Item 4

London Assembly
17 December 2008
Sixth Mayor's Report to the Assembly

This is my sixth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 30 October to 3 December.

Policing and Community Safety

London Violence Against Women Strategy

On 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, I announced the appointment of the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, at the London Metropolitan University, to develop and write the London Violence Against Women Strategy.

The new Violence Against Women Strategy will look at ways to end wider forms of gender based violence in the capital including domestic violence, rape, forced marriage, trafficking, female genital mutilation and so called 'honour' crimes.

The Strategy will be launched for public consultation in Spring 09. Once the Strategy is published, London will be amongst the first cities in the world to have an integrated approach to violence against women.

Dangerous Dogs Action Plan

I have been working in partnership with the MPS who have been developing a response to the increased threat from dangerous dogs (numbers in custody are expected to increase from less than 200 in 2006/07, to over 800 by the end of 2008/09).

Whilst the MPS has a clear responsibility for dangerous dogs and local authorities have a responsibility for nuisance dogs, there is a grey area regarding responsibility for aggressive dogs. I am keen to achieve clarity on this and the MPS Dangerous Dogs Forum (established a few weeks ago) will provide a forum to explore these issues. In addition, I will be developing an action plan to identify both enforcement and preventative measures to reduce the numbers of incidents involving aggressive dogs.

Fireworks and Halloween

Co-ordinated activity across London to tackle the traditional spike in crime and secondary fires during the Halloween and fire-works period has produced good reductions in crime and anti social behaviour. I have worked with the London Fire Brigade, Police, Transport for London, London Councils and London Trading Standards to promote best practice and support local activity to ensure that Londoners were able to safely enjoy the festivities.

Reports to the police about anti-social behaviour, during this period, reduced by 22%

this year compared to last year. This included a 50% reduction of firework related calls to the police and a 20% reduction in complaints about inconsiderate behaviour.

Transport

Congestion Charge Western Extension to be scrapped

On 27 November, I announced that I would begin the legal processes required to remove the Western Extension of the Congestion Charging zone in accordance with the results of the public consultation.

The five-week informal public consultation attracted nearly 28,000 responses and overall 67 per cent of individual respondents and 86 per cent of businesses responding to the public consultation supported the removal of the zone. Nineteen per cent stated that they wanted the extension kept as it is, and 12 per cent supported changing the scheme to improve the way that it operates.

During the election I promised Londoners a genuine consultation on the future of the extension. I promised that I would respect their opinions and I promised that if clear support for a particular way forward emerged then I would act on that opinion. Londoners have spoken loud and clear, and the majority of people have said that that they would like the scheme scrapped. As a Mayor that keeps his promises I am instructing Transport for London to begin work on the process of a formal consultation on the removal of the Western Extension.

Transport for London is working on a series of measures aimed at easing congestion and smoothing traffic flow, which include re-phasing traffic signals and cracking down hard on the chaos caused by badly-planned road works. They are also setting up a task force with external experts to review further ways in which traffic flows can be smoothed. Londoners must be able to get around our city without undue delay. I am committed to helping them do this as quickly, safely and cheaply as possible.

West London Investment

On 30 October, I opened the new Westfield Shopping Centre in Shepherd's Bush, the largest of its kind in Europe, and unveiled £200m of associated investment in transport infrastructure that will improve the quality of life for residents, boost local businesses, and benefit thousands of visitors to the centre.

The enormous investment in infrastructure will support and stimulate the economy both in the local area and across London, with a raft of transport improvements transforming the connections that West Londoners have to the transport network. These include:

- A rebuilt Shepherd's Bush Central line station, with new enlarged ticket hall, brand new escalators for the first time in 80 years, and enhancement so that the station will cope with the increased demand that will follow the opening of the Westfield centre;
- A new fully accessible White City bus station, next to the new Wood Lane Tube station, capable of carrying 10,000 passengers every day;

- A brand new, fully accessible Overground station on the Willesden Junction to Clapham Junction line, offering passengers a north-south rail link at Shepherd's Bush;
- A refurbished and improved White City Central line station;
- Four new cycle routes and 570 secure cycle parking spaces around the site;
- Upgraded pedestrian access with new crossings around the whole site.

Major boost for Woolwich Town Centre

On 31 October, I joined the Mayor of Greenwich Council in celebrating the completion of a £3.2m urban realm improvement scheme.

This first phase of the scheme, managed in partnership by TfL, Greenwich Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government, has seen the installation of a new 'Super Crossing,' at Plumstead Road, the planting of over 100 new trees and the installation of high-quality, sensitively-designed street furniture.

The improvements to road, river and rail transport are of key importance as they ensure that everyone has access to the town centre and the job opportunities that are being created by the increased investment.

Veterans Concessionary Travel Scheme

On 2 November, I introduced the Veterans Concessionary Travel Scheme which enables injured war veterans and eligible dependants to travel free of charge on public transport in the Capital.

All injured war veterans currently in receipt of a pension under the War Pensions Scheme or the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme are eligible for passes. Nearly 2000 passes have already been issued. As the scheme came in into effect in November, veterans from around the UK were able to get to the Cenotaph and around London during the Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services for free.

Way to Go

On 5 November, I launched 'Way to Go', my vision of transport in the capital. This highlighted the measures I will put forward to improve Londoners' quality of life.

As part of these measures we will press on with the big infrastructure investments vital to London's future competitiveness, including Crossrail, and upgrades to the tube network. I am also committed to smoothing traffic flow by re-phasing traffic lights and ensuring better co-ordination of road-works, as well as continuing to encourage people to walk and cycle. The consultation on this document lasts for 10 weeks and will end on 16 January 2009.

TfL Business plan

On 6 November, I published the TfL Business Plan, which outlines the multi-billion investment designed to boost transport capacity, create thousands of jobs and strengthen London's global position as a world class city.

This new Investment Programme will help deliver an almost 30% increase in the capital's transport network by 2018 and will focus on the upgrade of the Tube building Crossrail, extensions to the DLR and London Overground networks, supporting the 2012 Games and securing a legacy from them, smoothing traffic flows, leading a revolution in cycling and walking and providing greater flexibility for London's boroughs to deliver local transport solutions.

Guaranteeing the continued and massive investment in London's transport infrastructure is essential and to ensure this I have instructed Transport for London to focus on delivering the projects that will give the greatest benefits to Londoners, and not to proceed with spending money on projects that are yet to receive the necessary funding from Government and other sources.

It also makes clear that TfL will deliver £2.4bn of efficiencies over the term of the Plan.

Achievements of the Plan:

In terms of outcomes, by 2012, the TfL Business Plan will have delivered:

- The first of the large-scale Tube upgrades on the Jubilee, Victoria and Northern lines, each providing between 20 and 30 per cent more capacity into central London;
- The first ever air-conditioned trains on the Metropolitan, Circle, District and Hammersmith & City lines;
- Three-car trains on the DLR providing a 50 per cent increase in capacity;
- The transformation of the London Overground network - which includes the East London line and North London line - with improved reliability and a doubling of capacity;
- Improvements to London's traffic flow, such as through the optimisation of traffic lights and co-ordination of roadworks;
- A new Routemaster fit for 21st Century London;
- Trial of orbital express buses in Outer London;
- A London cycle hire scheme and other major initiatives, such as cycle highways, to revolutionise cycling in London; and
- A complete vision for the increased use of the Thames.

By 2018, this programme will also have delivered:

- Crossrail, providing a 10 per cent increase in London's rail-based public transport capacity;
- Remaining Tube upgrades on the Piccadilly, District, Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines - providing a 28 per cent increase in Tube capacity;
- Further schemes to cool deeper Tube lines, improving passenger comfort
- Major improvements at key transport interchanges at Tottenham Court Road, Victoria, Bond Street and Paddington, relieving congestion and improving the environment for passengers;
- One million more people cycling and walking in London; and
- A significant transport and regeneration legacy to follow a successful 2012 Games.

There were a number of schemes that had been promised by the previous Mayor that were never fully funded. In a tough economic climate, where Londoners are feeling the

squeeze, it is my duty to spend the money we do have to achieve maximum effect. TfL were spending literally tens of millions of pounds on developing these unfunded projects. I believe this money is much better spent on projects that are funded and can be delivered.

The schemes that will not be progressed are:

Thames Gateway Bridge: The objections raised at the public inquiry have always been a concern, particularly the disbenefits to traffic flow. In addition, the funding gap that has now arisen, along with other concerns has compounded the view that the proposal is not the right one, particularly in light of the consistent local opposition to the scheme.

Cross River Tram (cost to complete £1.3bn): Given the lack of funding available to implement the project and the likelihood of not securing additional third party funding, TfL is not in a position to develop the scheme any further.

Croydon Tramlink Extension (£170m+): The Crystal Palace scheme had been progressed by TfL but there is no government funding for implementation. I understand the importance of this scheme, and I am committed to working with the relevant Boroughs to progress a new proposal that will be prioritised in a future bid to government.

Oxford Street Tram/Transit (£500m): The proposal to improve links between Marble Arch and Tottenham Court Road is unaffordable and the disruption during construction would be very substantial.

East London Transit and Greenwich Waterfront Transit: Beyond the completion of the ELT 1a, ELT 1b and GWT 1 projects that are funded in the plan, no other further phases will be funded under the Plan.

Public Space Proposals: The Parliament Square scheme and Victoria Embankment schemes have been cancelled as they offered limited transport benefits. Additionally, TfL will not be providing funding for the High St 2012 and Euston Circus projects led by the London Development Agency and Design for London.

DLR Dagenham Dock (£750m): Funding has yet to be identified to implement the proposed extension through Barking Riverside to Dagenham Dock which would support the proposed plans. It is unclear whether the Barking Riverside housing development is a Government priority to 2018.

Cycle Hire Scheme

On 18 November, Transport for London began inviting expressions of interest from companies to provide a cycle hire scheme for the Capital.

From May 2010 people will be able to pick up and drop off hire bikes at 400 locations across the nine London boroughs and several Royal Parks that make up London's zone one travel area. An initial 6,000 hire bikes are expected to generate around 40,000 extra daily cycle trips in central London.

We are working incredibly hard to ensure London will be in a position to hit the target of a 400 per cent increase in cycle journeys in London by 2025 and this scheme is a

further step towards providing the most sustainable, healthy and environmentally friendly transport system ever seen in the Capital.

Local Implementation Plans

On 20 November, I announced a £168.3 million funding allocation for London's boroughs to deliver local transport improvements over the next financial year 2009/10. This largest ever funding package will help boroughs cut road deaths, improve town centres and cycling facilities, tackle the school run and carry out essential main road maintenance.

As well as increasing next year's local borough transport plan funding from TfL - up from £161m in 2008/09, the London's boroughs will have greater freedom in delivering local transport projects and included in the funding allocations is a £100,000 award to the Boroughs to spend as they see fit. The boroughs are also being given greater freedom to develop and deliver the schemes they want, which means more choice over a range of key local schemes to improve local town centres and cycling facilities, as well as tackling a range of local transport issues.

London boroughs play a key role as strategic partners with TfL in delivering many local improvements to transport. This largest-ever funding announcement coupled with the greater flexibility in working together will ensure the boroughs continue their excellent delivery record of local schemes.

London Overground

In November London Overground marked its first anniversary with increased passenger satisfaction and improved performance reported across the entire network. A recent survey showed that 68% of frequent passengers have seen improvements on the network and its services. Fifty six per cent of passengers said that staff visibility had 'got better' within the last twelve months, and 53% said station cleanliness was better too.

Transport for London (TfL) took over management responsibility for the network in November 2007 with a promise to deliver a step change in travel experience. All TfL managed stations were deep cleaned and repainted by summer 2008 with the existing public address systems, CCTVs and information displays thoroughly checked and repaired where necessary.

By 2010, all London Overground managed stations will be further upgraded including the refurbishment of floors, canopies and platform surfaces, the renewal of all station systems including CCTV, PA, Passenger Help Points and lighting and the installation of permanent London Overground signage. Brand new, customized and air-conditioned trains will also come into service from early next year.

United against expansion of Heathrow airport

On 21 November, representatives of the London, South-East and East of England regional planning bodies released a joint statement expressing their unified position on aviation and opposing further expansion of Heathrow airport.

At the Advisory Forum on Regional Planning, leading members of the South-East and East of England Assemblies and I agreed that airports are vital to the success of south east England's economy and development of the wider region. But all regions are critical of Government policy, which they believe fails to set out and justify the balance that should be struck between the economic, social and environmental factors and agree Heathrow airport can't bear the weight of expansion proposed by the Government.

The environmental impact of aviation is a further concern for the interregional forum: it supports efforts to make aviation less damaging to the environment, such as improving public transport links to airports and stresses that local environmental impacts need to be considered.

Legible London

On 24 November, I announced the Legible London scheme, which uses 3D representations to give people a quick sense of their bearings and help them locate shops, parks, hotels, landmarks, toilets, Tube stations and other amenities. The scheme has already been successful in guiding visitors around the Bond Street area and will now be extended to cover Regent and Oxford Streets.

As Legible London is introduced, redundant street furniture and confusing signage will be removed. The removal of obsolete signs and their replacement with fewer and more attractive, easy to understand, maps will reduce visual clutter and make life easier for pedestrians.

The scheme is being developed in creative partnership with borough councils and the business community, and other stakeholders such as the New West End Company. TfL are working to involve all partners in the process of securing funding for the programme in the future.

London Electric Vehicle Partnership

On 26 November, my drive to promote the development and use of electric vehicles in the capital took a major step forward as the London Electric Vehicle Partnership held its first meeting.

At the meeting representatives of the motor and energy industries and the capital's Boroughs signed up to the development of an action plan to greatly increase the use of electric vehicles in the capital. There was also discussion of the roles members of the group can play in accelerating the delivery of new technology and increasing the level of support for drivers of electric vehicles in the capital.

Unnecessary Road Humps

On 28 November, I outlined a new approach towards the installation of road humps and sent letters to councils across the capital encouraging them to consider alternatives to road humps or to use fewer where possible.

In recent years there has been a proliferation of road humps throughout London's road network, causing concern as they have spread to some important routes. Whilst road humps do lead to a reduction in the speed of vehicles there are other measures, such as

the use of innovative chicane designs, shared spaces and simplified streetscapes, that could have an equal or better effect.

The letters, which detail the level of TfL funding awarded to borough councils for local transport projects, outline the new approach to road humps, which I hope will be taken on board over the next year ahead of the next round of funding.

London Development Agency

Investment Strategy

On 3 November, I published the LDA Investment Strategy & Business Plan (IS&BP). The document sets out the LDA's emerging plans for 2009 to 2013 as the basis for consultation on how best to deliver shared outcomes in the years ahead. Along with the LDA, I am responsible for driving economic development and regeneration by investing in:

Growth – driving London's growth and development while supporting a switch to a low carbon London;
Skills – ensuring all Londoners are able to access this employment by working with business to tackle barriers to employment and progression;
Jobs – creating the conditions London needs to facilitate business growth, productivity and employment.

It is hoped that through wide ranging consultation, partners will help shape the future direction and programmes of the LDA; strengthen partnership working and delivery; and avoid duplication.

Annual Public Meeting 2008

On 2nd December, I attended the London Development Agency's Annual Public Meeting. The event provided a platform for the LDA to outline its future strategy and set out its key priorities moving forward. It also gave a great chance for a range of stakeholders to question and find out more about the work of the LDA in 2008 and their aims for the coming year.

The LDA's Annual Report and Final Accounts 2007-08 are now available on the LDA website.

LDA transfers to TfL

I have approved LDA transfers of £500,000 to TfL for the creation of Braham Street Park and £85,000 to TfL for design consultancy services to Docklands Light Railway Ltd.

Environment

Capital Growth

On 4 November, Rosie Boycott, Chair of London Food, and I launched an innovative scheme to turn 2,012 pieces of land into thriving green spaces to grow food by 2012.

Capital Growth – the first initiative delivered by Rosie Boycott in her capacity as Chair of London Food – aims to identify suitable patches of land around London and offer financial and practical support to groups of enthusiastic gardeners or organisations who want to grow food for themselves and for the local community. It is expected that a range of organisations will open up land to the scheme including borough councils, schools, hospitals, housing estates, utilities companies and parks. There are already community groups growing food on land across London - Capital Growth will help to expand these organisations whilst encouraging new ones.

Help a London Park

On 25 November, I launched a scheme to makeover ten of London's parks and Londoners are being given the chance to vote to decide which ones will get a £400,000 cash boost.

Six million pounds, made available through efficiency savings from the previous administration's publicity budget, will be spent on improving the capital's green areas. 47 of London's parks, with at least one in every borough, have been selected as candidates for a cash boost to make them safer and more enjoyable. The funding will transform ten of these parks across London over the next four years through grants of up to £400,000 each. I am calling on Londoners to vote to make sure their chosen park is one of the winners. In addition to this scheme, I will also award a single grant of up to £2 million to one large park for a makeover. (The £2million grant will not be open to the public vote).

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.

Green Economy

On 25 November, I outlined my vision to create a thriving green economy in London. In my first major speech on the environment since being elected, I set out my priorities to cut carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2025, become more energy efficient to help cash-strapped households cut energy bills and make London a 'greener', more civilised place to live and work.

Speaking at the Environment Agency's annual conference, I stressed that London was ideally positioned to lead in turning today's environmental challenges into real economic opportunities. I outlined how London's economy could benefit through 1000s of new 'green collar' jobs, by leading in the adoption of new energy technologies and by energy savings from energy efficiency measures in homes and businesses. Protecting our environment is one of the key issues we face today. Londoners deserve to live in an attractive, green, clean city, and we have a duty to improve Londoners' overall quality of life.

London Energy Partnership

I have approved the proposed programme of work and budget for the London Energy Partnership (LEP) for 2008/09.

I have also approved the receipt of £50,000 from Warm Zones to support the work of the LEP in 2008/09 and 2009/10, and the allocation of £30,000 from the Environment Team 2008/09 budget to the LEP 2008/09 budget to support the work of the LEP on sustainable energy in London.

London Climate Change Partnership

I have approved the work programme of the London Climate Change Partnership (LCCP) for the remainder of 2008/09. I have also accepted £50,000 of funding from Defra and released £3,000 from the GLA's Environment programme for use in the work of the LCCP for 2008/09.

London Hydrogen Partnership

I have approved the proposed programme of works, budget and expenditure for the London Hydrogen Partnership (LHP) for 2008/09.

I have approved the allocation of £30,000 from the 2008/09 Environment Team's budget to the LHP budget to support the funding of the LHP to support the work on sustainable energy in London. I have also accepted the sum of £70,000 from ten LHP Executive Board members to support the work of the LHP.

Children and Young People

Time for Action

On 3 November, I launched "Time For Action" my proposals for Equipping Young People for the Future and Preventing Youth Violence. The framework sets six strands for action these are: Supporting young people who are in custody for the first time; Keeping young people in education; Mayor's scholars, London academies and apprentices; Building character and responsibility; Sport and music for all; and Establishing and disseminating what works best.

I am determined to make a difference, and to make a start. Time for Action is not just a framework to tackle knife crime. It is an attempt to unleash the talents of young Londoners who are not being given the opportunities they deserve.

I am currently consulting with Londoners and strategic partners, through a consultation questionnaire that is available on-line. Following consultation, which closes on 16 December, a more refined action plan will be published in the Spring 2009 that builds on the responses.

London Schools Programme for Safety and Cohesion

On 5 November, my Deputy Mayor for Government Relations, Ian Clement, and my Deputy Mayor for Policing, Kit Malthouse, attended the launch of the London Schools Programme for Safety and Cohesion, on my behalf.

This Schools Programme is the London Youth Crime Prevention Board's development of a new benchmark for London's schools in order to enable them to evaluate the full scope of current practice around safety, agree priority actions and apply for a new award that recognises the drive for improvement.

There are strong links between school truancy, exclusions and youth crime and I am currently consulting on a range of proposals to help tackle youth crime, within which school involvement forms a key part. This programme will help identify vulnerable children from early age, so that appropriate action can be taken to support and engage them before it is too late.

Twenty-seven primary, secondary, Academy and faith schools across London have piloted the programme, with the police and other partners, and the model is now being refined with the learning and experience from this initial phase into a full roll out in 2009.

I hope very much that it will be embraced by many more schools across London and I recently met with the Board's Chair, Lord Victor Adebowale, to discuss how the GLA can support this, and other, projects of the London Youth Crime Prevention Board as part of its legacy planning.

Young Londoners Fund

On 10 November, I announced a major funding boost for young people across London through the Young Londoners Fund, part of the London Youth Offer of the LDA with Government.

The funding will be used to increase the number of young people in education, employment or training in their local area and to help reduce the number of first time offenders. A total grant pot of £5million was available and the 16 projects divide into two groups: 6 strategic projects each receiving more than £400,000 and either working across London or in a number of Boroughs, and 10 localised projects each receiving more than £100,000 and working in one or more Boroughs.

The projects were selected through a robust process, which included not only independent adult assessors, but also young people moderating and 'road testing' applications either through direct visits to organisations or young person led interviews. A board chaired by Bharat Mehta, Chief Executive of City Parochial Fund, and comprised of professionals and young people, made the final decisions and agreed the 16 projects that were approved for funding (subject to due diligence checks and contracting).

In addition, 'Hear Me Out' has won the Best Documentary category at the Cinemagic Film Festival in Belfast on 29-30 November. This was a film produced, edited and developed entirely by young Londoners for the Summer Uni Reel Change project and funded by the LDA as part of the London Youth Offer. The film interviewed over 1,000

young people to get their views of the causes and possible solutions to knife crime and a further 100 attended Reel Change vocational courses in editing, filming and interviewing skills to produce the film. The film can be viewed at: http://www.reelchangefilm.org.

Finally, on 24 November, an evaluation workshop was organised for Boroughs and third sector agencies being directly funded through the Mayor's Youth Offer. The purpose was to discuss the comprehensive monitoring process and substantial longitudinal evaluation framework developed by evaluation specialists ECOTEC, GLA and LDA. The workshop also saw the introduction of a pilot, observation based, quality assurance process, as a means to improve services for young people across London. Several organisations expressed a particular interest in being part of this observation programme pilot developed by my Children and Young People's Unit.

Young Amateur Boxers Tournament

On 22 November, I joined British boxing heavyweight David Haye at the 'Mayor's Cup' amateur boxing tournament which featured contestants aged 12 – 25 years from twelve boxing clubs across London. The event was organised by the All Stars Boxing Gym, Kilburn, which has helped hundreds of young people develop the motivation needed to compete in the ring and put them on the path to success.

I was amazed by the energy and enthusiasm of the young people who took part in the 'Mayor's Cup'. Teenagers at the event said boxing teaches them real discipline and respect. I think boxing is the perfect tool to help teach the emotional maturity that is lacking in the perpetrators of youth crime today. Boxing gyms like the All Stars train many young people who have been excluded from school and help them to perform a hand-brake turn in their lives.

My Sports Commissioner, Kate Hoey, also attended the tournament and will be taking forward my plans to expand sports provision in the capital for all young people.

Three Faiths Forum Youth Programme

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, hosted a meeting on my behalf with representatives of the Three Faiths Forum on 12 November at City Hall. The Forum wished to demonstrate to the Deputy Mayor the effectiveness and innovative of their current programmes. The Forum has recently launched a groundbreaking programme which seeks to break down barriers between young people by running workshops in London faith and secondary schools leading to school linking and social action projects. They also team trios of Muslim, Christian and Jewish politics students from London Universities for their ParliaMentors Programme with MP's acting as mentors on political engagement projects.

The meeting also discussed the St Ethelburga's Shared Work on Promoting Non Violence to Young People in London Project, evolving inter religious frameworks and the Mayor's Youth Diversity plans.

Social Inclusion

Equal Life Chances For All

On 26 November, I launched the Draft Equality Framework 'Equal Life Chances For All'. The Framework sets out the key policies and processes that the GLA has for delivering equal life chances for all. The consultation will begin with the following key draft high level documents which are available for consultation on the Mayor of London's website.

1. Mayor's Framework for Equal Life Chances For All
2. Mayor's vision for Equal Life Chances For All
3. GLA's Equal Life Chances For All policy statement
4. Performance indicators for measuring the success of delivery of the vision

I want to hear directly from Londoners about how we can deliver concrete, sustainable improvements for ensuring equal life chances for all in the city, including how we can help to reduce the impact of the economic downturn on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people. The Framework is open to public consultation until 20 February 2009.

I believe that everyone, regardless of race or background, can reach their true potential and contribute to London's success. 'Equal Life Chances For All' sets out the key priorities to help achieve this –

- Economic – The GLA spends around £13bn a year, of which £3bn a year is on contracts. I want to ensure that the GLA works in partnership with London's private sector to deliver overall value for money, including guaranteeing a fair spread of contracts to the small businesses that generate much of future economic growth, and across all London's communities.
- Accessible London – Making it easier for everyone to move around the capital and for Londoners and visitors to access the city's many hotels, restaurants, nightspots and other leisure venues – particularly as London hosts the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Diversity Works – I want to see greater equality and diversity in London's businesses and I have instructed the LDA's Diversity Works programme to focus on helping businesses harness the benefits of a diverse workforce and supplier base on a greater scale. I want all Londoners to have an equal chance to share in the city's opportunities and prosperity.

My vision will encompass –

- Implementing actions that will benefit all London's communities, and set the highest standards in our policies and practices;
- Delivering inclusive services that benefit all London's communities and are provided by workforces that reflect and understand these communities;
- Sharing London's success with all Londoners by ensuring our capital's diverse communities are celebrated;
- Supporting the development across the London economy of diverse markets, workforces and suppliers, in particular through the GLA Group Diversity Works for London and Responsible Procurement programmes;

- Ensuring delivery of an accessible and inclusive London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- Encouraging London's communities to work together to foster community cohesion;
- Encouraging the GLA Group, local authorities, the public, voluntary and community sectors to adopt and work towards an equalities framework that delivers equal life chances for all;
- Identifying and learning about communities lived experience of London life and what works best to promote a better quality of life for all Londoners.

Citizenship Ceremony

On Friday 21 November 2008, I hosted the first pan-London Citizenship Ceremony at City Hall. At the event, a new national from each of the 33 boroughs was inaugurated as a British citizen in front of their friends, families and representatives from their respective boroughs – including some of the borough Mayors. The National Youth Theatre – who sang the National Anthem during the London 2012 section of the Olympic closing ceremony in Beijing – performed this again at the Citizenship Ceremony. The event was organised in conjunction with the London Borough of Brent and was presided over by Brent's registrar. Citizenship Ceremonies are organised on a regular basis by the local boroughs in which new nationals reside; however, this pan-London event was an opportunity to welcome these new nationals to their city, London.

GLA Equalities Programme

I have approved the allocation of £65,000 of Equality Team programme funds to develop, review, produce and promote the Mayor's statutory and non-statutory equalities strategies for London.

I have approved the reorganised programme funding, moving resources from a number of product codes to increase resources in the "Development and Implementation of Equalities Schemes" budget code, to meet team objectives and statutory equality requirements. Reallocation can be contained within the Equality Programme budget allocation for the current financial year.

London Child Poverty Commission

I have approved the continuation of the London Child Poverty Commission (LCPC) jointly sponsored with London Councils to March 2010 in order to help London meet the national child poverty reduction targets. The LCPC future role, format and function will be reviewed at the end of this period.

I have agreed the LCPC budget allocation for the financial year 2008/09 and the continuation of the joint secretariat from GLA and London Councils. I have also approved the appointment of Kate Green OBE to the office of Chair for the Commission for the period April 2008 to March 2009, and the appointment of additional Commissioners broadening the policy area base covered by the Commission.

London Child Poverty Summit

The London Child Poverty Summit held on 19 November, was the public culmination of the Government's activity in response to the challenge set out in the recommendations

of *Capital Gains* (a report produced by the London Child Poverty Commission in February 2008).

The London Child Poverty Pledge was a key feature of the Summit. I signed the Pledge and announced that Richard Barnes, my Deputy Mayor, would be my Child Poverty Champion, responsible for taking forward my London Child Poverty Pledge commitments. The Pledge was also signed on the day by Children's Minister, Beverley Hughes MP, Financial Secretary, Stephen Timms MP, Minister for London, Tony McNulty MP and London Councils Chairman, Cllr Merrick Cockell.

The Summit also included a conference event, which brought together child poverty champions from regional and local government, other public services and third sector organisations from across London. Speeches were followed by a set of workshops aimed at raising awareness, increasing understanding of the issues and helping organisations to think about how to deliver their London Child Poverty Pledge commitments most effectively.

The London Child Poverty Commission will also continue to monitor and report on progress in tackling child poverty in the Capital to at least 2010 and will be publishing its *Action Plan for London Report* charting progress since the launch of its final report in early 2009.

Economic and Business Policy

High Level Group to tackle challenges to London's Economy

On 31 October, Minister for London, Tony McNulty, and I announced the establishment of a high-powered group to focus on the economic difficulties facing the capital. The group will bring together senior leaders from politics, business and the public sector to help guide London's economy through the downturn and enable ministers to become engaged with London's issues.

On 17 November, I chaired the group's first meeting and presented the Government with a list of measures that will help London weather the economic downturn. I received an immediate response that the Government would look seriously at the issue of bringing back empty property rate relief to provide much needed help to commercial property owners.

Following this first meeting the group will meet regularly to analyse the strategic issues facing London as a result of the current economic climate, and to identify specific actions that need to be taken by all parts of the public sector in London. Its recommendations will also feed into national policy making. It will focus on:

- Improving London's economic competitiveness, particularly beyond the financial services sector;
- Reducing London's worklessness and improving the skills of Londoners; and
- Meeting London's planning, housing and infrastructure needs.

London's biggest traffic-free shopping day

On 5 November, I joined leading UK retailers and The New West End Company, which represents the retailers of London's West End, to announce the world's biggest traffic-free Christmas shopping day for 2008. Confirmed for Saturday 6 December, the event dubbed Shop West End VIP Day (which stands for Very Important Pedestrians) will see both Oxford Street and Regent Street cleared of traffic - leaving the entire area free for shoppers to enjoy.

The event, now in its fourth consecutive year, attracted 1 million shoppers spending over £100million in one day in 2007. This year's Shop West End VIP traffic-free shopping event will be extended to a weekend of in-store and on-street activity, enabling retailers to attract more shoppers to the West End in this year's challenging economic climate. 100 West End stores will be involved in the event. While Sunday will be devoted to family orientated fun, Saturday's traffic-free streets will be dedicated to enticing Christmas shoppers. Retailers will be pulling out all the stops to draw customers in with entertainment, exclusive offers and VIP treats.

Mayoral Asian Business Reception

On 10 November, I hosted a lunchtime reception for London's Asian Business Community. Organised in association with the London Chamber of Commerce and the Asian Business Association and sponsored by HSBC, the event was an opportunity to thank Asian Businesses for their significant contribution to London's Economy.

New West End Company

On 13 November, I met with Dame Judith Mayhew-Jonas and Richard Dickinson, Chair and Chief Executive of the New West End Company respectively. Amongst the topics discussed were possible measures to support retailers through the coming recession and work to reduce congestion in the West End.

Sainsbury's

On 17 November, I met with Justin King, CEO of Sainsbury's. We discussed the impact of crime upon the retail sector and Sainsbury's expansion plans in London.

Big Tea Cosy Fundraising Event

On my behalf, my Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, took part in supporting the Big Tea Cosy Fundraising Event at City Hall on 27 November.

The Big Tea Cosy is a registered charity and it is the UK's largest direct grant giving charity dedicated specifically to helping those in poverty. It helps people of all ages who struggle to cope due to long term physical or mental illness, family breakdown, bereavement or redundancy. The charity also helps older people who struggle to live on their pensions. The charity hope that by encouraging people to have a tea party they hope to highlight the fact that a lot of people in poverty are often isolated. Money raised from the event will enable Elizabeth Finn to help more people through regular grants and one off payments.

Visit London Funding

On 28 November, at the Visit London Awards, I announced an increase of nearly £750,000 to Visit London campaigns, aimed at stimulating visits to the capital in the build up to Christmas and into 2009.

The additional public/private funding will take the total amount spent on promoting the capital at home and abroad to £3.25m over the next four months – an amount that is expected to deliver £70m in economic benefit to the city.

International

Statement following Mumbai terrorist attacks

On 27 November, I extended my sympathy and condolences to the people of Mumbai and those affected by the terrorist attacks on the city. Since the attacks I have also contacted the Chief Minister of the Maharashtra State Government, the High Commissioner of India to the UK and the British High Commissioner in India to offer my full support and services.

Our thoughts are with the people of Mumbai and everyone affected by the dreadful and indiscriminate attacks on the city. I am shocked and saddened by such violence and terror, which cannot be tolerated anywhere, at any time.

I know that the city of Mumbai will not be deflected from its course by indiscriminate terror and would like to reiterate the offer by the Metropolitan Police of their unrivalled expertise following the attacks.

I have been reassured that GLA staff working in the Mumbai office are safe and well.

EU Committee of the Regions

I have rescinded the previous nomination and nominated Roger Evans AM to the EU Committee of the Regions as alternate member for London.

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Children get creative with 2012 legacy

On 10 November, children from the Olympic boroughs helped to develop legacy plans for the 2012 site during half term activities organised by the London Development Agency. The 4 – 12 year-olds learned about how their area will be transformed after the 2012 Games and were asked to share ideas about what they would like to see created. The children came up with a fantastic array of ideas from a wildlife park, rollercoaster ride to a circus, and even a submarine as well as a floating café and underwater viewing stations.

The week long events, which are being put on in partnership with Discover and Westfield, took place as part of a Young Consultants Programme feeding into the legacy

design work in a children friendly environment at the Discover Centre in Stratford. The aim to include as many people as possible in the legacy masterplanning also involves a youth panel of 14-19 year olds, appointed to help in both the planning process and in generating interest among other youngsters.

Beijing 2008 Games Debrief

On 24 November, I attended the opening session of the International Olympic Committee's official debrief from the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which we hosted in London in our capacity as the next host city. I was delighted to welcome participants from the Beijing Organising Committee (BOCOG) as well as representatives of the International Olympic Committee, the Vancouver 2010 and Sochi 2014 Organising Committees and the teams working on bids by Chicago, Tokyo, Rio and Madrid for the 2016 Games. This year's Beijing Games represented the only opportunity for us to learn first hand about organising this extraordinary and unique event, and this debrief gave all of us involved in the preparations for London 2012 a vital opportunity to hear from those involved in organising the Beijing Games and to reflect upon our own experiences of Beijing.

Accessible London Survey

On 26 November, I commissioned a major survey to discover how London can be made more accessible and inclusive in the run up to the 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games. I want to hear from everybody who finds it difficult to get around London and in particular disabled and deaf Londoners, parents with prams and older people.

The survey is part of the recently published 'Equal Life Chances For All' consultation document, which aims to propel London to the forefront of the equalities agenda and make the capital a place of great opportunity for all Londoners.

Government Liaison

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

On 25 November, I met with Rt Hon. Hazel Blears MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. We discussed Olympic legacy issues.

Minister for London

On 1 December, I met with the Rt Hon. Tony McNulty MP, Minister for London. We discussed London's economy and proposals for a London Regional Committee.

Secretary of State for Transport

On 2 December, I met with Rt Hon. Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Transport. We discussed Metronet, the East London Line extension Phase 2b, cycling, Oyster pay as you go on National rail and the London safety camera partnership.

Local Government Relations

Cllr Mike Freer, Leader of Barnet

On 21 November, I met with Cllr Mike Freer, Leader of Barnet. Amongst several other key issues we discussed the Barnet Financing Plan, my Outer London Commission and housing delivery.

London Councils Executive

On 25 November, I attended a dinner with the cross-party London Councils Executive, kindly hosted by the City of London. It was an extremely useful opportunity to have an informal discussion around a range of issues including the legacy potential of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the delivery of a single non-emergency number for London.

Cllr Sean Brennan, Leader of Sutton

On 28 November, I met with Cllr Sean Brennan, Leader of Sutton. We had an extremely useful discussion concentrating specifically on housing delivery, town centre developments and the Smarter Travel Sutton scheme.

Housing

London Housing Strategy

On 2 November, I approved the contents of the draft London Housing Strategy (LHS) and of Housing in London 2008, the evidence base for the LHS. The strategy sets out my policies for delivering new homes in the challenging market, raising aspirations and promoting opportunity, improving London's homes and transforming London's neighbourhoods.

I launched the draft LHS on 20 November 2008. The publication of the strategy begins a period of formal statutory consultation, first with the Assembly and functional bodies (to 16 January 2009) and then with other stakeholders (starting in spring 2009). It is anticipated that the strategy will be published later in 2009.

Housing in London is an annual publication, the 2008 edition of which was published alongside the strategy on 20 November 2008.

Funding for London boroughs

On 26 November, I wrote to the Minister for Housing regarding national housing resources. I have recommended the distribution of £232 million to London boroughs in 2009/10 and set out my provisional allocations of £206 million to London boroughs in 2010/11.

I have recommended that the funding be allocated as follows:

- £28,012,000 in 2009/10 and £21,758,000 in 2010/11 to develop innovative approaches to improving the environmental performance of London's existing and new homes or to increase the pace of development of new homes;
- £59,171,000 in 2009/10 and £39,227,000 in 2010/11 to improve the condition and/or use of existing homes; and
- £144,817,000 in 2009/10 and £145,015,000 in 2010/11 to enable London boroughs to improve their homes to the Decent Homes standard.

Full details of the successful bids will be announced once the Minister makes decisions on the recommendations.

London Housing Capacity Study

On 28 November, I asked developers and landowners to help identify suitable sites for the vital new homes needed to meet London's housing crisis and boost the construction sector during the economic recovery.

Information on development sites submitted to the Greater London Authority will be used to develop a housing capacity study for publication in 2009, which will assess London's potential for all future housing growth. This is the third study of its kind since 2000 and will be used as the basis for setting London Plan housing targets and to help London boroughs identify land to meet their own individual targets.

I have also awarded a contract to CDP Soft Ltd to develop the London Housing Capacity Study (LHCSS) IT system with a maximum value of up to £70,000.

Homes and Communities Agency

I have agreed the draft Terms of Reference for the Homes and Communities Agency London Board, subject to an acceptable outcome on the scheme of delegation to the London Board.

Culture and events

London Cultural Strategy Group

On 10 November, I appointed Whitechapel Gallery Director Iwona Blazwick OBE, to be the new Chair of the London Cultural Strategy Group (LCSG), following a London Assembly Confirmations Hearing Committee. The LCSG will take over the role performed by the London Cultural Consortium, to advise me on the promotion of London as a world-class city of culture and shaping the development and provision of arts, sport and other cultural activity in the capital.

Iwona has an outstanding record. Her experience of working for an important, forward looking institution like the Whitechapel Gallery, situated as it is at the border of the City and the East End, brings insight and expertise that we need to help ensure London maintains its international reputation at the forefront of culture.

London Jazz Festival

As part of my a wider commitment to increase access to music, especially for young Londoners, I have been working with the London Jazz Festival to ensure that the cool sounds of the prestigious festival will spread to the outer boroughs for the first time.

This initiative is one of a series of new measures which were announced on 24 November to the newly formed Cultural Strategy Group for London, as part of my vision for culture. This vision includes the previously launched music amnesty 'No Strings Attached' aimed at getting people to donate unwanted musical instruments and sheet music to benefit children and young people that might be unable to buy them.

Key Priorities for Culture

On 24 November, I published 'Cultural Metropolis – The Mayor's Priorities for Culture 2009-2012', which outlined my plans to enhance Londoners' experience of arts and culture in the capital, including better provision in the outer boroughs, measures to improve music and art education and a drive to reduce red tape and to support creative and grassroots talent.

The publication also reveals plans for The Story of London, a major celebration of the city's people, its past, present, and future, which will take place across the capital in June 2009. And it states that the 2012 Games should be used as a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop a high quality cultural legacy, through projects such as the art commissions, set to be integrated into the Olympic Park.

New Year's Eve Celebrations

I have approved support for a London New Year's Eve celebration on 31 December 2008 to include a fireworks display at the London Eye and related activities. This includes a budget of £1,649,128 from 2008/09 to cover the cost of producing the New Year's Eve 2008 event by Jack Morton Worldwide and further expenditure of £50,000 for event communications (print, distribution and website development, and event evaluation) by the GLA.

I have also approved further expenditure of £50,000 for feasibility work on ticketing the event from 2009. This work is to be complete by March 2009.

I have approved the GLA's Sponsorship Team's (in liaison with the Events for London) investigation of the feasibility of securing sponsorship income for the event and, if sponsorship is secured, delegated authority to approve entry into such sponsorship arrangements to the Sponsorship Director.

Chinese New Year

I have approved a grant of £80,000 (from the Events for London budget) as a contribution to the London Chinatown Chinese Association's (LCCA) production costs for the annual Chinese New Year (CNY) festival in central London, to be held on 1 February 2009.

I have also approved the release of up to £5k from the Events for London budget in relation to miscellaneous and contingency costs eg. waste management and engineer costs at Trafalgar Square, and GLA stall and photographer at the event. As well as, the

release of up to £15k for marketing and other activities of the GLA in relation to 2009 China in London campaign, including Shanghai Week exhibition.

Finally, I have granted the use of Trafalgar Square, at no cost to the LCCA, for the purpose of staging the Chinese New Year event.

GLA Christmas Carol Service

I have approved a GLA hosted Christmas Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral, to take place on 10 December 2008, including expenditure of up to £12,000 from the London Stakeholders budget.

90th Anniversary of Polish Independence Day in Trafalgar Square

On 8 November, my Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended on my behalf the 90th Anniversary of Polish Independence Day celebrations in Trafalgar Square. The invitation to attend was formally made by Dr Jan Mokrzycki, the President of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain.

The Deputy Mayor greeted Polish Londoners at the celebration which followed a service in Westminster Cathedral and a parade to Trafalgar Square. Richard spoke briefly at the event and praised the achievements of the Polish community in the capital since the Second World War. Other notable speakers included HE Dr Ryszard Kaczorowski (last President of the Polish Government in Exile), HE Barbara Tuge-Erecinska (Ambassador of the Republic of Poland) HE Jan Borkowski (Secretary of State, Polish Foreign Ministry), the Rt Hon Denis MacShane MP and Greg Hands MP.

Mayoral Turkish Reception

On 4 November, I hosted the Mayoral Turkish Reception at City Hall.

The event was organised in partnership with the Federation of Turkish Associations in the United Kingdom and recognised the immense contribution that London's Turkish population make to the economic, social and cultural life of the capital. This was the second London Turkish reception held at City Hall. My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, opened and closed the reception whilst I gave a speech praising the fantastic contribution of the Turkish community to London. The Deputy Mayor also gave interviews to London based Turkish media.

London Schools and the Black Child

I have agreed to expenditure of £110,000 on the sixth London Schools and the Black Child conference, to be held at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre on 7 February 2009. I have also waived the GLA's Contracts Code of Practice to enable the conference to be held at the QEII.

Chanukah Celebrations

I have approved an event on Trafalgar Square to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Chanukah at an estimated cost of £45,000. This event will include the erection of a large community designed Menorah.

I have agreed that the GLA will take temporary custody of the Menorah and procure, in line with the Authority's Contracts Code, an organisation to provide remedial work to the Menorah to allow for safe transport, installation, removal and post event storage at an estimated cost of £20,000.

Finally, I have also agreed to procure, in line with the Authority's Contracts Code, an organisation to provide event management services for an unveiling and lighting event on Trafalgar Square, at an agreed date within the period of Chanukah, at an estimated cost of £20,000.

Skills

DWfL and RP Supplier Diversity and Skills and Employment Event

On 24 November, my Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and spoke at the Diversity Works for London and Responsible Procurement Supplier Diversity and Skills and Employment Event, on my behalf. The Deputy Mayor spoke of 'The Role of the Public Sector Procurement in Supplier Diversity' and also took questions.

The half-day conference was aimed at senior decision makers across SME's and medium to large enterprises in London. It hoped to support greater understanding of the business benefits of a diverse supply chain; promote responsible procurement, skills and employment opportunities and provide an overview of good practice procurement across a range of sectors and companies.

The main objectives of the conference were –

- To provide further communication and opportunity to engage on GLA group responsible procurement requirements
- To promote the DWfL website as a resource centre for obtaining help and advice on implementing diversity within the workplace and supply chain.
- To engage with senior level managers and share good practice across sectors and businesses.
- To encourage a greater understanding of equality and diversity requirements within the public and private sector procurement process.
- To promote the business benefits of supplier diversity and addressing skills and employment issues and promoting good practices in supply chains.

GLA Organisation

Standards Committee Allowances

Following a review and subject to the joint agreement of the London Assembly (expected at its BMAC meeting on 23 October 2008), I have agreed that the Authority's Expenses and Benefits Framework be amended in order to pay, from the date of approval onwards, the revised allowances for Independent Members of the Authority's Standards Committee (namely, £1,176 per annum to the Chair of the Committee and £558 per annum to other Independent Member, in addition to expenses and training

costs), in line with the payments made by the MPA and LFEPA to their Independent Standards Members.

Authorised Limits

I have agreed the revised Authorised Limits for Transport for London, the London Development Agency and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Recently Established Posts

I have established with effect from 7 October 2008 the following post under S67 (1) (b) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999:

Mayoral Director, Environment

I have established with effect from 22 September 2008 the following post under S67 (1) (a) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999:

Political Advisor

I have established with effect from 22 September 2008 the following post under S67 (1) (b) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999:

Mayoral Director, Housing

I have appointed Isabel Dedring to the Mayoral Director, Environment post, Richard Blakeway to the Mayoral Director, Housing post, and Alex Crowley to the Political Advisor post. Also, I have agreed to notify the Assembly of the establishment of these posts under S67 (1) (a) and (b) of the GLA Act 1999 in accordance with S67 (5) of the GLA Act 1999.

Specialist Consultancy Services

I have approved the commencement of a pan-EU (OJEU) compliant tender exercise to procure specialist consultancy services for a period of the next three and a half years to assist the Planning Decisions Unit (PDU) and Environment Team to:

- ensure strategic new development is compliant with London Plan climate change policies; and
- make the fullest contribution to wider objectives such as the carbon dioxide savings (CO2) reduction and decentralised energy targets for London by 2025.

I also delegate power to the Executive Director - Policy and Partnerships' - to approve any award of contract to the organisation submitting the most economically advantageous submission at the conclusion of the procurement exercise.

Appointments

GLA Chief Executive

On 4 November, the London Assembly and I jointly appointed Leo Boland as the new Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of the Greater London Authority.

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. He will join the GLA in the New Year.

I have agreed to the increase in the Chief Executive's salary to £205,000 per annum.

Museum of London

I have approved the extension of Dr Mark Patton's tenure as a Governor of the Museum of London for a further year commencing on 21 November 2008.

London Pensions Fund Authority

I have agreed, subject to the consultation response from London Councils, to appoint to the London Pensions Fund Authority ("the Authority") from 1 January 2009 and until 31 December 2012, Niaz Alam, Michael Deakin, Icki Iqbal, Bill Roots, Anthony Mayer, Sarah Smart and Angela Pober. The current Members' terms and conditions will apply to the new appointments.

I have agreed to proposed the appointment of Anthony Mayer as Chairman and Michael Deakin as Deputy Chairman to the London Assembly under section 60A of, and Schedule 4A to, the GLA Act 1999.

Planning and Development Control

Thames Airport Study

On 11 November, Doug Oakervee, a highly experienced engineer and Executive Chair of Crossrail, agreed to lead the Greater London Authority's preliminary feasibility study into a new airport in the Thames Estuary.

Mr Oakervee, who was instrumental in the development of Hong Kong's revolutionary offshore International Airport, met with Deputy Mayor Kit Malthouse to discuss how he could help take the project forward. He has offered to bring his considerable leadership and engineering skills to the GLA's ongoing study and will advise me on whether to proceed to a full-scale appraisal involving specialist advice.

Crossrail station for Canary Wharf

On 12 November, I approved three significant planning proposals paving the way for major development of the crucial financial centre of Canary Wharf. The approval will see work begin on a major new Crossrail station, a new 27-storey hotel, and the complete

redevelopment of Wood Wharf to provide thousands of square feet of new offices and shops plus nearly 1,700 new homes.

The planning applications were passed at my regular strategic planning meeting and underpin my commitment to do all I can to help London's economy through the challenges that lie ahead. In particular, I believe that the construction industry must be supported in every way and new building work is critical to sustaining as well as delivering new jobs for Londoners.

Mayor's Outer London Commission

On 12 November, I appointed William McKee, a leading planning and development expert, to set up and chair the Outer London Commission (OLC). The remit of the OLC is to advise me on the London Plan and other policies to ensure outer London realises its full potential.

Establishing the OLC will help to fulfil my manifesto pledge to look at ways of working more closely with businesses, local government and other stakeholders with interests in our suburban centres, which had long been neglected despite their significant contribution to London's economy.

Design Advisory Panel

On 17 November, I announced that architects Richard Rogers and current RIBA President Sunand Prasad, Chair of the English Heritage Advisory Committee, Joyce Bridges, and Joint Chief Executive of the Argent Group, Roger Madelin, will make up my new Design Advisory Panel.

The panel will be chaired by Simon Milton, my Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning, and will meet with my Advisers, senior officers and myself several times a year, as required. It will act as a sounding board for both London-wide design strategies and high profile projects and schemes, and advise both Design for London and Greater London Authority officers on a range of projects to champion design in major developments in London.

I am also recruiting a wider group of experts to establish a Design Advisory Forum which will provide broader advice to the Panel and Design for London, drawing on the knowledge and experience from their own specialist areas including housing, urban design and engineering. It is hoped the Forum, which will be recruited through open advertisement, will attract applications from new talent and less well known individuals, who will also provide input into specific and high profile Design for London projects.

East London Development

I have given the go-ahead for a new development in Tower Hamlets on the site of St Andrew's Hospital, which includes significant new provision of housing and affordable housing.

The new development includes 964 new homes plus food and drink retail outlets, with provision for health care, education and cultural uses on site. It also includes one hectare of public open space with a park, public garden, public square and smaller

pocket parks. The open spaces will have play areas, sports facilities, landscaping and public art.

The development will bring a number of benefits to Tower Hamlets including a £3.5m investment in the upgrade of Bromley-by-Bow station, £1.7m towards new education provision, a new Primary Care Trust facility worth £4.6m as well as contributions to highway improvements. Half of the units will be affordable and nearly one third will be three bedrooms or larger, to meet the needs of families.

Alterations to the London Plan

I have approved the draft alterations to the London Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance in respect of Crossrail and authorised the taking forward of these alterations for consultation with the London Assembly and Functional Bodies.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

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

Crossness Sewage Treatment Works, LB Bexley
I have written to the London Borough of Bexley stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Mooring in Millwall Cutting and South Dock, LB Tower Hamlets
I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Plot N0602, Greenwich Peninsula, LB Greenwich
I have written to the London Borough of Greenwich stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Vauxhall Sky Gardens, LB Wandsworth
I have written to the London Borough of Wandsworth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Swiss Cottage School, LB Camden
I have written to the London Borough of Camden stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

World of Golf, Sidcup By Pass, LB Bromley
I have written to the London Borough of Bromley stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

General Lying in Hospital, LB Lambeth
I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Newfoundland, LB Tower Hamlets
I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Isle of Dogs, Crossrail Station, LB Tower Hamlets
I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Wood Wharf, LB Tower Hamlets
I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets 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.

Mill Hill Golf Club, 100 Barnet Way, LB Barnet
I have written to the London Borough of Barnet stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Unit 4, Second Way, 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.

Cumberland Avenue and Rainsford Road, 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.

Part of adjacent highway and 4-20 Edridge Road, LB Croydon
I have written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Former Catford Greyhound Stadium, 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.

86-88 Upper Richmond Road, LB Wandsworth
I have written to the London Borough of Wandsworth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Thames 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.

Downtown Road & Salter Road, 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.

38-46 Albert Embankment, LB Lambeth
I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

St. Andrew's Hospital, LB Tower Hamlets
I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am 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:

- 225 Marsh Wall, LB Tower Hamlets
- Packington Estate, LB Islington
- Malcolm House & Fulton House, LB Brent
- Highams Park, Jubilee Avenue, LB Waltham Forest
- 276 Bath Road, LB Hillingdon
- 12-20 Paul Street & 83-105 Clifton Street, LB Hackney
- Jetty 8, Thunderer Road, LB Barking and Dagenham
- 2 Pier Road, LB Newham
- 10 East Road (New Roman House), LB Hackney
- Crystal Palace Park, LB Bromely
- Lords Cricket Ground, City of Westminster
- Arundel Great Court, City of Westminster
- Callis Yard Depot, LB Greenwich
- Land Securities Development Site, Victoria (Victoria Street and Buckingham Palace Road, 120-124 Victoria Street and 15 Bressenden Place), City of Westminster
- Clapham Junction, LB Wandsworth
- 763 Old Kent Road, LB Southwark
- Former Castle Industrial Estate, LB Southwark
- 60 River Road, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Beddington Trading Estate, 109 Beddington Lane, LB Sutton
- Loampit Vale, LB Lewisham
- 153-157 Tower Bridge Road, LB Southwark
- 206-214 High Street, Stratford, LB Newham
- Selborne House, City of Westminster
- Capitol Way, LB Brent
- Willow Lane, LB Merton
- SITA Recycling site, LB Merton
- Weir Road, LB Merton
- Suttons Wharf North, LB Tower Hamlets
- 163-169 & 171-173 Knightsbridge, City of Westminster
- Queensland Road (North and South), LB Islington
- Broadway Chambers, LB Newham
- Canada Water, site B2, LB Southwark
- Buildings M1-M6 & M8, Zone 1, Stratford City site, ODA
- Former Eurostar depot, Barlby Road, RB Kensington and Chelsea

Development Plans

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

- Bexley's Local Development Scheme – Submission Stage, LB Bexley
- Camden's Core Strategy and Development policies, LB Camden
- Islington's Local Development Scheme, LB Islington

Decisions made under delegation to Head of Planning Decisions

- Tower Hamlets Council SPD: Bromley-by-Bow – consultation draft, LB Tower Hamlets
- Newham Council SPD: Canning Town and Custom House SPD, LB Newham
- Islington Council: Core Strategy – issues and options consultation, LB Islington
- Land at P5 Car Park, Sealand Road, LB Hillingdon
- Olympic Velopark, LB Newham (Olympic Delivery Authority)
- Charter House, 2 Farringdon Road, LB Islington
- Crown Woods Secondary School, LB Greenwich
- Thomas Tallis School, LB Greenwich

Key Engagements

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

- I visited the Institute of Indian Art & Culture on 30 October
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 30 October.
- I attended MPA Away Day on 31 October
- I attended the Personal Best Ceremony of Achievement on 3 November
- I visited Southwark College on 3 November
- I launched "Time for Action" on 3 November
- I launched Capital Growth on 4 November
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 4 November
- I met with Dominic Grieve MP, Shadow Home Secretary on 4 November
- I hosted a Turkish Reception at City Hall on 4 November
- I spoke at a Variety Club Dinner on 4 November
- I met with Leo Boland on 5 November
- I chaired the TfL Board Meeting on 5 November
- I had lunch with Trevor Chinn on 5 November
- I attended a the VIP Day/West End Trading Event on 5 November
- I attended the Metropolitan Police Service Annual Service of Remembrance at Hendon on 6 November
- I attended Peoples Question Time in Bromley on 6 November
- I launched the TfL Business Plan on 6 November
- I visited the London Underground Network Operations Centre to mark the opening of the newly refurbished Centre on 6 November
- I met with Peter Dubens on 7 November

- I attended the GLA Annual Remembrance Service & Reception at City Hall on 7 November
- I launched the Veteran's Travel Pass on 7 November
- I attended the Mayor's Fund Stakeholders Meeting on 7 November
- I met with Chris Banks, Learning & Skills Council on 7 November
- I met with Linda Perks, London Regional Secretary of Unison on 7 November
- I attended the Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on 9 November
- I attended the Lord Mayor's Banquet on 10 November
- I met with the Mayor of Milan on 10 November
- I met with Heather Rabbatts on 10 November
- I met with the Non Executive Directors of Crossrail on 10 November
- I met with the Macquarie Group on 10 November
- I chaired the London Skills & Employment Board on 11 November
- I met with Jennette Arnold AM, Chair of the Assembly on 11 November
- I met with the Assembly Conservative Group on 11 November
- I met with Brian Coleman AM & Ron Dobson on 11 November
- I attended the South London Press Local Heroes Awards Ceremony on 11 November
- I met with the Greek Tourism Minister on 12 November
- I attended the launch event for the Bright Ideas Trust on 12 November
- I attended MQT on 12 November
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 12 November
- I attended the Bureau of Leaders on 13 November
- I attended the Inter Regional Forum on 13 November
- I met with David Ross & Harvey McGrath on 13 November
- I met with Harvey McGrath & Peter Rogers on 13 November
- I met with Dame Judith Mayhew-Jonas & Richard Dickinson, New West End Company on 13 November
- I met with Victor Adebowale, Chair of the London Youth Crime Prevention Board on 13 November
- I attended the Spectator Parliamentarian of the Year Awards on 13 November
- I participated on an exploratory bike ride with Transport for London on 14 November
- I attended the Prince of Wales Birthday Event at the Royal Opera house on 14 November
- I attended the Developers Roundtable at City Hall on 17 November
- I met Dan Doctoroff on 17 November
- I chaired the High Level Economy Group Inaugural Meeting on 17 November
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 17 November
- I met with Lord Sheikh on 17 November
- I met with David Ross on 17 November
- I had dinner with Peter Hendy on 18 November
- I met with Colin Matthews, CEO BAA Ltd on 18 November
- I met with Jeremy Hunt MP & Hugh Robertson MP on 18 November
- I met with Prof Zhou Ji, Chinese Education Minister on 18 November
- I met with Lord Coe & Paul Deighton, LOCOG on 18 November
- I met with the London Jewish Forum on 18 November
- I met with Transport for London on 18 November

- I attended the Child Poverty Summit on 19 November
- I attended the Kensington, Chelsea, Fulham and Hammersmith Conservative Ball on 19 November
- I met with Andrew Boff AM on 19 November
- I chaired the Olympic Board Meeting on 19 November
- I met with Cllr Merrick Cockell on 19 November
- I addressed the London Skills 2008 Event on 20 November
- I met with John Armitt and David Higgins, ODA on 20 November
- I met with Mary O'Connor & Simon Tanner, London Health Commission on 20 November
- I opened the Agudas Israel Housing Association Day Centre
- I attended the Citizenship Ceremony at City Hall on 21 November
- I met with Michael Snyder on 24 November
- I spoke at the Opening Plenary Session of the IOC visit on 24 November
- I spoke at the Environment Agency Conference on 25 November
- I attended the London Councils Executive Dinner on 25 November
- I met with John Key, New Zealand Prime Minister Designate, on 25 November
- I attended the New Zealand Rugby Event at Potters Field on 25 November
- I attended the Priority Parks Photo on 25 November
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 25 November
- I met with Minister Wu Hengquan, Editor-in-Chief, People's Daily China on 26 November
- I met with representatives from the London Tourism Industry on 26 November
- I met with Transport for London on 26 November
- I attended the 2008 Visit London Awards on 27 November
- I attended the Damilola Taylor Memorial Event at Southwark Cathedral on 27 November
- I had dinner with Liu Qui, President of BOCOG on 27 November
- I attended a meeting with Lui Qiu, President of BOCOG & Tessa Jowell MP on 27 November
- I met with David Tang & Miles Kwok on 27 November
- I chaired the MPA Full Authority Meeting on 27 November
- I visited Portobello Road Market on 27 November
- I met with Alfred John, Black Police Association on 28 November
- I met with Cllr Sean Brennan, Leader of the London Borough of Sutton on 28 November
- I had lunch with Stan Myerson, Express Newspapers on 1 December
- I met with the London Utilities Chief Executives on 1 December
- I attended the RADAR People of the Year Awards on 1 December
- I attended the Thames Water Carafe Event on 1 December
- I attended the Wellbeing of Women City Christmas Charity Event on 1 December
- I met with Sir Paul Stephenson, Acting Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service on 2 December
- I met with AC Quick on 2 December
- I attended the London First London Free Bike Scheme event on 2 December
- I attended the Bob Wigley Review of London Competitiveness Event on 3 December

- I attended the Assembly Plenary to answer questions as the Chair of the MPA on 3 December
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 3 December

Ends