Item 4
London Assembly
18 June 2008

First Mayor's Report to the Assembly

This is my first report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 5 May – 4 June 2008

Appointments

Deputy Mayor's, Directors and advisors

I have made several appointments to my new team during this reporting period, including;

Richard Barnes AM as the statutory Deputy Mayor
Ian Clement as my Deputy Mayor for international and government relations
Ray Lewis as my Deputy Mayor for young people
Kulveer Ranger as my Director for Transport
Munira Mirza as my Director for Culture, Art and the Creative Industries
Kit Malthouse AM as my Deputy Mayor for Policing
Guto Harri as my Director of Communications
Kate Hoey MP as my unpaid Commissioner for Sport
Sir Simon Milton as my unpaid senior adviser on Planning

As I promised in my accountability manifesto, I have put the details of all my political appointees on the public website. These include links to their register of interests and contact details. Details of my transition team have also been published.

First Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive of the GLA Group

On 22nd May I announced that Tim Parker has agreed to become First Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive of the GLA Group. I will also nominate Tim to be Chairman of Transport for London from 1st September 2008.

Tim Parker is one of the UK's most successful businessmen with an impressive track record of bringing out the best in a wide range of major companies, including the AA, Kwik-Fit, Clarks and Kenwood. He also has considerable experience of public service, having worked in the Treasury and served as a board member of the Audit Commission and a Regional Development Agency and as chairman of the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund.

Tim Parker will take up his post on the 7 July 2008. He has agreed to take no salary.

LDA

On 8th May I asked Mary Reilly, Chair of the London Development Agency (LDA) Board, and Manny Lewis, Chief Executive of the London Development Agency, to step down from their roles.

I have nominated Harvey McGrath as the Interim Chair of the LDA and recommend Peter Rogers as the Interim Chief Executive.

Metropolitan Police Authority

On 12th May I appointed 12 members of the London Assembly to the membership of the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA).

The new members are Kit Malthouse, Steve O'Connell, Richard Tracey, Victoria Borwick, James Cleverley, Navin Shah and Caroline Pidgeon.

Richard Barnes, Len Duvall, Jennette Arnold, Dee Doocey, and Jenny Jones have been reappointed as Greater London Authority members for a second term.

They take up post from Monday 12 May until 30 September 2008.

I have appointed Kit Malthouse AM as my nominee to sit on the panel selecting the independent members of the MPA.

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

I have appointed Brian Coleman AM as Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) from 17 June 2008 to 16 June 2009. This appointment has been confirmed following a hearing process.

I addition I have appointed Roger Evans, Tony Arbour, Navin Shah, Valerie Shawcross, Murad Qureshi, Caroline Pidgeon and Darren Johnson to the membership of LFEPA from 17 June 2008 to 16 June 2009.

LOCOG Board

On 20th May I announced that I have appointed David Ross, Non-Executive Deputy Chairman of Carphone Warehouse as my nominee to represent me on the board of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games.

I have also asked David to look at all aspects of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to ensure that they create a truly lasting legacy for all Londoners and that London is not saddled with an unreasonable bill for generations to come.

I also announced that Neale Coleman is to be retained as the Greater London Authority's adviser on the London Games.

Community Safety and Policing

Transport safety initiative

On 16th May Sir Ian Blair, Peter Hendy and I launched a new initiative to improve safety and security on London's transport system.

For the first time, high visibility teams of crime fighters will be dedicated entirely to policing bus hubs and the immediate vicinity, confronting crime and anti-social behaviour as it happens and reassuring the travelling public.

An additional 440-uniformed officers will be used to establish the new teams. Each team will made up of one sergeant, one police constable and seven PCSOs. They will be supported by 1,600 Special Constables.

The new teams will be deployed into a variety of interchanges across the capital, specifically targeted at those areas experiencing the greatest problems.

DNA kits issued to all London bus drivers as specialist police unit is set up to combat attacks

I have confirmed that London's bus drivers have been issued with DNA spit kits that will be used to help prosecute passengers guilty of assaults involving spitting. This means that if an incident involving spitting happens on a bus, the driver will be able to use the kit to take a DNA sample of the suspect. Last year there were more than 1,000 recorded incidents of spitting on London's buses and many of these were attacks on drivers.

These kits have been used in Tube stations for a number of years and have helped to identify around seventy per cent of assailants whose saliva samples were sent off to the Police National Database for analysis.

At the same time, the Metropolitan Police Service's Transport Operational Command unit is setting up a work place violence unit to investigate workplace violence against bus drivers across London. This team of officers will compliment the work of the successful London Underground Workplace Violence Unit, which has increased the detection of people who have abused members of staff.

Operation Blunt 2

On 29th May my Deputy Mayor for Policing, Kit Malthouse, saw at first hand the results of the Metropolitan Police's anti knife crime initiative, Operation Blunt 2, at Scotland Yard.

Kit Malthouse, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Ian Blair and Cindy Butts Deputy Chair, Metropolitan Police Authority were shown a range of knives, which have been seized by the police as part of the deployment of knife arches and increased use of stop and search as part of Operation Blunt 2.

City Hall Knife Crime Summit

On 30th May, families affected by gun and knife crime met my Deputy Mayor for Young People, Ray Lewis, to look at practical, long term measures to tackle knife, gun and youth crime.

The parents of murdered teenagers Kiyan Prince and James Smartt-Ford (Mark Prince and Tracey Smartt-Ford) were amongst representatives from Losing Our Sons Tragically, Through Unity and Mothers Against Murder and Aggression who shared knowledge and suggested methods the Mayor of London can take in relation to knife crime.

Jimmy Mizen Memorial Service

On 17th May my statutory Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes AM attend the memorial service for murdered teenager Jimmy Mizen. The teenager was murdered in a bakers shop in the Burnt Ash Hill area of Bromley on 10th May.

Crime is cut by 11% on the Underground

On May 28th I announced that crimes on the Underground and Docklands Light Railway have gone down by 11% this year with robberies on the network cut by more than 50%.

Continued investment in safety and security on the Tube network have helped to deliver the cut in recorded crime, shown by statistics released by the British Transport Police, today (Wednesday). There have also been reductions in pick pocketing, criminal damage, violent crime and public disorder offences in the past year.

With more than one billion passenger journeys every year on the Tube, there are now just 14 crimes for every million passenger journeys taken.

Transport

Alcohol ban comes into force

From Sunday 1st June, drinking from and carrying open containers of alcohol on London´s transport network was banned, making travelling on London's public transport network a safer and more pleasant experience for passengers. I announced the ban, a key manifesto commitment, earlier this month and information posters advising passengers of the ban have been carried across the transport network.

Oyster pay as you go for First Great Western passengers

On 12th May I announced a deal between Transport for London (TfL) and First Great Western that will extend Oyster pay as you go to all London stations served by First Great Western from September 2008.

Thousands more passengers using these routes will be able to enjoy the greater convenience and speed of Oyster at stations from West Drayton and Greenford into Paddington. Zonal fares the equivalent of those on the Tube will apply for journeys from these stations.

Last chance for thousands of young Londoners to sign-up for free travel

On The 8th of May I confirmed that applications at Post Offices must be made by Saturday 10 May for new Oyster photocards to be issued in time for 1 June.

Transport for London (TfL) issued a final call to the families of up to 35,000 11 to 13 year olds in London to act before they lose their privilege of Free Travel on buses and trams this summer.

To continue to qualify for Free Travel 11-13 year olds must apply for a concessionary Oyster photocard for the first time – by this Saturday, 10 May – in order to be sure of

receiving their cards in time for 1 June. Application forms are available at Post Offices across the capital.

From 1 June everyone aged 11 and over must touch in with a valid Oyster photocard when boarding a bus or at a tram stop to continue travelling for free.

Simpler and easier fares for London Overground

On May 13th I announced that I have simplified London Overground fares and introducing changes that will result in an average fare reduction of 9p.

London Overground was formed last November when Transport for London took over Silverlink Metro services. The latest changes include some that were requested by passengers and others that will complete amendments made in January to reflect the introduction of Oyster Pay As You Go on London Overground services and the move from a National Rail charging structure to Transport for London's.

The new changes to fares, introduced on 18 May, will make travel easier and, in many cases, cheaper.

Heathrow Expansion

In support of my Manifesto commitment to oppose a third runway and mixed mode at Heathrow, I was represented by my Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes at the 'Make a Noise' event on Saturday 31 May. The event included a march from Hatton Cross, with participants forming a giant human 'no', visible from the air, at Sipson, the village that would be demolished for a third runway. The event was organised by the 2M Group of local authorities, HACAN ClearSkies, NOTRAG, and Campaign against Climate Change.

Consultation on abolition of half-yearly black cab inspections

On 14th May I took my first step towards delivering on my campaign promise to black cab drivers, by announcing the start of a consultation period on the abolition of half yearly black cab inspections.

The mid-year inspections were introduced in October 2007, and were accompanied by a £36 increase in the annual licence fee, from £142 to £178, to cover the cost of the additional test. Many taxi drivers have found that this arrangement has created an unnecessary administrative burden, and I have now asked Transport for London to consult on a new approach that would remove unnecessary red tape whilst maintaining the taxi trade's superb safety record.

The proposals include:

- Retaining the annual taxi inspection as a condition of licence.
- Removing the mid-year taxi inspection as a condition of licence.
- Increasing the number of on-street taxi inspections by TfL's vehicle compliance team.
- Reducing the annual licence fee to reflect the lower overall taxi licensing cost.
- Introducing a fee for any taxi requiring a re-test after failing the annual vehicle inspection or an on-street inspection.

Passengers benefit from new Northern line timetable

I can confirm that customers on London's busiest Tube line now have a more reliable service due to the introduction of a new timetable. A series of changes to the Northern line schedule, the product of over a year of detailed study, has resulted in more trains running on time.

Modifying the service in response to increasing customer demand has led to increased reliability and has reduced journey times by around a minute.

The Northern line carries around three quarters of a million people daily. Rising passenger numbers mean that trains take longer to complete their journeys as they have to stop for longer at busy stations to allow time for the extra people to get on and off. The timetable was changed in January 2008 to reflect this, meaning that trains now run to time more often. The new service can also recover more quickly if there are delays.

London businesses urged to get on their bikes

On May 19th I confirmed that registration opens for Transport for London's (TfL's) Workplace Cycle Challenge, to encourage London's commuters to take to two wheels

Increasing numbers of Londoners have taken to two wheels and are cycling to work. Now Transport for London is asking cyclists to register for the Workplace Cycle Challenge to encourage even more Londoners to cycle to work.

Cyclists from workplaces across the Capital are being asked to form teams and compete against other businesses in the challenge, which will take place during June.

Metronet transfer to TfL

Metronet's exit from Administration and transfer to Transport for London (TfL) was completed as the High Court set the date for the transfer of the people, assets and contracts of the Metronet business to two TfL-owned nominee companies. This took place at 00:01 hours on 27 May 2008.

I can confirm that TfL's investment will focus on line upgrades – new trains and signalling systems – in order to deliver greater reliability and capacity

Under my instruction TfL has pledged to focus investment on new trains and signalling systems, as well as station renewals, to deliver the greater reliability and capacity that Londoners and Tube users want and need.

Over the coming financial year, TfL's investment in trains, signalling and stations on the eight Tube lines that were formerly the responsibility of Metronet is forecast to be around £1.4bn – the equivalent of almost £27m each week.

All Metronet Rail staff will be transferring to the nominee companies under their existing terms and conditions and in accordance with TUPE regulations.

Visitors to London to receive better access to Oyster cards

On May 29th I confirmed that Oyster cards are to be available to visitors before they arrive in London, with Oyster cards sold through the Oxford Tube Coach Service

Transport for London (TfL) and Oxford Tube have joined forces so that passengers on the dedicated London to Oxford coach service can buy Oyster cards before they even reach the Capital, and be ready to travel on the Tube and buses as soon as they arrive.

Thanks to this new partnership, from June Visitor Oyster cards will be available for passengers to buy in Oxford from ticket offices at Gloucester Green Coach Station and Thornhill Park and Ride.

London Ambassadors

On 22 May an event was held at the London Transport Museum highlighting the achievement of Street Environment Wardens from the London Borough of Islington for successfully completing their 'London Ambassador' training, in which they gained new skills and knowledge to improve their visitor welcome.

Funded by the London Development Agency (LDA), the London Ambassador scheme enables existing front line staff to provide an approachable welcome on the streets of the capital to all visitors on behalf of London. The scheme is an integral part of the LDA's programme to improve the 'visitor welcome' to the capital in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In the first year of the scheme over 200 front line staff, such as Islington's Street Environment Wardens, have become London Ambassadors, putting local people at the forefront of welcoming visitors to the capital.

The scheme is now being rolled out to BAA Customer Hosts at Terminal 5, staff at other transport networks and other key visitor contact points.

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Meetings with Tessa Jowell MP and Lord Coe

On Wednesday 14 May, I met Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP (Minister for the Olympics) and Lord Coe (Chair of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games). On Thursday 15 May I joined Ms Jowell and Lord Coe, along with Lord Moynihan (Chairman of the British Olympic Association), for a meeting of the Olympic Board. Both occasions gave me the opportunity to be briefed on the preparations for the Games, and to set out my personal vision for the Games and their legacy for London. In both meetings I particularly stressed the importance of ensuring that the Games provide the best possible value for money for Londoners.

International Olympic Committee Coordination Commission visit

On Tuesday 20 May I addressed members of the International Olympic Committee's Co-ordination Commission for London 2012, who were in London to carry out their regular assessment of London's preparations. I met members of the Commission again at a reception at Lancaster House the following evening. At the end of the visit, the

Commission declared itself 'greatly impressed' with London's progress, giving us 9.75 marks out of 10.

Olympic Park site visit

On Thursday 22 May I visited the Olympic Park construction site to take part in the ceremony marking the commencement of construction of the Olympic Stadium, three months ahead of schedule.

Children and Young People

Preventative initiatives

On 6 May, I visited a youth project at Dagenham Fire Station with my Deputy Mayor, Ray Lewis, to see the London Fire Brigade's 'Life' (Local Intervention Fire Education) course in action. This is one of the Brigade's most successful youth engagement programmes across London, improving community relations, reducing anti social behaviour and having measurable benefits in instilling a sense of social responsibility, self worth and self-discipline in the young people on the programme.

All 33 London Boroughs are receiving an allocation from a total pot of £14 million as part of the London Youth Offer. This extra GLA investment is going to boroughs to increase local prevention projects focused on reducing criminal activity and improve young people's participation in education and employment. Young people are being involved at borough level in deciding how this money is spent.

The Young Londoners' Fund received over 400 expressions of interest to the LDA by the 2 May deadline. This part of the Youth Offer is to support voluntary and community sector groups, with £5 million being awarded for up to 26 projects running over two years. The Programme Board will be chaired by Bharat Mehta, Chief Executive of City Parochial Foundation, and include young people.

Peer Outreach Team

I have already met some of the GLA Peer Outreach Team, who are thirty-five 15-25 year-olds drawn from a very diverse mix of young Londoners. They are delivering pan London projects and advising the GLA group on a range of issues including health, housing and gangs, gun and knife crime.

The Team has completed its project to develop a toolkit and train young people in London boroughs to make local health provision more accessible for young people. This 'You're Welcome (Pilot) Project' was part of the Department of Health's wider 'You're Welcome Quality Criteria'. This month will also see the completion of the pilot phase of the 'Young Inspectors Project', whereby members of the Peer Outreach Team review and inspect local authority Children and Young People's Plans, alongside local young people, and advise on improvements to the way that local services are engaging with young people.

Members of the Team are undertaking a 'Gun and Knife Crime Project', targeted at 11-16 year olds. They are acting in a consultative and outreach role with both adult practitioners and policy-makers and young Londoners. The aims are to gather and share

viewpoints on serious youth violence in London, to improve communication between adults and young people, and hence proposed solutions.

The young people are working with and influencing key partnerships such as the London Youth Crime Prevention Board and have presented on their work to the Gangs Guns and Weapons Reduction Board, the London Funders Group and the Youth Justice Board London Regional Gangs Forum.

Pan London Somali Youth Conference Event

On 27th May my statutory Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes AM attended the Pan London Somali Youth Conference Event on my behalf. The event was about the prevention of crime and gang culture.

International

Review of International Offices

On 27 May I announced a strategic review of the Greater London Authority's international offices. The process will be led by Deputy Mayor for Government Relations, Ian Clement, and will be conducted by the autumn. The terms of reference of the review are:

a) To make an assessment of whether the current resources allocated reflect genuine value for money.
b) To make a measurement of how they aid London's economy in terms of increased Foreign Direct Investment and increased employment.
c) To make an assessment of how successfully or otherwise London is promoted internationally through other channels.
d) To make an assessment of the feasibility of other sources of funding, such as sponsorship.
e) To gauge the views of key economic stakeholders both in London and abroad on the performance and value of the offices.
f) To make an assessment of their importance or otherwise in ensuring that London takes full advantage of emerging international markets.
g) To make an assessment of the Brussels office and its usefulness or otherwise in interpreting which European regulations impact on London and the GLA Group.On 27th May I launched a process to consider whether the Greater London Authority's international offices perform a useful strategic function and represent value for money.

The Greater London Authority currently funds six offices in Caracas, Delhi, Mumbai, Beijing, Shanghai and Brussels and employs a consultant in Moscow.

Venezuela deal to end

On 25th May I announced that the energy funding agreement between London and Venezuela's state-owned oil company, which was instituted under the last mayoral administration, will not be renewed when it concludes on August 20th this year.

The office set up in Caracas to oversee the deal will be closed, saving an estimated £67,000 per year in running and staff costs, with work to shut down the operation having already begun.

I have made it clear that Transport for London will honour the half price bus and tram fares scheme for Londoners on Income Support, accepting applications in the usual way until the agreement comes to an end in August, and recognising the discount beyond this date until the six month time periods on people's cards have run out.

Under the agreement, the Greater London Authority and Transport for London provided advice and technical expertise in areas of city management, such as public transport and planning, in exchange for a financial contribution calculated towards the fuel used by London's bus fleet.

London and New York Innovation Exchange Programme

On 9th May I met with Mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how leading officials could work together to explore lessons learned by both administrations and help in the implementation of key initiatives. We also made an agreement at the meeting to establish an exchange programme designed to share best practices in government innovation.

The Innovation Exchange Programme will focus on designing practical, efficient, and effective policies, overcoming implementation challenges, and evaluating success in making government more transparent, accountable, accessible and efficient, with an emphasis on public safety and emergency management. As well as a formal exchange of ideas the programme will include personnel exchanges to ensure ideas and policy proposals are developed in partnership.

Areas likely to be included in the transatlantic exchange:

- Transparency and Accountability
- Efficiency
- Transport
- Policing
- Education and skills
- Environmental policy

Chinese earthquake

On 21 May I offered my formal condolences to the government and people of China following the devastating earthquake in Sichuan province. The Book of Condolence at the Chinese Embassy was signed on my behalf and on behalf of the people of London by my Deputy Mayor for Government Relations, Mr Ian Clement.

Day of Global Prayer

On 11 May I attended the London event of the Global Day Of Prayer organised with Pastor Dr Jonathan Oloyede of Glory House in Plaistow and Nims Obunge, Founder of the Peace Alliance, in partnership with Tearfund.

Environment

Chair of London Waste and Recycling Board

On 27th May I announced that I will chair the London Waste and Recycling Board in order to work with London's borough councils to boost recycling in the capital and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. I have reached an agreement with London Councils on the composition of the new London Waste and Recycling Board and the appointment of its Chair and seven members. The Board was announced by the Government last year with a proposed budget of £60 million to deliver funding to boost recycling and ensure London's waste is managed sustainably, with minimal damage to the environment.

On 23rd May, Cllr Cockell from London Councils and Ian Clement my Deputy Mayor for Government Relations jointly wrote to Joan Ruddock, the Minister for waste, to advise that the Mayor of London's office and London Councils have come to a mutual resolution for the constitution of the Board. We are agreed that the Order should provide for an 8 member board to be chaired by the Mayor or his appointed deputy. The remaining 7 members would be as follows: 4 London Borough Councillors – appointed by London Councils, 2 independent members – appointed by London Councils, 1 independent member – appointed by the Mayor The Chair would have a casting vote in the event of the Board being split down the middle.

Thames Water

On 12th May I announced that I have negotiated a package of measures with Thames Water that will improve life in the capital, safeguard water supplies and keep cars moving in central London, and agreed to drop existing legal action to the company's plans to construct a desalination plant on the Thames at Beckton.

Thames Water has committed to work with my office to reduce the impact of their roadworks on traffic in London. This includes setting up pilot projects across the capital to look at different ways of working in the city's streets, particularly relating to the company's extensive programme of Victorian mains replacement. This should allow London's traffic to move more freely and reduce congestion across the capital.

Thames Water has also agreed to work with me on a package of new environmental measures. These include helping to capture and reuse the waste energy that will be generated by the proposed Barking Power Station to help provide heating and hot water for up to 90,000 homes and save up to 90,000 tonnes of CO2 a year. Thames Water has also agreed to work with the Mayor on a range of major water efficiency measures across the capital to help bring new housing developments up to the latest environmental standards.

I have therefore agreed to withdraw the legal challenge to Thames Water's plans to proceed with its plans for a desalination water treatment plant at Beckton. Thames Water has also confirmed that the generator to power the plant will use 100 per cent renewable fuel.

Street Trees

I announced on 13th May that I will plant 10,000 new street trees during my first 4-year term, using £1 million per year of the savings made from closing The Londoner newspaper. The trees will be planted in the 40 most needy areas, identified with the help of environmental charities. Londoners will have the opportunity to vote for which of the priority areas receive their trees first.

Centre for Low Carbon Technology

On 2nd June I announced that the London Development Agency will be part funding a brand new centre for low carbon technology in buildings at London South Bank University that will help put London at the forefront of the fight to tackle climate change.

The centre is a joint initiative between the LDA and the Higher Education Funding Council for England, in partnership with LSBU and City and Kingston Universities - the Centre for Efficient and Renewable Energy in Buildings will provide a unique teaching, research and demonstration resource for the capital.

The centre is the first of its kind in the UK and will provide teaching in sustainable energy technology and building design for university students, academics and to industry. It will also be available to the commercial and construction sectors as a research facility as well as showcasing the latest in low carbon technology and design including photovoltaics, solar thermal, ground source heat pumps and wind power. The building itself will be cooled and heated using geothermal energy technology which will form part of the demonstration facility on the roof top of the building.

If we are to reduce carbon emissions in London it is vital that we educate the likes of the construction and design industries to incorporate groundbreaking technologies into their buildings. This centre is unique in that it provides both research and teaching facilities but also demonstrates how technologies can be used in situ.

Data about the technologies will also be available to a wider audience via a web-based virtual learning facility. The centre will be built on top of LSBU's new Keyworth II building. Its design includes features to reduce carbon emissions including thermal massing, solar shading, ground source heating and cooling, and solar thermal.

C40

The C40 group of major international cities committed to tackling climate change, on the 4th June elected me honorary Deputy Chair, a new permanent position. The Mayor of Toronto, David Miller, will Chair the group. The Chair of the C40 will then rotate.

The C40 secretariat will continue to be based in London with the costs of this being covered by the city of Toronto. I also announced that the money saved by London from this arrangement will continue to be spent on initiatives to tackle climate change. As part of London's continued prominent commitment to the group, London will also host a major C40 conference during my term of office - this will be developed in conjunction with the C40 cities.

I am delighted to be working with the Mayor of Toronto and the C40 cities in recognition of my commitment for London to play a significant role in reduce carbon emissions, and tackle climate change. London is a world leader in this area, and I am determined to see that the expertise and innovation being developed here is shared with cities around the world. Equally, I see many excellent ideas coming from others cities that we want to learn much more about - I have already committed to introduce a public bike hire scheme in London similar to that developed in Paris, another C40 city. Cities across the world share the common threat of climate change, and cities create most of the carbon emissions that are causing it, so it is vital we continue to work together to accelerate action on this issue.

Social Inclusion

Childcare Affordability Programme

On 19 May 2008 I announced that the LDA's Childcare Affordability Programme has helped a record number of London's parents get back into training or work as a result of 1000's more affordable childcare places.

Affordable childcare is a significant problem for many families. My aim is to improve the quality of life for all Londoners, which includes helping children and their families to ensure they don't fall into poverty

Over 8,000 families - and nearly 8,500 children - have now benefited as a result of the £33 million London scheme subsidising up to 10,000 childcare places and jointly funded by the LDA and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The Childcare Affordability Programme covers a combination of full-time and flexible childcare. It also offers additional support for those parents of disabled or SEN children, or those needing childcare to make the transition back into work. Some London Boroughs are now filling more places than originally offered under this part of the programme - reaching a take-up of 132 percent.

Senior Employment and Childcare Advisors are also working closely with the boroughs giving one-to-one support to parents, offering support in childcare and helping them to access the training and employment which will help lift them out of the poverty trap

Post Offices

I have decided to continue with the outstanding judicial review challenge to the consultation on the Post Office closure programme in London, and I am currently awaiting a preliminary decision from the High Court on this issue.

London has already experienced disproportionately high levels of post office closures in recent years compared with other areas of the country. The Post Office has not provided convincing evidence that further closures in London are necessary on economic grounds. Community-based enterprises like local Post Offices provide vital

services for Londoners, especially older Londoners and families, and they must be protected. Post Offices are crucial in supporting local retail and where a Post Office closes, small businesses suffer.

I will also continue to welcome and support initiatives by local councils and others to help keep post offices running, and we have written to the Managing Director of the Post Office to assure him that the GLA will be pleased to discuss further how we can input most effectively into the development of new and improved Post Office services.

Deaf Awareness Week

My statutory Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes AM attended an event on my behalf as part of Deaf Awareness Week, which ran from 5th – 11th May. The event featured the launch of a book about colloquial sign language.

Business Breakfast on tacking child poverty

On 3rd June KPMG sponsored a business breakfast to explore with some of London's most influential employers the role and opportunities for businesses in helping to tackle child poverty in the capital. The event, jointly organised by the London Child Poverty Commission (set up by the GLA and London Councils), the Government's Child Poverty Unit and KPMG, was addressed by the Rt Hon Stephen Timms, Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform, and the discussion was chaired by Harvey McGrath.

Business

UBS Senior Investor Day

On Monday 2nd June I spoke at the UBS Senior Investor day. The event involved eight meetings between company CEOs and senior investors, aiming to encourage strategic long term dialogue rather than the short term results focused meetings that are the common form of communication between companies and investors. I spoke on the topic of *'The Mayor's role in keeping London at the Heart of the Global Financial Community'*, outlining my policies for maintaining London's position as the leading Global Financial Centre.

Compete For

I am pleased to report that as of 14th May 2008, over 5,600 London Businesses have signed up for the CompeteFor service. CompeteFor is part of the London 2012 Business Network. Developed by the LDA and launched in February 2008, the service is run across the country by regional development agencies and the devolved administrations, alongside the Olympic Delivery Authority.

CompeteFor matches companies of all sizes to thousands of opportunities supplying London 2012 contractors. By registering online, businesses will be able to apply for contracts that are part of the estimated 50,000 future business opportunities - around £6 billion of work expected to be allocated by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and London Organising Committee (LOCOG).

This is one of the LDA's projects that are helping to deliver the legacy now. The project will ensure that Londoners reap a share of the economic benefits which the Games will generate. CompeteFor opens up the supply chain for small and medium sized businesses - while also helping improve their ability to supply through the work the LDA are delivering in partnership with the London Business Network, to ensure as many businesses as possible can access information, business support and networking events around the 2012 opportunities.

Culture and events

Africa Day

My office organised the Africa Day celebrations on Trafalgar Square on Monday 26th May. Despite the appalling bank holiday weather the event was well attended by many of London's African communities and visitors to Trafalgar Square. The event featured a diverse stage programme comprising of music from the African Diaspora as well as African marketplace, which included both traditional food and drink.

I was unable to attend the event in person, so colleagues Richard Barnes and Ray Lewis attended the event on my behalf, where they attended a reception at South Africa House meeting with several African Missions and community leaders, made a speech on the main stage and took in the sights and sounds on what was a very successful event.

Rise: London United Festival

I agreed to proceed with the planning and preparation of the Rise: London United Festival to be held on Sunday 13th July at Finsbury Park and release GLA funding in relation to this. The net cost to the GLA of this event will be £300,000.

Baisakhi Mela

On 11th May my statutory Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes AM attended the Baisakhi Mela in Tower Hamlets. The festival brought together the very best of Bengali arts, music and culture to Banglatown, one of the borough's most dynamic quarters.

Fourth Plinth project will continue but backs memorial to Sir Keith Park

On 3rd June I met with Munira Mirza, Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Industries Policy, and Ekow Eshun, Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, who has recently been appointed Chair of the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group.

It was my first meeting with Ekow Eshun and they took the opportunity to look at the maquettes of the six shortlisted artworks to go on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square.

The work selected from the current shortlist to go on the Fourth Plinth will be announced shortly and the Mayor welcomed the appointment of Ekow Eshun as Chair of the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group.

I will continue to work with the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign to ensure that a suitable memorial is erected as quickly as possible at a high profile and prestigious central London location.

Boroughs

Meeting with Chair of London Councils

On 9th May I met with Cllr Merrick Cockell, Chair of London Councils for the first time since being elected. We discussed some of the big issues facing the capital, and opportunities for closer collaboration between the Mayor, the GLA and the boroughs.

Meeting with London's Borough Councils

On 9th May I convened a meeting with London's Borough Councils to develop new ways of working together.

The meeting was attended by London Councils Chairman, Councillor Merrick Cockell, Deputy Mayor for Government Relations, Ian Clement, and representatives from London's boroughs, who came to City Hall to join the Mayor and discuss how they could work more closely in the future to deliver the best service for Londoners.

London's top elected representatives enjoyed a constructive meeting and resolved to continue in the same spirit of co-operation and consensus over the coming months and years.

Meeting with City of London

On 4th June I met with Stuart Fraser, Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee at the City of London to discuss ways in which my office and the City can productively work together. We also talked about some of the key issues facing the capital including delivering Crossrail.

GLA Organisation

Forensic Audit Panel to investigate GLA and LDA

On 8th May I announced the formation of a Forensic Audit Panel to investigate financial management and controls at the London Development Agency and the Greater London Authority.

The Forensic Audit Panel has been tasked with recommending procedures to guarantee probity and transparency, as well as identifying areas where efficiencies can be made and resources redirected to the new Mayor's priorities.

Heading up the Forensic Audit Panel will be Patience Wheatcroft, former editor of The Sunday Telegraph, a distinguished and long-serving Business Editor of The Times and currently Non Executive Director of Barclays PLC and Shaftesbury PLC.

The other members include:

- Stephen Greenhalgh, Leader of Hammersmith and Fulham Council;
- Patrick Frederick, Chief Executive of Aimex International and former Head of Global Custody Operations for JPMorgan;
- Edward Lister, Leader of Wandsworth Council, and

- Andrew Gordon, Head of Investigations within the Forensic Services group of PricewaterhouseCoopers, who will act as Independent Expert Advisor to the Panel.

The review of the LDA will focus on:

- Allegations of mismanagement and corruption in the awarding of grants;
- How conflicts of interest are detected and recorded;
- The monitoring of grant recipients' performance in delivering what they promised.

The LDA part of the Panel's work will also suggest new processes to guarantee probity and value for money.

The review of the GLA will focus on:

- Publicity and advertising expenditure;
- The use of external consultants and agency staff;
- All areas where expenditure has grown since 2004.

The Panel's review of the GLA will also suggest areas where savings can be made without compromising performance. The Panel will present initial findings and a progress report to me within 30 days and a final report within 60 days.

Section 60 Responses

Promoting Business Continuity to Small Business

I welcome the scrutiny report produced by Richard Barnes's committee and I look forward to taking up the issues raised within it in my role as deputy chair of the London Regional Resilience Forum. I am sure you will understand that, as the Forum is essentially a Whitehall body over which I exercise no direct executive powers, it is not possible at this stage to give a detailed response to each and every recommendation contained in the report.

One recommendation on procurement does relate directly to the GLA and my executive powers. When conducting tendering exercises the GLA does not include a generic request for continuity / contingency / emergency planning documentation. An assessment is made on a case-by-case basis in relation to the level of risk associated with the tendering exercise. If required, a copy of potential suppliers' continuity / contingency / emergency planning documentation is requested and is assessed by the GLA on receipt. This practice will be formally recorded in the next version of the GLA's Contract Code - the Code is currently being updated.

Planning and Development Control

Delegation of decision making

I have agreed to delegate to Deputy Mayor, Government Relations, my function in relation to local development plan consultation and the formal issue of an opinion on general conformity at the submission stage.

I have also agreed to delegate my functions under the Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Orders 2000 and 2008 in relation to all planning applications referred to the Mayor of London, including those already received by the Greater London Authority.

I have also agreed to the cancellations of the following delegations authorised by the previous Mayor:

- The planning application for the redevelopment of St Katherine Dock, West Side, LB Tower Hamlets
- All planning applications relating to the delivery of the Olympics Park and associated planning applications
- All stopping up orders relating to the delivery of the Olympic Park

RIBA Futures Fair

On 15th May my statutory Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes AM spoke on my behalf at the RIBA futures fair. The event brought together a diverse range of architects and design professionals with researchers, academics and other thinkers to collectively horizon scan the future of the built environment.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

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

York House, Lambeth Palace Road, LB Lambeth
I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Woodberry Down Estate – Kick Start One, LB Hackney
I have written to the London Borough of Hackney stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Marcol House, City of Westminster
I have written to the City of Westminster stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

North East Quadrant, LB Camden
I have written to the London Borough of Camden stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Caspian Works, Strong & Hoe Site, LB Tower Hamlets
I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Former Essex House, LB Croydon
I have written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

72-78 Conington Road, LB Lewisham

I have written to the London Borough of Lewisham stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

30 Old Bailey, City of London
I have written to the City of London stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Trocadero Centre, 13 Coventry Street, City of Westminster
I have written to the City of Westminster stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Gayton Road car park, LB Harrow
I have written to the London Borough of Harrow stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

FM Conway, Church Manorway, LB Bexley
I have written to the London Borough of Bexley stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Road and Rail Freight Facility, Beam Reach, LB Havering
I have written to the London Borough of Havering stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Altitude 25, land adjacent to Croydon Park Hotel, LB Croydon
I have written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of this application.

Kingston Power Station Site, RB Kingston upon Thames
I have written to the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames stating that I have decided not to direct refusal of 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:

- Sipson Farm, LB Hillingdon
- Roman Place, LB Tower Hamlets
- Wah Kwong House, LB Lambeth
- Stonebridge Schools Site, Stonebridge Estate, LB Brent
- Former skateboard park, Christchurch Avenue, LB Harrow
- Harrow College, LB Harrow
- Neptune Point, LB Harrow
- Dovers Corner, Rainham, LB Havering
- Hackney Marshes playing fields, LB Hackney
- Alfa Laval, Great West Road, Brentford, LB Hounslow
- former Barnes Goodsyard, LB Richmond
- former BBC Sports Ground, Motspur Park, RB Kingston upon Thames
- Newfoundland, Canary Wharf, LB Tower Hamlets
- 120 Fenchurch Street, City of London
- Crossharbour, former London Arena, phase 2, LB Tower Hamlets
- Willow Lane, Mitcham, LB Merton

- 2 Trafalgar Way, LB Tower Hamlets
- Holland Park School, RB Kensington & Chelsea

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:

East London Joint Waste Development Plan Document - Preferred Options Consultation, LB Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge
Hackney Council's Core Strategy, Preferred Options Consultation, LB Hackney
Romford Area Action Plan, Statement of Common Ground, LB Havering

Decisions made under delegated authority

The following decisions have been made under delegated authority to the Head of Planning Decisions Unit:

Bexley Council's Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, LB Bexley

Key Engagements

Among my additional engagements over the period 8th May – 4th June were the following:

- I met with Kate Hoey MP on 9th May
- I met with David Davis MP on 12th May
- I met with Peter Hendy and Harvey McGrath on 12th May
- I chaired the London Skills and Employment Board on 13th May
- I met with Alistair Darling MP, Chancellor on 15th May
- I met with Sir Ian Blair and Deputy Commissioner Paul Stephenson on 19th May
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 21st May
- I met with TfL senior management on 22nd May
- I attended my first press conference on 4th June
- I took part in the C40 steering committee conference call on 4th June

Ends