK economy as well as generating an extra 30,000 jobs. It will also help secure London's position as a world leading financial centre by delivering a 10% increase to the capital's rail capacity when it opens in 2017.

Canary Wharf Group contributes £150m to Crossrail

Work on the new Isle of Dogs Crossrail station at Canary Wharf is set to begin in early 2009 as Canary Wharf Group plc (CWG) completed an agreement between the Secretary of State for Transport and TfL subsidiary Cross London Rail Links Limited to contribute £150m towards the costs of the new Isle of Dogs Crossrail station at Canary Wharf. CWG will also design and build the new station.

CWG will construct the Isle of Dogs station for a fixed price of £500 million. The Group has worked extensively with Crossrail on redesigning the station, resulting in significant savings for the project. £350m of the station's £500m costs will be met from Crossrail's £15.9bn budget with CWG bearing the risk in relation to costs above the fixed price limit.

With final planning approval received by CWG, construction of the new Isle of Dogs station will now start in early 2009. The station box is expected to be completed and handed over to Crossrail by summer 2012. The first trains are due to run in 2017 when Crossrail opens for passenger service.

Discount Travel for low income Londoners

On 29 December, I confirmed that a fifty percent discount bus and tram travel scheme for Londoners who receive Income Support will be launched on 2 January as the new 2009 fares for Transport for London services were introduced.

The scheme is one of a range of public transport fares designed to support lower income Londoners, with Freedom Pass hours also extended and new daytime, Monday-Friday off-peak reduced fares on the Tube and DLR introduced from 9.30am to 4.00pm making it cheaper to travel during the middle of the day.

Christmas Day Engineering on the Tube

On Christmas Day all Tube stations were closed and normal passenger services were suspended to allow for routine maintenance works on some lines and the testing of new trains and signalling systems as part of London Underground's (LU's) multi billion pound investment programme.

Staff continued to work around the clock at stations, on trains and tracks which remained live so that the test trains can remain in operation. These trials are part of the implementation of the new Automatic Train Operation system on the Jubilee line which will result in a higher frequency of trains and faster journeys being introduced in the early part of 2010.

TfL is investing billions of pounds to transform the Tube for customers and work is intensifying to deliver the upgraded service on time. New signalling has been installed on part of the LU network on the Jubilee line and Victoria lines. Rigorous checks and trials are being carried out on the new technology at night and during weekend closures.

DLR extended to Woolwich Arsenal

On 12 January, I opened the new extension to the Docklands Light Railway linking King George V station on the north of the river with the new station at Woolwich Arsenal in the south.

Woolwich has long lacked the transport links that encourage the creation of new jobs, homes and shops; and this is exactly the sort of project that will help kick the credit crunch where it hurts. The extension will also play an important role in the Olympic transport network. People in this part of London will now be just 24 minutes from the Olympic site.

The £180m extension was delivered well within budget and seven weeks ahead of extension and was funded by TfL's multi-billion pound Investment Programme.

Key benefits of the completed extension include:

- Improved transport links, connecting Woolwich to London City Airport in six minutes, Canary Wharf in 20 minutes, Stratford in 23 minutes and Bank in 28 minutes. In the peak period, trains will leave every six to seven minutes;
- Assistance with the ongoing regeneration of Woolwich and the southern Royal Docks by supporting the creation of new jobs, homes, shops and leisure facilities along the route;

- Better access to employment, education and leisure facilities for the communities of Woolwich, Silvertown and North Woolwich;
- Direct interchange with overground services at Woolwich Arsenal main line station;
- Bus, taxi and riverboat services all within walking distance.

Tottenham Court Road Development

On 5 January, I announced major changes at Tottenham Court Road as preparations get underway for the massive redevelopment of the Tube station and the building of Crossrail. From 10 January, buses will start diversions around the area as preparations begin for the start of building demolition in spring 2009.

A total £1bn investment is being made to upgrade the capacity of the Tube station, build a station for the new Crossrail railway and create a new piazza outside Centre Point. The transport improvements will also provide better facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, bus passengers and other road users.

Improvements to the Tube station, which will be completed by 2016, will deliver:

- An enlarged Tube ticket hall nearly 6 times the size of the current one;
- New station entrances and additional access points to the Northern and Central line platforms to reduce congestion;
- Additional escalators and five new lifts to provide step-free access.

Tottenham Court Road station and the area around it needs improving to make it a better place to live, work, visit and run a business. The station is one of the most congested on the Tube network and is used by approximately 150,000 people a day which is expected to exceed 200,000 a day when Crossrail opens in 2017.

Red Route Parking and Traffic Regulations

On 16 December, I reminded all motorists that parking and traffic regulations on the London's red route network are enforced on public holidays over the festive season.

A recent survey revealed that many London drivers are not fully aware of the restrictions of red route enforcement, particularly during the weekends and public holidays.

I don't want motorists to get unnecessary penalties at any time, but especially not over the festive season, and so remind all motorists that many parking and traffic controls on the red route apply as normal on public holidays.

Tube PPP annual report published

The Tube PPP Annual Report published on 7 January reported on the progress made in improving the Underground network over the last 12 months

A total of 87 station modernisations and refurbishments under PPP arrangements were completed by the end of the year 2007/08, with 28 finished during that year - 17 by Tube Lines and 11 by Metronet. Thirty lift and escalator renewals were also completed during the year. Since the PPP arrangements began, a total of 143km of track has been renewed across the network with 28km renewed in 2007/08.

Great credit must be given to all those involved in the operation and maintenance of the Underground that Metronet's entry into Administration had no impact on the daily operation of Tube services, and that the momentum of the complex projects to upgrade key lines continued. London Underground's focus remains on day-to-day maintenance performance, which has generally improved since Metronet came into TfL.

Tube Lines has also delivered on the challenge set two years ago regarding the Northern line, which had been a constant source of frustration for passengers. Alongside TfL's new timetable and operations, Tube Lines have markedly improved the performance of the Northern Line. Tube Lines' station programme has been delivered on time, with many Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly line stations now refurbished and modernised. The new challenge for Tube Lines is to keep its promise on the Jubilee line upgrade, due for completion by the end of 2009.

TfL reports on environmental progress

TfL's progress in reducing the environmental impact of the Capital's transport network over 2007/08 was outlined in its annual Environment Report, published on December 22.

The report details the steps that TfL is taking to cut carbon emissions and improve air quality by encouraging Londoners to choose less polluting ways of getting around the city, promoting efficient vehicle use, and investing in low carbon fuels, vehicles and energy.

East London Transit

Construction of the first section of the East London Transit began in Barking Town Centre on 5 January 2009.

The high capacity bus system will run from Ilford to Dagenham Dock via Barking town Centre when it opens in early 2010. It will boost services for local residents as well as help support the regeneration of east London, particularly in the encouragement of housing development.

Construction begins just weeks after TfL received confirmation of an additional £18.5m of funding that will extend the scheme by linking the Barking Riverside Development to Barking Town Centre and Dagenham Dock. The extra funds provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Department for Transport now mean that both planned phases of the East London Transit are fully funded.

Workplace Equality

Stonewall published the results of this year's Workplace Equality Index on 6 January 2009. The Index is the definitive national benchmark of Britain's top employers of lesbian, gay and bisexual staff, and ranks the top 100 employers according to criteria including implementation of effective equality policies and how lesbian, gay and bisexual staff, customers and service users are engaged. Transport for London were ranked 5th on the Index. Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor, sent a message to TfL congratulating them on their success.

Budget

Freeze of the GLA Precept

For the first time ever, millions of Londoners will benefit from a freeze in the GLA's share of the council tax.

On 11 December, I published the draft consolidated budget, published for consultation and outlined how I intend to deliver an end to the spiralling cost of the GLA precept. Since 2000 the GLA precept has risen by 152 per cent, however, I have identified substantial efficiency savings so now more than three million London households will benefit from a freeze in the amount of council tax that is payable to the GLA.

Section 60 Request

I attach my response to the recommendations in the Budget and Performance Committee Pre-Budget Report, as requested under Section 60(1) of the GLA Act, at the end of this report as Appendix A.

Expenses

I have noted the expense incurred by the Chief Executive, Chief of Staff, Directors, Heads of Service, Assembly Member and myself during the period 1 July 2008 to 31 October 2008.

Capital Spending Plan

I have approved the draft Capital Spending Plan for 2009/10 and proposals in respect of borrowing limits for the GLA and functional bodies.

London Development Agency

Green 500 breakfast

On 7 January, the LDA and I hosted a highly successful business breakfast with over 160 individuals from major UK businesses and public sector organisations to celebrate progress on the Green 500 and Better Buildings Partnership - the LDA's premiere business facing climate change initiatives. Speakers from Chelsea Football Club, British Land and AEA Technology joined me in looking back over a successful year since the schemes were launched in December 2007 and the panel discussion that followed demonstrated the positive and enthusiastic response from business to the LDA's approach in supporting them to tackle climate change. The event received good publicity and feedback from participants was very positive.

Hayes Business Studios

On 9 December, the £1 million Hayes Business Studios were opened by the leader of Hillingdon Council Ray Puddifoot at the site on Uxbridge College's Hayes Community

Campus - part of the London Development Agency's work to support and promote business in London

The studios provide subsidised accommodation and support to people starting up their own businesses. Such support is a proven way to help new companies get on their feet and thrive. The Hayes Business Studios have been developed with LDA funding with Hillingdon Council, Uxbridge College, Heathrow City Partnership and Hillingdon Community Trust.

Architects East appointed to help shape the future of Farringdon

On 11 December, the LDA announced the appointment of architects East to develop the vision for the redevelopment of Farringdon over the next 25 years.

Commissioned by the LDA's Design for London, with funding from City of London Corporation, London Borough of Islington, London Borough of Camden, English Heritage, Transport for London (TfL) - Interchange, Crossrail, Greater London Authority (GLA) and the LDA's Design for London, the Farringdon Urban Design Study will be carried out by East and will plan how Farringdon will manage the increased visitor numbers brought with the introduction of Crossrail and improvements to the Thameslink service.

Environment

Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree Recycled

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, formally began the chipping of the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree on my behalf on 5 January.

The Deputy Mayor was joined by young people from 'Chickenshed', a theatre company that makes inspirational theatre working on the basis that everyone and anyone should be included, regardless of their background, age, race or ability. The 20 metre tall tree was fed into a chipping machine, where it was shredded and composted.

It is estimated that Londoners used over 976,000 Christmas trees this year and the Deputy Mayor called on Londoners to use their borough recycling schemes to recycle and compost their trees, rather than throwing them away. All 33 London boroughs are now offering Christmas tree recycling services. 27 (80%) of boroughs are offering a collection from home service for Christmas trees and nearly half (16) are opening special drop off points for a specific period to collect Christmas trees for recycling. Reuse and Recycling centres across the capital will also be accepting Christmas trees for recycling. Over the Christmas period in the capital, we also sent an estimated 124 million cards and used around 30% extra glass jars and bottles. Londoners are being encouraged to start 2009 on a green footing and recycle this extra festive rubbish rather than throwing it in the bin where it is destined to be incinerated or buried in landfill, contributing to climate change.

Help a London Park

An incredible 30,000 Londoners have already voted for their favourite park to receive a makeover and over the festive period I reminded everyone to put forward their local green space for a £400,000 cash boost before voting ends (30 January).

The winning parks will be improved in a variety of ways, ranging from better footpaths and more lighting for safety, to providing new playgrounds and facilities for children. Others will open new cafes, refurbish derelict public toilets and improve cycle routes. Many will see traditional flower gardens restored, new wildlife habitats created, and plots provided for communities to grow fruit and vegetables.

LDA Committed to Real Reductions in Carbon Emissions

On 18 December, the LDA restated its commitment to tackle climate change, backed up by proposed investment of £72 million to cut carbon dioxide emissions in London by 1.5 million tonnes over the next four years. This represents a significant step toward delivering my target of a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2025.

The LDA's proposed priorities now will be on getting significant carbon reductions from waste, decentralised energy and energy efficiency in existing buildings - areas identified as offering the best return on investment. The LDA has already identified a pipeline of projects in the Barking area, designed to save 110,000 tonnes annually.

In addition, the LDA Board has agreed a recommendation to exit the London Climate Change Agency and mainstream its climate change work into the LDA. This will enable the LDA to deliver a greater impact on climate change and secure significant reductions in London's carbon dioxide emissions.

Children and Young People

Time For Action

I have received over 200 responses to Time For Action, my plan to improve youth opportunities and prevent violence through a programme for action. In particular, views were sought on the action strands in the framework, and how these can be further developed and implemented.

On 8 December Kit Malthouse, Deputy Mayor for Policing, attended The London Assembly's cross-party panel, chaired by Joanne McCartney, to contribute to discussions on Time For Action.

New Ambassador for Young People

On 8 January, I announced James Cleverly as my new Ambassador for young people in London.

Tackling youth crime is one of his top priorities and James will work alongside Deputy Mayor for Policing, Kit Malthouse, to address the complex, long-term root causes of crime and violence amongst young people. He will also champion the importance of wider opportunities to improve the life chances of all young Londoners.

James already has extensive previous experience of working with young people. For over 15 years he was an officer in the Territorial Army, rising to the rank of Major, and during this time he focused on the recruitment, training and development of young adults. As Chair of the Health and Public Services committee James has been leading a

London Assembly investigation into the extent of underage drinking and alcohol misuse by young people in the capital. Also, as Honorary Vice President of the Bromley District Scout Council, James has been an active ambassador for developing young people through play, creativity and team building.

James is a member of the Metropolitan Police Authority and also sits on the board of the London Development Agency. In his new role, working on my behalf, James will work with both agencies in dealing with the issue of tackling youth crime and improving opportunities for children and young people.

Social Inclusion

"Know Your Rights" Campaign

On 9 January, I launched a benefits take-up campaign aimed at encouraging older people and carers to claim benefits that they may be entitled to but are not claiming. The campaign will also help people get advice on cutting heating costs and keeping warm. For this campaign I teamed up with Age Concern London, Citizens Advice Bureau, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and the Energy Saving Trust. These organisations are able to offer face-to-face advice to help people claim benefits that they may be entitled to. They can also help people get practical money saving advice and help on heating and home insulation costs through referrals to the Energy Saving Trust. The Energy Saving Trust provides a telephone helpline service to help people access services and grants to make their homes warmer and cut their heating costs.

Economic and Business Policy

Economic Recovery Action Plan

On 17 December, I published my Economic Recovery Action Plan, which is designed to help Londoners and businesses through the difficult economic times ahead and to position London for the upturn that will follow.

The Plan, which includes 57 practical actions, is being taken forward by the Greater London Authority Group and its partners, in consultation with London businesses, organisations and other stakeholders.

It involves launching new programmes, remodelling existing ones and bringing forward planned initiatives, by refocusing budgets of £3bn per year to ensure they are meeting the capital's needs in the current economic climate.

Actions include a new £23.4m LDA investment in a specific recovery package of initiatives around business advice and business access to finance; halving the standard payment period of the GLA Group to its SME suppliers to 10 working days; opening up our procurement further to SMEs; skills initiatives with the London Development Agency, the Learning and Skills Council, and Jobcentre Plus; as well as measures to keep costs down such as the freeze of the precept. The Plan also includes a range of initiatives on green issues, housing, and youth opportunities.

In addition, I am pressing for Government action on a number of key issues, including offering tax relief on travelcards, as is already done in Nottingham, Bristol and Edinburgh.

Securing help for London's businesses

On 4 December, I met leading representatives from major UK banks to discuss the problems that London's small and medium sized businesses are facing during the economic downturn. I also took the opportunity to urge representatives to pass on the latest interest rate cuts to their customers and was assured that they were already in the process of doing so.

The meeting was set up to highlight the specific concerns raised by the capital's smaller businesses around the increasing cost of commercial borrowing and new tighter borrowing terms. It was accepted that communications between banks and small businesses could be improved. In response the banks agreed to work with the London Development Agency to develop a programme of support to help those London businesses that are finding it difficult to access commercial finance.

I also called on all businesses in the capital to help support each other by following the example of the Greater London Authority group which is working to reduce the time it takes to pay its bills from 30 to 10 days.

£300m EU funding for small and medium sized businesses

On 8 December, I encouraged London's small and medium sized businesses to apply for EU funding which could help them grow and will simultaneously create or safeguard 10,000 jobs.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme, administered by the London Development Agency (LDA), started in December 2007 and has already agreed revenue and capital funding for 60 projects. Over the next six years the ERDF programme will invest £300m in boosting London's competitiveness and employment, consisting of £150m funding from the EU and matched by similar amounts from the projects themselves. The aim is to help firms boost their trade and to promote greater innovation, joint working and environmental efficiency for London's small and medium sized businesses.

Indian Business Reception

On 8 December, I spoke at an Indian Business Reception hosted by Think London, to celebrate the importance of London and the UK's economic and cultural links with India. At the reception I presided over a minutes silence for those that lost their lives in the Mumbai terrorist attacks.

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

LOCOG Board

On 9 December, I accepted David Ross' resignation from the Board of LOCOG and as chair of the Legacy Board of Advisors.

Winter of Sport

Up to 3,000 Londoners are being given the opportunity to get active over the winter months by taking part in free sports coaching sessions across the capital as part of my commitment with the LDA to deliver an enduring sporting legacy from the 2012 Games.

The London Winter of Sport programme is supporting 100 community sports clubs and 18 school sport partnerships to offer free sporting opportunities to people of all ages from now until the end of March 2009. Following the coaching sessions, participants will be encouraged to play sport at local clubs, while schools can continue out of hours sports activities using equipment provided by the programme.

The programme follows on from the LDA's London Summer of Sport campaign which supported more than 8,000 people to benefit from free sports activities, with 60% of these participants receiving a minimum of six hours sports coaching.

Local Government Relations

Meeting with the Leader of Ealing

On 4 December I met with Councillor Jason Stacey, Leader of the London Borough of Ealing. We had a very productive meeting that included a discussion on policing numbers in the borough, which I followed up with a letter to the Commissioner. We also discussed bus routes; housing targets and issues around the development of Heathrow.

Meeting with the Leader of Croydon

On 11 December I met with Councillor Mike Fisher, Leader of the London Borough of Croydon. I was given a very detailed presentation on development potential in Croydon and we also discussed their 'Croydon - Safe for All' campaign.

Meeting with the Mayor of Lewisham

I met with Mayor Sir Steve Bullock of the London Borough of Lewisham on 12 January. Amongst other issues we discussed the development of Convoys Wharf, housing targets, transport and my Economic Recovery Action Plan.

Housing

Major Funding for London's Estates

On 9 December, I announced that some of London's most run down housing estates will benefit from £77 million of regeneration funding over the next three years. A further £55 million will be invested to reduce homelessness, provide larger family homes and to maintain and improve social rented homes.

The £77 million will be used to kick-start programmes of estate and area regeneration that are ready to go but have stalled because of the credit crunch. This funding will provide crucial support to the building industry during the economic downturn and lead to huge improvements for Londoners living in some of the country's poorest communities.

The funding is part of my London Housing Strategy which aims to deliver new affordable homes, and provide more sustainable routes to home ownership. It comes from the Homes and Communities Agency's £5 billion London housing budget that is being invested to deliver my housing priorities over the next three years.

Culture and events

GLA Christmas Carol Service

On 10 December, I hosted the first GLA Christmas Carol service at Southwark Cathedral.

I was joined by special guests: Lord Sebastian Coe, Olympic athlete Christine Ohuruogu, broadcaster John Pienaar, Chair of the London Assembly, Jennette Arnold, Youth Parliament representative Acie Marshall and Eileen McNally from the London Older People's Strategies Group.

The service included a selection of traditional Christmas carols and a performance by the Southwark Cathedral Singers and the Tribe of Judah Gospel Choir. It was attended by GLA staff, and representatives from major faith groups, all of London's communities and the voluntary sector. The service will be an annual event along with other faith celebrations in the city.

During December I also attended the tree lighting ceremony on Trafalgar Square marking the start of the free carol-singing season, which ran until Friday 19 December. During the two-week season over 40 voluntary and charitable organisations sang each evening between 5pm and 9pm in front of the traditional Norwegian Christmas tree, with many raising money for their charities. The tree remained in Trafalgar Square until 5 January when it was taken down and recycled.

New Year's Eve

I marked the end of 2008 by staging London's New Year's Eve fireworks at the London Eye. I was represented on the night by my Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes AM, who met with a number of agencies involved in delivering the event.

The celebrations are London's largest single one-day event, attracting some 200,000 in official event viewing areas and an estimated further 500,000 celebrating in venues across Central London. Due to the scale of the event, the event is a significant undertaking by my Events for London team, their appointed contractor Jack Morton Worldwide and a host of public sector agencies across London from the Met Police to the Port of London Authority.

I am pleased to report that sponsorship was generated, for the first time in the 6 years of staging the event, from LG Electronics. Their £100k cash investment and a further £300k in digital projection technology - the scale of which was the largest ever such

projection undertaken in Europe – both ensured that the cost of staging was supported by this commercial partnership and that the event was significantly enhanced from that staged in 2007. Through this technology my New Year's message to London and those of 9 other celebrities were projected on to the Shell Building.

The fireworks, by Christophe Berthaneau were once again spectacular and helped ensure both a fantastic spectacle for those in the viewing areas and a record audience of 10.7 million watching live on BBC1 on the evening. De-briefs with all agencies are currently being set up.

Chanukah – Menorah lighting ceremony

I worked with the Jewish community to fund and facilitate the siting of a Menorah on Trafalgar Square to mark Chanukah. The 8-day celebration (22 – 29 December 2008) featured a lighting ceremony staged with the Jewish community on 22 December.

I spoke at the event to the assembled audience of around 3,000 people prior to the lighting of the Menorah, which I assisted the Chief Rabbi and Rabbi Overlander from Chabad House, Hendon (a part of the Lubavitch Foundation). Following the ceremony, invited guests and members of the public were invited to partake in traditional Chanukah foods and to receive Gelt (Chocolate coins).

The event was organized in conjunction with Chabad House Hendon and the London Jewish Forum with sponsorship from a number of organizations from within the Jewish community.

Music Education Summit

I held the first Music Education Summit on 14 January which concluded with a handover celebration of the 150+ music instruments that were donated through 'No Strings Attached' a joint campaign the GLA ran with Time Out.

The focus of the Summit was to bring together strategic organisations and agencies, borough music services, practitioners, representatives from the music industry, and opinion-formers to discuss how best my office and the GLA can act as a strategic agency and use its influence to improve music education across the capital. This forum discussed the key issues within the music education and provided direction to the next stage of this work.

In addition, I have approved a virement of £50,000 from the Project Development Fund to the GLA Culture budget to support development work for the new Music Education Project.

Fourth Plinth Commissions

I have given approval to enter into contracts with the two winning artists, Yinka Shonibare and Anthony Gormley, and to seek planning permission for the Fourth Plinth Commissions, in accordance with their GLA specifications.

I have agreed to deliver the Public & Eduction Programme subject to funding being secured and subject to any expenditure incurred by the GLA or on the GLA's behalf, including in relation to specific agreements for the supply of goods and services being within the expenditure set out in the project's budget and being procured as applicable in accordance with the GLA's Contracts Code.

I have approved an additional £30,000 towards the core budget to provide an appropriate level of contingency for the project.

I have agreed to apply for funding from appropriate funding bodies including the Arts Council London, to enter into agreements with the same and to seek sponsorship income, subject to appropriate written agreements and applicable GLA rules and procedures including the Sponsorship Strategy.

I have agreed to receive and distribute funds from private foundations and Trusts including the Henry Moore Foundation & Andy Warhol Foundation on behalf of the artist Yinka Shonibare towards the fabrication of the artwork "Nelson's Ship in a Bottle".

Finally, I have agreed to receive, on behalf of the artist Yinka Shonibare, funding from private foundations towards the fabrication of the artwork "Nelson's Ship in a Bottle" (funding to be paid on receipt directly to Yinka Shonibare).

People's Question Time Event

I have approved the first "issues led" mayoral public meeting to be held in Hillingdon, West London around the theme of the pros and cons of the proposed Heathrow expansion. This meeting will take a similar form to the two statutory PQTs and forms part of my election commitment to hold six such events per calendar year.

I have also approved the expenditure of up to £35,000 to cover the costs involved in hosting and promoting this event - budget to be re-allocated from the visitor centre within the Marketing department's budget.

Redbridge Community Awards

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the Redbridge Community Awards on my behalf on 13 December at Illford Town Hall.

Since its launch in 1996, the RCA have transformed themselves into a major black tie event with the purpose of bringing together the community of Redbridge, honouring its local citizens and also raising money for local charities. The RCA was founded by Suresh Kumar who having recognised the unsung efforts of individuals with the Redbridge community, set up a platform with which to honour them formally. This has had the effect of encouraging, motivating and uniting the people of Redbridge with its eclectic mix of cultures. The RCA present a variety of awards that range from Sports Personality of the Year, Policeman of the Year, Service to the Community Award, Entrepreneur of the Year and the esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards are publicised through local media and nominations are put forward by the local community.

The Deputy Mayor attended as Chief Guest of Honour on the evening and spoke briefly at the Awards praising the excellent community work of the RCA since 1996.

Positive Awareness's Annual Community Cohesion Event

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the Positive Awareness's Annual Community Cohesion Event at the Priory Community Centre in Acton on 16 December.

Positive Awareness is a charity that was formed in September 2001 and its mission is to promote the practice of positive thinking by identifying weaknesses and overcoming barriers. It predominately helps local unemployed people to increase their skills, build their confidence and set and achieve personal goals. The charity also runs workshops, a book club, IT courses and an annual cultural event.

The Deputy Mayor spoke at the meeting and thanked volunteers and staff for all their hard work and effort. Richard urged the volunteers to continue with their good work and wished the charity every further success for 2009.

Launch of 'Portraits for Posterity' Exhibition

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, opened the 'Portraits for Posterity' Exhibition at City Hall on my behalf on 7 January.

The exhibition presents memorable images of 30 remarkable individuals who, having survived the Holocaust, went onto create new lives in Britain. It celebrates their achievements and offers a permanent memorial that, producing images of a few, also commemorates the millions who perished and left no portraits. Each portrait is accompanied by a short biography, drawn from the sitter's own words and including their messages for the 21st century. The exhibition will remain at City Hall until 30 January. From February 2009 the exhibition will move onto other venues as an ongoing memorial to those who experienced the Nazi Holocaust.

Skills

Meeting with London Higher

On 14 January I met with Jane Glanville, Chief Executive of London Higher, Prof David Latchman, Master of Birkbeck, and Prof Geoffrey Petts, Vice Chancellor of University of Westminster. The meeting covered Olympic Park legacy plans and the Higher Skills Agenda in London along side discussions of promoting London's Higher Education overseas.

Skills and Employment Funding

On 4 December, I announced a £23m programme of combined LDA and European Social Fund (ESF) funding to support those who are unemployed or need to improve their skills to compete in an ever tougher job market.

The ESF co-financing programme will fund a range of activities including job search, careers advice, basic skills and in-work support to help Londoners get back into the labour market and develop the skills needed by London's employers. The programme aims to ensure that people are supported into sustainable employment.

The new programme includes a series of LDA-sponsored business recovery seminars run by KPMG and Deloitte and coincides with an LDA market awareness campaign, with pamphlets in local borough papers setting out where to get advice on jobs and training, as well as supplying contact details for support and guidance. The LDA is also reminding people of the support available through Business Link in London, JobCentre Plus and the specific LDA-funded schemes in London.

GLA Organisation

GLA Website

I have approved three elements of work related to the development of the London.gov.uk website.

I have awarded a contract to Amaze Ltd ("Amaze") of £42,867.90 in respect of developing events-based functionality for the new www.london.gov.uk website following a competitive procurement exercise which adhered to the Authority's Contracts Code. I have also established a new project code ("Events Based Functionality") and allocated £20,000 from the eServices capital budget and £23,000 from Promoting London as a World Class City to this new project code.

I have approved the extension of the current OJEU contract with Amaze, the Content Management System ("CMS") implementers, to further develop the CMS system to ensure it reflects the needs of the new administration.

I have approved the variation of the current OJEU contract with Amaze to carry out additional data migration services for the purposes of migrating content and data from the existing London.gov.uk website and associated applications to the new content management system based website. The cost of this work will be £32,425.

Web Services Framework

I have approved the evaluation panel's recommendations for suppliers to be admitted to the Web Services Framework.

I have also delegated authority to the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Executive Director of Resources) to enter into the framework agreements with the suppliers who will be admitted to the Web Services Framework and to approve the award of contracts, called off from time to time in accordance with the framework agreement, that are in excess of £50,000. In respect of such contracts, the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Executive Director of Resources) shall approve the contract award by a Director's Decision form.

New Year's Eve Arrangements

I have approved an amendment to the New Year's Eve funding package. £200K is now not being sought from Visit London as part of the funding package for the 2008 New Year's Eve event. Instead, £150K has been allocated from the Marketing budget and the total cost of the project has been reduced by £50K to £1.7K. This cost saving has been made by not undertaking the feasibility work around proposals for the future ticketing of the event, within this financial year.

In addition, I have retrospectively approved the entering into of a broadcast agreement with the BBC (in accordance with GLA signature procedures), to permit exclusive live broadcast rights to the 2008 fireworks and for Radio One to provide a live soundtrack to the event.

Contract Extension

I have extended the interim IT project manager's contract (procured from Anderselite through the TfL Agency Suppliers Framework) for 8 weeks and 2 days from 2 February 2009 to 31 March 2009. The total value of the services for the extended period will not exceed £20,000.

Corporate Governance

I have noted the content of the Internal Audit reports and the 2008 Review of the Corporate Governance Framework.

Corporate Performance

I have noted the Authority's financial position at the end of quarter 2 2008/09 and approved the proposed budget virements.

I have also noted the Authority's performance against corporate health indicators, key projects from the interim corporate plan and Operational Equalities Action Plan deliverables.

Finally, I have noted the interim 2008/09 corporate plan against which organisational performance is tracked, and those commitments and projects that have been assimilated into it as at the end of quarter 2.

Appointments

Chief Executive

Leo Boland started his role as the new Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of the Greater London Authority in the New Year. Leo Boland has over twenty years experience in management with local government in London and has been the Chief Executive of Barnet council since 2001.

Policy Director

I have confirmed my decision to establish with effect from 24 November 2008 the post of Policy Director under s67 (1)(b) of the GLA Act 1999, and appoint Anthony Browne to that role, and to dis-establish the role that Anthony Browne held under s67 (1)(a) of the GLA Act 1999.

London Food Board

I have agreed the Terms of Appointment for Rosie Boycott as Chair of the London Food Board and approved a grant of £25,000 from the LDA to the GLA to meet expenditure to be incurred by the Authority in connection with Rosie Boycott's appointment.

Planning and Development Control

Full Review of the London Plan

On 16 December, I announced a full and comprehensive review of the London Plan to ensure that, as London develops, it remains a truly world-beating city in which to live, work and do business in.

Responses from the original consultation in July, following the publication of 'Planning for a Better London', supported a full review of the London Plan, rather than making successive alterations to the existing one. Also supported in the consultation was the proposal to establish an annual London Planning Convention to provide planning professionals with the opportunity to help make improvements to the capital's planning system. A more collaborative approach to planning in the capital was an underlying theme of the consultation.

Other key points included:

- The need for a shorter, more concise, plan and a reduction in the amount of supplementary planning guidance produced, which would be avoided by a full review;
- The scrapping of the prescriptive (50 per cent) affordable housing target in the current plan;
- The need for new quality standards in house building; and
- The need for the plan to focus more strongly on the development of a more diverse economy to foster the growth of all types and sizes of enterprises, by providing the kinds of workspace they need.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

GE Lighting site, LB Enfield
I have written to the London Borough of Enfield stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

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

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

Safestore Storage Compund, LB Haringey
I have written to the London Borough of Haringey stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Seager Distillery Site, LB Lewisham
I have written to the London Borough of Lewisham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Area 3, Canning Town, LB Newham
I have written to the London Borough of Newham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Castle Industrial Estate, LB Southwark
I have written to the London Borough of Southwark stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Malcolm House, LB Brent
I have written to the London Borough of Brent stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Hartfield Car Park, LB Merton
I have written to the London Borough of Merton stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Crystal Palace Park, Bromley
I have written to the London Borough of Bromely stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

1-7 Howick Place, City of Westminster
I have written to the City of Westminster directing the Council to refuse planning permission.

Beavers Lane, LB Hounslow
I have written to the London Borough of Hounslow stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

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

Wards Corner, Seven Sisters, LB Haringey
The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Haringey stating that he has decided not to direct refusal of this application.

<u>The Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning, under powers I delegated to him, has sent letters in response to the following statutory referrals:</u>

Isle of Dogs Crossrail Station, LB Tower Hamlets
The Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning, has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Olympic Velopark, ODA
The Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning has written to the Olympic Delivery Authority stating that he is content to allow the Authority to determine the application itself.

95-111 Brighton Road, LB Croydon
The Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning, has written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Wallis House, LB Hounslow
The Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning, has written to the London Borough of Hounslow stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- 17 Sutton Court Road, LB Sutton
- Southall Gas Works Site, LB Ealing
- College of North West London, Wembley Park, LB Brent
- 307 Burdett Road, LB Tower Hamlets
- 25 St Pauls Way, LB Tower Hamlets
- Digby Road, LB Hackney
- 40 Common Road, LB Harrow
- The Bede Estate, Bow Common Lane, LB Tower Hamlets
- Wellington House, City of Westminster
- 1-7 Howick Place, City of Westminster
- Regal House, 70 London Road, LB Richmond
- Haven Green Transport Interchange, LB Ealing
- Riverside South, LB Tower Hamlets
- City Pride and Island Point, LB Tower Hamlets
- 95-111 Brighton Road & 1 Old Lodge Lane, Purley, LB Croydon
- Former Mitcham Gas Works, LB Merton
- The Eric and Treby Estates, LB Tower Hamlets
- Land at Billet Way, LB Waltham Forest
- Roehampton Centre, LB Wandsworth
- Fresh Wharf, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Deals Gateway, LB Greenwich
- Arcadia Centre redevelopment, LB Ealing
- 157-183 Waterloo Road, LB Lambeth
- 6 Paris Garden & 20-21 Hatfields, LB Southwark
- Cherry Orchard Road, LB Croydon
- Hendon Town Hall Car Park, LB Barnet
- Bridge Road Recreation Ground, LB Brent
- 6 Central Way, Park Royal, LB Brent
- 374 Wandsworth Road, LB Lambeth
- Kingston University Ground, Old Kingston Road, RB Kingston

The Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning, under powers I delegated to him, has asked officers to send letters in response to the following statutory referrals:

- Harrodian School, LB Richmond
- Olympic Handball Arena, ODA
- Olympic Way, Wembley, LB Brent

- Former Petrol Station, Haley Road, LB Barnet
- 1 Wandle Road & 19 Scarbrook Road, LB Croydon
- Hayes Football Club, LB Hillingdon

Stopping up orders

I have asked officers to send a letter giving a response to the following stopping up consultation:

- Dalby Street stopping up, LB Camden

Development Plans

I have asked officers to send a letter giving a response to the following development plans consultations:

- Hammersmith and Fulham Council's Local Development Scheme, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Westminster City Council's Local Development Scheme, City of Westminster
- Barnet Council's Colindale Area Action Plan consultation, LB Barnet

The Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning, under powers I delegated to him, has sent letters in response to the following development plans consultations:

- Barking and Dagenham Council's Core Strategy, Borough Wide Development Policies and Proposals Map Development Plan Documents consultation, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Sutton's Council Core Strategy submission stage consultation, LB Sutton
- Southwark Council's Aylesbury Area Action Plan revised preferred options consultation, LB Southwark

Decisions made under delegation to Head of Planning Decisions

- Redbridge Council's Supplementary Planning Document – Affordable Housing consultation draft, LB Redbridge
- Land bounded by Plough Lane, LB Merton
- Southeast London Boroughs Joint Waste Technical Paper, LB Bexley
- Site of former South Bank University, LB Lambeth
- Camden Council's Supplementary Planning Document – Hawley Wharf consultation draft, LB Camden
- Olympic Site, Lea Navigation, LB Newham
- Wallis House, LB Hounslow
- Burne House, City of Westminster
- Westminster City Council's City Management Plan Development Plan Document consultation, City of Westminster
- 153-157 Tower Bridge Road, LB Southwark
- Camden Council's Site Allocation Development Plan Document consultation, LB Camden
- 263 Hammersmith Road, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

- Kensington and Chelsea Council's Noise Supplementary Planning Document consultation, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Kensington and Chelsea Council's Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document consultation, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Kensington and Chelsea Council's Subterranean development Supplementary Planning Document consultation, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Kensington and Chelsea Council's Commonwealth Institute Planning Brief Supplementary Planning Document consultation, RB Kensington and Chelsea

Key Engagements

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

- I attended the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square on 4 December
- I attended an event to announce the £250M deal with the Corporation of London to deliver Crossrail on 4 December
- I met with representatives of the British Banks on 4 December
- I met with Baroness Uddin on 4 December
- I met with Cllr Jason Stacey, Leader of the London Borough of Ealing on 4 December
- I met with Stuart Fraser and Michael Snyder, City Corporation on 5 December
- I met with Robert Tuttle, US Ambassador on 5 December
- I met with Simon Thurley, English Heritage on 5 December
- I met with Christopher Rodrigues, Visit Britain on 8 December
- I attended the launch of the ERDF Programme at Tate Modern on 8 December
- I met with Peter Hendy, Transport for London on 8 December
- I spoke at the National Housing Federation Conference on 9 December
- I met with Doreen Lawrence on 9 December
- I met with John Denham MP Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Hazel Blears MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government & Tessa Jowell MP Minister for the Olympics on 9 December
- I met with Roger Evans AM & James Cleverly AM on 9 December
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 9 December
- I met with Harvey McGrath & Peter Rogers on 10 December
- I chaired the TfL Board Meeting on 10 December
- I spoke at the London Stock Exchange Annual Christmas Lunch on 10 December
- I attended the Icap Charity Event on 10 December
- I chaired the London Waste & Recycling Board on 11 December
- I attended the Bureau of Leaders on 11 December
- I had dinner with the MPS Management Board at New Scotland Yard on 11 December
- I attended the GLA Christmas Party on 11 December
- I attended an anti-drink drive event with Lewis Hamilton and Mika Hakkinen on 11 December
- I met with Cllr Mike Fisher, Leader of the London Borough of Croydon, on 11 December
- I visited LFEPA and the London Fire Brigade Museum on 11 December

- I met with Wayne Hemingway on 12 December
- I attended the Launch of the Bob Wigley report on London's Competitiveness on 12 December
- I met with David Campbell, Chief Executive Officer for AEG Europe on 15 December
- I took part in a photo opportunity with Kent Farmers & Rosie Boycott on 15 December
- I visited the Rushworth Street Hostel on 15 December
- I attended the Budget Committee on 15 December
- I met with Julia Peyton Jones, Stuart Lipton and the ODA on 16 December
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 17 December
- I had dinner with Hazel Blears on 17 December
- I met with Mark Kleinman on 17 December
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 17 December
- I met with Lord Coe, LOCOG on 17 December
- I met with James Cleverly on 18 December
- I attended the Freedom Pass Event on 18 December
- I met with the Turkish Ambassador on 18 December
- I chaired the Olympic Board Meeting on 18 December
- I chaired the London Homes & Communities Agency on 19 December
- I announced the winners of the Routemaster competition on 19 December
- I attended the launch of 50 new BTP Officers for the overland train network in outer London on 6 January
- I met with David Eastwood on 6 January
- I met with Desmond Plummer on 6 January
- I attended a Green 500 stakeholder event on 7 January
- I met with Charlie Mayfield, Chairman of John Lewis Partnership on 7 January
- I met with David Gregson on 7 January
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 7 January
- I made a telephone call to the Mayor of Toronto, Mayor Miller on 7 January
- I met with Harvey McGrath & Peter Rogers on 7 January
- I took part in a Vanessa Feltz live radio phone-in on 8 January
- I spoke at the London Government Dinner at Mansion House on 8 January
- I met with Christopher Garnett on 9 January
- I met with Richard Rogers on 9 January
- I had lunch with Cameron Mackintosh & Nicholas Allott on 9 January
- I attended the Know Your Rights Launch on 9 January
- I met with Lord Coe & Paul Deighton, LOCOG on 12 January
- I open the new DLR station at Woolwich Arsenal on 12 January
- I met with SERTUC on 12 January
- I met with the Assembly Conservative Group on 13 January
- I went on a TfL Surface Transport Tour on 13 January
- I chaired the London Skills & Employment Board on 13 January
- I attended the Assembly Plenary to answer questions as the chair of TfL on 14 January
- I had lunch with the Chinese Ambassador on 14 January
- I attended the No Strings Attached - Music Instrument Handover on 14 January
- I hosted a reception for Sports Journalists on 14 January

Appendix A – Response to the Budget and Performance Committee Pre-Budget Report Recommendations

Para Ref.	Recommendation	Mayor's Response
3.2	Given the high profile of the Forensic Audit Panel, and the fact that the GLA spent public money (£50,000) on it, we recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should highlight which of the Mayor's proposals are intended to implement the Panel's recommendations. It should also identify which of the recommendations are not to be implemented and provide an explanation as to why not.	The report of the Forensic Audit Panel was usefully in helping to gauge what magnitude of savings it might be possible to deliver from the GLA budget. However, generally this work was subsequently overtaken by the review of the GLA structure begun by Tim Parker and subsequently carried forward in the strands of work underpinning the Organising for Delivery programme. The recommendations are therefore not directly relevant to budget consultees and therefore no further information has been included in the Mayor's budget consultation document. However, the Panel's recommendations in respect of the elections were not covered by this subsequent work but this was reported to the Budget and Performance Committee last month. [In brief, 'the Panel considered that "savings of up to £1 million per annum in the form of reduced contributions to reserves are [we believe] a realistic target in this area". This saving was based on the average cost of a large borough election which is not directly comparable to the cost of the GLA Election – the elections are very different].
3.6	The consultation draft budget must be accompanied by a draft corporate plan showing how the Mayor's priorities will be translated into programmes and projects within the GLA to deliver specific objectives. We recommend that the Mayor urgently issue guidance setting out his proposed business planning objectives for the GLA in order to enable them to develop budget proposals that will deliver those objectives.	The GLA's draft corporate plan was presented along with the budget submission to the Budget & Performance Committee at its meeting on 25 November. It includes a series of deliverables grouped under themed outcomes. Each deliverable is underpinned with actions, milestones and the responsible delivery team or partner. The deliverables are also included in the GLA section of the Mayor's Consultation Budget.

Appendix A – Response to the Budget and Performance Committee Pre-Budget Report Recommendations

Para Ref.	Recommendation	Mayor's Response
3.12	We note that there is now an emerging framework for the priorities of the new administration. However, it lacks detail of objectives, new initiatives and programmes aimed at delivering those priorities. The Mayor's draft consultation budget should provide full details of objectives and the related new initiatives and programmes. It should show the total cost of those initiatives in each of the three years covered by the budgets and provide information as to how they will be funded. It should also say what the intended outcomes are of any shifts in policy and how the Mayor proposes that those outcomes should be measured.	The Mayor's consultation budget highlights significant policy changes and new priorities as well as listing the major new initiatives planned for the three year plan period for the GLA and each of the functional bodies. A full listing of outcomes and their measurement is however beyond the scope of the budget document itself, but the full suite of planned performance indicators approved by each organisation is contained within the business plan of each member of the Group.
3.13	The consultation draft budget should make clear what specific measures are to be introduced within the GLA and each functional body in order to deliver the priority relating to climate change, including information as to the cost, objectives and intended outcomes. It should also set out how value for money will be assessed in relation to this work, and provide details of any existing or planned work relating to climate change that will not be taken forward.	Information was requested from functional bodies as part of the Mayor's Budget Guidance on how their business plans should address what measures are being taken that are consistent with the Mayor's commitment to carbon reduction targets of 60 per cent by 2025. It was not considered practicable to include this within the consultation document and more detail will be included in the Mayor's proposals to the Assembly in January.
3.18	We recommend that the draft GLA budget and the draft consultation budget for the GLA group should include a clear definition of value for money and, in relation to each area of expenditure, it should set out how value for money will be achieved and demonstrated. We would expect the definition and measurement of value for money to draw on appropriate benchmarks and good practice, and recommend that the draft budget refer to these as appropriate.	This was addressed on page 8 of the GLA's draft corporate plan. The Mayor's consultation budget sets out separately the savings and efficiencies underpinning the budgets of the GLA and each functional body and how these compare with government efficiency targets.
3.26	We repeat the recommendation of our predecessor committee that the Mayor should consult the Assembly and the public before making any further decisions about fares. This consultation should be integrated so far as possible into the rest of the budget-setting process in order that the Mayor's proposals may be considered in the round.	The timetable for establishing fares, which is statutorily defined, means that they have to be set for the next financial year well before any Budget Submissions from the Functional Bodies are received from the GLA.

Appendix A – Response to the Budget and Performance Committee Pre-Budget Report Recommendations

Para Ref.	Recommendation	Mayor's Response
3.40	If inflation continues at July 2008 rates, it will result in significant pressure on the budgets of the GLA group. We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should set out clearly what inflation rates and other cost pressures are assumed within budget projections for the GLA and each functional body.	The relevant level of inflation is the rate during 2009-10 and it is forecast to reduce significantly. Functional bodies have taken account of any pressures from inflation during 2008-09 in setting their forward estimates and will also take into account any recent developments since preparation of their budget submissions when they set their final detailed budget before the start of the financial year.
3.41	We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should include information showing the assumptions underlying projections of income for the GLA and functional bodies.	Income from interest receipts and other sources is outlined for the GLA and other functional bodies in the relevant section of the Mayor's consultation budget. Any savings growth above inflation or reduction in income over the previous year is included in the growth and saving schedules.
3.45	We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should include a separate statement of the costs and funding of Olympic Games-related activities.	Appendix E of the Mayor's consultation budget shows these details for the GLA and each functional body.
3.46	We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should include revised projections of the amount and revenue cost of planned prudential borrowing by each functional body. The draft budget should also include, within each component budget, information showing what assumptions have been made in relation to: the costs of prudential borrowing; the contribution of the private sector to major projects; and projected interest and capital receipts.	Section 9 of the Mayor's consultation budget provides an outline of the Draft Capital Spending Plan. It provides a high level summary of proposed expenditure and how it will be funded including from capital receipts, borrowing, capital grant or revenue contribution. It does not itemise private sector contributions to major projects in any detail as this is outside the scope of the budget document as well as being confidential information in some cases. Further information will be provided in the Draft Capital Spending Plan to be published by 15 January.
3.48	The Mayor has asked for budget submissions covering the period at least to 2011/12. We request that the consultation draft budget should identify clearly the amounts of efficiencies and budget reductions that will be required for each component budget, as well as setting out the costs of new initiatives and proposed areas of growth. It should itemise any savings or reductions that have already been identified and describe what the process and timescales will be for	The Mayor's consultation budget provides this level of information on efficiencies committed growth and new initiatives. Plans for 2009-10 are fully funded, but some savings are still required in future years. The amounts required in future years are identified with the relevant section of the document and a composite total is indicated at appendix F. The business planning process is on-going and work already underway within the GLA and functional bodies to

Appendix A – Response to the Budget and Performance Committee Pre-Budget Report Recommendations

Para Ref.	Recommendation	Mayor's Response
	identifying further savings. This will enable us to assess the extent to which the required savings will be made by efficiencies and the extent to which reductions will be required beyond those efficiencies. It will also enable us to judge the extent to which the planned levels of savings are achievable, as opposed to unidentified savings being included in the budget as a balancing figure.	address future efficiency requirements. It is to be expected that there will be savings gaps at any point in time for future years, but these are closed as greater certainty emerges over the planning period.
4.7	We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should identify projected numbers of police officer numbers, as well as the amount of time expected to be spent by police officers on front line service delivery. If there is to be a halt in the growth in police officer numbers in London, this must be fully debated and discussed, and convincing and effective measures must be put in place to ensure that the capacity of the Metropolitan Police Service continues to increase even if their total numbers do not.	The projected number of police officers over the next three years arising from current budget and planning assumptions is shown at para xx of the MPA section of the Mayor's consultation budget.
4.13	We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should set out his policy on the reserves of each of the component parts of the GLA group, the principles underpinning his policy, and his assessment as to appropriate levels of reserves over the three-year planning period.	Information on reserves is included within the relevant section of the Mayor's consultation budget. Each functional body has a separate reserve policy tailored to its own particular needs. Further information will be included in the advice section of the Mayor's report to the Assembly in January.
4.19	A costed plan for the security elements of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is due by the end of 2008. We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should, so far as possible, include details of the anticipated costs to the MPA and how these will be met in each of the three years from 2009/10 to 2011/12.	A split between revenue and capital expenditure is included in Appendix E of the Mayor's consultation budget for each year up to and including 2012-13. Expenditure is included on the basis that it is funded by government.

Appendix A – Response to the Budget and Performance Committee Pre-Budget Report Recommendations

Para Ref.	Recommendation	Mayor's Response
4.24	The MPA will need to identify significant savings in order to comply with the Mayor's financial planning guidelines over the next three years. There is a large provision for unidentified savings, and the MPA will face pressures from inflation and other financial and economic factors. We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should include details of proposed savings or budget reductions for 2009/10 and, so far as possible for 2010/11. The document should also explain what other potential savings or reductions are under consideration and what their scale and impact would be.	A complete list of MPA savings within the Mayor's consultation budget for 2009-10 is shown at appendix B. This also shows the amount of savings to be identified in 2010-11 and 2011-12, but the business planning process is on-going to address future efficiency requirements. It is to be expected that there will be savings gaps at any point in time for future years, but these are closed as greater certainty emerges over the planning period.
5.9	We recommend that the draft budget for the GLA, due to be released to us for consultation in November 2008, should illustrate the changes to existing plans in order to deliver the new Mayor's priorities. This should include clear indications as to how new initiatives will be funded, and which areas of work are planned to be reduced or stopped.	Detailed information on new Mayoral priorities and the savings required to fund them and meet the Mayor's financial guideline were included in the draft corporate plan and accompanying commentary which have been presented to Budget & Performance Committee.
5.10	We recommend that such an explanation should also be provided in relation to each functional body in order to provide clarity as to how the new Mayor's spending plans will differ from previously published plans.	Additional savings were required from the GLA and each functional body to meet the financial planning guidelines compared to forward spending plans produced last year. These will have been taken into account alongside other changes to forward plans, including amendments to inflation or new commitments in producing a balanced plan to meet the guideline. Therefore it is not possible to highlight separately how the plans differ other than through the lower budget requirements. However, the Mayor's consultation budget does provide break downs of budget movements
6.8	The Mayor's consultation draft budget must clearly show the impact of any budget reductions on fire safety checks and other fire prevention measures. We shall also examine closely the Mayor's consultation draft budget for LFEPA in order to assess the impact of his financial planning guidance on the numbers of firefighters and appliances. We recommend that the consultation draft budget should clearly illustrate the 2008-09 numbers and the projected numbers of	LFEPA proposed budget savings are summarised in Appendix C of the Mayor's consultation budget. Consideration is still being given by LFEPA to the final proposed list of savings to balance the budget and further detail will be included in the Mayor's report to the Assembly in January. LFEPA officers have assessed the proposed community fire safety savings proposals as having a low service impact. There is an estimated increase in frontline firefighting capacity of 29

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	firefighters and appliances over the three years covered by the consultation draft budget.	uniformed officers as a result of the opening of the new additional fire station in Havering.
6.33	For the purposes of transparency and clarity, we recommend that the consultation draft budget should include a statement of planned and anticipated transfers of funds within the GLA group.	The GLA is the receiving authority for government grants and these are paid over to the functional bodies as part of the treasury management arrangements agreed between the GLA and functional bodies. Details of government grants are included within the budget document, but it is beyond its scope to list all of these movements or any transfers for other joint projects.
6.34	LFEPA will need to deliver significant savings in 2009/10 and 2010/11 in order to balance its budget within the Mayor's financial planning guidelines. There has been a clear commitment from LFEPA not to reduce its operational capacity, and the Chairman of LFEPA has also indicated that he does not intend to make use of LFEPA's reserves other than to fund 'front line services'. We recommend that the consultation draft budget should include details of proposed savings and budget reductions in each of the three years from 2009/10 to 2010/11, indicating what the operational impact will be in each case. The consultation draft budget should also include projected numbers of firefighters and appliances in each year compared to the 2008/09 baseline figures.	LFEPA proposed budget savings are summarised in Appendix C of the Mayor's consultation budget. Consideration is still being given by LFEPA to the final proposed list of savings to balance the budget and further detail will be included in the Mayor's report to the Assembly in January. LFEPA officers have assessed all of the savings proposals required to balance the Mayor's budget as having a low service impact. There is an estimated increase in frontline firefighting capacity of 29 uniformed officers as a result of the opening of the new additional fire station in Havering.
7.29	In announcing the above-inflation fares increase for 2009/10, the Mayor referred to a shortfall of £80 million in TfL's budget, and a 'black hole' of £2 billion over ten years, which the fares increase was intended to address. However, we have not been provided with any detailed figures to support these assertions. The consultation draft budget should include a detailed account of how this deficit has emerged.	This was addressed in the letter dated 20 October from the Executive Director of Finance & Performance to the Chair of the Budget & Performance Committee.

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7.32	We recommend that as soon as Transport for London has calculated the financial implications of withdrawing the western extension, those figures should be provided to the Committee in order for us to consider them as part of the budget-setting process.	The decision to withdraw the western extension was taken after the business plan submission had been finalised, but would take effect from 2010-11. Any financial implications will be assessed and included when the TfL business plan is updated again as part of next year's budgetary cycle.
7.35	Overall, the new Mayor's policies should not be expected to result in significant changes in TfL's revenue expenditure profile, nor in its investment programme in relation to the Underground. We recommend that the consultation draft budget should clearly address the following key issues. a. Paying for and delivering investment in the Underground; b. Paying for Crossrail; c. TfL's commitment or otherwise to major new projects such as the Cross River Tram; d. The anticipated financial implications of the Mayor's commitments to phase out articulated buses and introduce a replacement for the Routemaster.	These issues are covered in the TfL section of the Mayor's consultation budget and are covered in more detail in TfL's business plan which was published on 6 November.
8.9	The Mayor has made at least two announcements suggesting that the London Development Agency will have an ongoing role in supporting smaller projects, such as those aimed at providing sports facilities and the Mayor's tree-planting scheme. It will be interesting and important to see how these commitments fit in with the new emphasis of the LDA on fewer, larger projects as recommended by the Forensic Audit Panel and espoused by the Chief Executive and the new board. This will be a crucial element of any assessment as to the extent to which the reforms of the LDA result in changes in the nature and effectiveness of its programmes.	The LDA is currently consulting on its draft investment strategy, which will then need to considered by its Board, and it would therefore be premature to determine the detailed allocation of resources between different types of project. However, the LDA's commitment to reduce radically the number of programmes it sponsors and focus on more strategic outcomes has been very clearly set out by its new management and in the draft investment strategy. This new approach has been widely welcomed.

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8.10	We recommend that the Mayor's consultation draft budget should include a clear statement about the proposed extent of the LDA's support for smaller scale projects. It should also set out clearly what proportion of the LDA's budget is proposed to be used to commission projects and how funds used in this way will be safeguarded; set out the budgetary implications of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and provide details of anticipated grants and other payments from the LDA to the GLA and functional bodies.	Delivery of many of the LDA's priorities is at the local level, so often the LDA will fund programmes of activities that are delivered through other partners or agencies - particularly London boroughs - managing the work carried out at local level, rather than the LDA itself directly overseeing delivery of outcomes. Local delivery of a range of smaller projects across London is therefore perfectly compatible with these projects being managed strategically, as programmes run by agencies which are funded by the LDA. The LDA's Olympic funding strategy is reflected in the LDA section of the Mayor's consultation budget and appendix E of the document.

Ends