Item 4

London Assembly
12 November 2008
Fifth Mayor's Report to the Assembly

This is my fifth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 2 October to 29 October

Policing and Community Safety

City Forum's Homeland Security Roundtable Dinner

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the City Forum's Homeland Security Roundtable Dinner on 28 October. The dinner discussion concentrated on important aspects of security for the UK.

Attendees included politicians, Home Office officials, police, intelligence and security experts, private sector specialists and think tank members.

Priorities for the Metropolitan Police

On 6 October, as chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), I set out my priorities for the Metropolitan Police in my first report to the MPA and outlined a new MPA-led inquiry to explore race and faith issues within the Metropolitan Police Service.

Tackling gun and knife crime is the most immediate policing priority, and we have already made progress with Operation Blunt 2, which has seen over 2,000 knives lifted from the streets of London. We will also work to make public transport safer, do more to protect the capital from the threat of terrorism and ensure the Olympic and Paralympic Games are secure. New plans to address the root causes of youth violence will also be announced shortly in my Youth Opportunities and Violence Prevention Programme for Action.

Police Transport Teams

The most frequent complaint made during the election was that local people did not feel safe on the buses. Therefore, one of my first actions as Mayor was to introduce new transport hub police teams to kick-start the work of taking back our public spaces, and cutting so-called 'minor crime'.

On 8 October, I joined Metropolitan Police Commander Rod Jarman and Transport Commissioner Peter Hendy to announce the 30 locations across London that will benefit from new transport policing teams. This follows the success of three pilot teams launched in May that have reduced some crimes by more than a third.

In the time since the initial Hub Trials were launched in West Croydon, Wood Green and Canning Town their impact has been significant with robberies reduced by nearly 38 per cent and overall crime by more than 16 per cent.

In addition to the new Hub Teams, 11 newly deployed inner London borough-based policing teams will now be made permanent after bus related crime was reduced in the boroughs served by the teams by 13.6 per cent in recent months.

Smart Solutions to Gang Violence

On 16 October, I called for smarter solutions to gang violence and urged key anti crime organisations to help me tackle gang related youth crime in London. I spoke at the Gangs Guns and Weapons Practitioners Forum annual seminar, where I met with a range of representatives including the Home Office, Youth Justice Board and Metropolitan Police, ex-offenders, young people and youth workers to discuss solutions to violent crime.

I voiced my concerns about vulnerable young people being lured into criminal gangs and promised that alongside continuing firm enforcement activity, new plans to address the root causes of youth violence would be announced shortly in my Youth Opportunities and Violence Prevention Programme for Action.

Transport

School run

Latest figures released by Transport for London revealed that 3.3 million fewer school run car journeys now being made in the Capital every year. Coinciding with Walk to School month, which began on 1 October, the figures in the School Travel Plan Programme Annual Report for 2007/08 show that travel plans are helping to turn the tide against the school run, with more children using public transport, cycling or walking to school than they did just three years ago.

Since 2005 schools in London with travel plans have seen car journeys fall by 6.4 per cent, which equates to around 3.3 million annual car journeys, or nearly 12 million fewer car kilometres a year. When all of London's schools have travel plans in place next year, it is estimated that there will be 6 million fewer car journeys made on London's roads. That's the equivalent of 21 million fewer car kilometres or a saving of 3,803 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.

Shepherd's Bush

The new Shepherd's Bush Overground station opened on 5 October and is the first new station on the line since London Overground started operating last year.

The new station is fully accessible with low height ticket office windows and two lifts providing step-free access to both platforms. The contemporary design of the station offers passengers a light and airy environment and they will also benefit from being able to use Oyster pay as you go.

Transport for London (TfL) is currently investing £1.4 billion in the London Overground network, and Shepherd's Bush on the Clapham Junction to Willesden Junction line is the first in a series of new and refurbished stations to be opened. Like all other Overground stations, Shepherd's Bush will be staffed at all times during train-operating hours, and also incorporates CCTV so that passengers are safe and secure.

Wide Aisle Gates

On 8 October the first tube stations to have the new Wide Aisle Gates installed was announced. The new gates are at Gants Hill, Upney, Elm Park, East Ham and Dagenham Heathway and gates enable customers who use wheelchairs, or travel with a guide dog, buggy or large luggage to pass through the gateline without staff assistance.

Around £12 million is being invested by London Underground to install 140 wide aisle automatic gates across the network by the end of 2008. In 2006 a trial of four gates, which are as wide as the manual gates currently at Tube stations, was conducted at Canary Wharf, London Bridge and Westminster stations.

Positive feedback from customers and staff has now led to this roll-out of the gates at various locations on the network, including major stations such as Victoria, King's Cross St. Pancras and Liverpool Street. They will also be routinely installed at all new stations and where we have enlarged stations.

Cycle Safety campaign

TfL's newest Cycling Safety campaign was launched across cinemas on 10 October with a new hard-hitting message 'It's easy to miss what you're not looking for. Look out for cyclists'. The advert is playing before some of the autumn's most eagerly anticipated films including 'How to Lose Friends and Alienate People' and 'Quantum of Solace',

TfL continues to work to make cycling safer in London. Every year, goods vehicles are involved in more than half of all cycling fatalities in the Capital. To address this serious road safety issue, TfL distributed 10,000 free Fresnel safety lenses to freight companies operating vehicles in London earlier in the year. The lenses, which stick onto the passenger side-window of the lorry, improve the driver's vision of cyclists that pass alongside the nearside of their vehicles. TfL recently ordered an additional 10,000 Fresnel lenses which will be distributed to goods vehicle operators over the coming weeks.

Work is also taking place to ensure cyclists take every precaution to avoid potential dangers on the road. Transport for London is investing a record £3m on cycle training in 2008/09 for Londoners of all ages, through London's borough councils. The training sessions are tailored to each individual's needs and will teach them to deal with the wide range of traffic conditions on the Capital's streets.

Bus strike

Bus drivers at First and Metroline went on a 24 hour strike on 10 October, causing disruption to thousands of Londoners with up to a quarter of the bus network affected.

TfL posted information at bus stops from 8 October, and messages were displayed on Countdown signs at affected bus stops from 9 October to give passengers as much advance warning as possible of the strike. They also briefed the Evening Standard and BBC London on 8 October and issued a general press release on 9 October.

Although I do not have the power to intervene in the dispute between the unions and the private bus companies, I continue to urge the unions to resolve their issues with the

bus companies without taking further strike action and without causing further misery for Londoners affected by the strikes.

I am pleased to report that the strikes set for 22 October were called off.

Wood Lane

Wood Lane, the new station on the Hammersmith & City line, opened to the public on 12 October. The new Wood Lane Tube station incorporates a number of enhancements to a safer traveling experience through the addition of state of the art customer information, Help points and CCTV making the station safer.

This brand new station is the first to be built on an existing line for over 70 years and was designed by Ian Ritchie Architects. It is one of several major transport projects to open in the White City and Shepherd's Bush area, thanks to a multi-million pound partnership with the developer, Westfield, who is opening a £1.6bn new retail and leisure centre, Westfield London on 30 October 2008.

At the same time, Shepherd's Bush on the Hammersmith & City line was renamed Shepherd's Bush Market. There are three reasons for this decision. The first being that removing the anomaly of having three unconnected stations with the same name (there is another Shepherd's Bush station on the Central line and the new Overground station is also called Shepherd's Bush) and thus reducing customer confusion. The second is for safety reasons as LU's policy is to avoid giving physically unconnected stations the same name and the third is that the new name will reflect the position of the station which is opposite the market in Shepherd's Bush and will give the market a stronger identity.

Live CCTV on the buses

During the election I promised to launch a trial of live CCTV on buses and, on 20 October, Transport for London commenced a six-month trial on a north London bus route. Twenty one double-decker buses have been fitted with technology that will allow pictures to be beamed live to the Centrecomm control centre shared by officers from Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police's Transport Operational Command Unit.

When bus drivers on the trial route make a radio call to the control room, operators are now able to use the new technology to access real-time images of the bus in question, with the pictures being beamed via secure and encrypted mobile networks directly from the buses to the Transport for London control room.

I want London's public transport to become world renowned for its safety and having the facility to access live pictures from buses traveling around the capital will mean we can play a far more effective role in sending police officers to sort out troublemakers. If this trial is successful then we will consider rolling out the system on other routes as part of our campaign to stamp out the casual disorder that has led to a culture of fear on public transport. This is not a test of the technology, which has already been proven, but a chance to assess the effectiveness that live access to on-bus CCTV images has in providing the best police response for drivers and their passengers

Dagenham Dock

The Docklands Light Railway (DLR) has asked the Department for Transport (DfT) to delay the start of the Public Inquiry into the proposed extension of its network to Dagenham Dock. DLR has asked for the delay - and the DfT has agreed - because it needs time to clarify the situation with the Government in relation to funding for the extension.

TfL Funding

TfL has no deposits with banks in Iceland. On 9 June 2008, TfL deposited £40m with a UK bank, Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF), which is authorised and regulated by the UK Financial Services Authority (FSA). Its ultimate parent bank is Kaupthing Bank in Iceland. The deposit matures in June 2009. At the time the deposit was placed, Kaupthing Bank carried an A1 credit rating (which remained unchanged until 9 October 2008). The placement with this UK bank was in full accordance with TfL's treasury management strategy drawn up in the light of central Government guidance.

On 8 October, KSF was placed in administration by the UK Government/FSA to protect the assets of the bank given problems affecting the Icelandic parent bank. It is understood that KSF has "substantial assets" and that the aim is to return KSF to normal trading. Under those circumstances, TfL would expect to get its money back when the deposit matures in June 2009. The Administrator is aiming to make an assessment of the asset position by the middle of November and TfL is in discussions with the Administrator regarding joining the creditor committee. Given the unforeseeable nature of recent events and that TfL's treasury management strategy was consistent with central Government guidance, TfL expects to receive full Government support in relation to this matter.

None of this will affect front line transport services or the billions being invested to upgrade London's transport.

Motorcycles in Bus Lanes

On 27 October, I delivered another key manifesto pledge by announcing that motorcycles will be able to share the majority of red route bus lanes with buses, cyclists and licensed black taxis on an 18-month trial basis, from 5 January next year.

A trial of the changes using experimental traffic orders is the quickest way of implementing this type of measure. At the end of the trial period I will listen carefully to the views of all our road users and then make a decision about whether this should be a permanent arrangement.

Budget

Financial Administration

I have noted the Treasury Management Outturn for 2007/08 and the GLA performance against Prudential Code Indicators.

London Development Agency

LDA Investment Strategy

I approved the LDA's 2008/12 Investment Strategy and set the LDA targets for 2008/09.

LDA unveils vision for St Giles

On 3 October, the London Development Agency unveiled its vision for St Giles. Peter Bishop, Director of Design, Development and Environment at the London Development Agency and Sir Terry Farrell outlined aspirations for the area to improve one of central London's most important interchanges.

Tottenham Court Road is benefiting from the largest transport investment in decades, including a rebuilt Tube station and new, high-frequency, high-capacity Crossrail services. The framework put forward aims to create a much-improved environment for the increasing numbers of pedestrians in the area, which is set to rise further in the future. This piece of work has been completed in close collaboration with Camden, Westminster, TfL and all of the major landowners in the area. It will be implemented through private sector development. By co-ordinating this within a design framework we will re-establish St Giles as a destination and underpin the wealth of the West End.

Environment

Street Trees programme

I have approved a grant of £879,000 to the Forestry Commission to deliver the first year of my Street Tree programme. The Commission will provide grants to boroughs, community groups and others to plant trees in 40 priority areas, which will be identified by an expert panel. The programme was launched, with the first 20 areas identified, on 20 October. The programme will provide a total of £4 million over four years, to plant a total of 10,000 new street trees.

The eligible locations were selected by a panel of tree experts including: Trees for Cities (who Chaired the panel), the London Tree Officers Association, the Forestry Commission, Greenspace Information for Greater London, the Greater London Authority, the London Development Agency, Transport for London, London Councils, the Tree Council and Natural England.

Waste Treatment Facilities

I have approved an allocation of not more than £50,000 from the Environment programme budget - "Waste Planning and Infrastructure" - to produce a comprehensive catalogue of advanced waste treatment facilities ("Task One"). Task One will include detailed information on a number of featured waste treatment technologies (such as anaerobic digestion and gasification).

I have also agreed to undertake a procurement exercise in line with the GLA's Contracts Code to identify a consultant able to produce Task One on behalf of the GLA and approval to award the contract of no more than £50,000 to the most successful consultant.

Should the LDA agree to provide additional funding of up to £50,000 for Task Two the Study, I agree to:

- receive the funding into the Environment programme budget;
- enter into a funding agreement with the LDA in respect of this amount; and
- enter into a contract with the successful consultant for the production of a report recommending a number of comparable and appropriate advanced waste treatment facilities from the Task One work that could be replicated in London and the UK ("Task Two").

Finally, I agree to delegate authority to my Environment Advisor to approve the publication of the final Task One and Task Two report on the GLA website and approve a presentation of the findings to stakeholders.

London Waste and Recycling Board

I have agreed to provide interim banking, accounting and legal services to the London Waste and Recycling Board, to include receiving monies on behalf of the Board, making payments in accordance with instructions from the Board and providing records of all movements on the interim General Fund, as defined in article 19 of the London Waste and Recycling Board Order.

I have also agreed to procure an organisation, on behalf of the London Waste and Recycling Board, to act as Chief Operating Officer to fulfil the requirements of article 20 of the London Waste and Recycling Board Order, and to recommend and implement a suitable permanent structure to support the Board.

I have agreed to procure any other essential, interim administrative, professional or technical services that may be required before the organisation (mentioned above) is in place and also agreed to host the interim secretariat at City Hall.

Finally, I have agreed to recover costs for the services given above from the London Waste and Recycling Fund.

Children and Young People

Children's Arts Day

I approved the proposal to work in partnership with Engage & Visit London to deliver Children's Arts Day 2009, which will take place between 25 - 28 June 2009. I also agreed to provide £10,000 from the Culture budget 2008/09 as funding to the organisation Engage to deliver the London element of the programme.

Legacy Now Youth Panel

On 4 October, around 50 young people from the Olympic host boroughs met for the first time with masterplanners (EDAW, Allies and Morrison and KCAP) working on the

Legacy Masterplan Framework (LMF) which will outline a spatial plan for homes, parkland, schools, workspace, health and sporting facilities to be developed on the Olympic site after the 2012 Games.

The LDA is offering 14 to 19 year-olds the chance to join a Legacy Now Youth Panel, a unique chance to work alongside the masterplanners tasked with developing legacy plans for the Olympic Park site. The Panel will provide budding planners and designers the opportunity to gain valuable industry experience, while offering the next generation's vision on the regeneration opportunity. Twenty five will eventually be selected for the panel which will meet regularly until summer 2009.

Xcel Student of the Year Awards

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and spoke on my behalf at the Xcel Student of the Year Awards on 6 October. My Deputy Mayor also awarded the Science Student of the Year Award at the event.

The awards are designed to celebrate and acknowledge achievements of some of Britain's finest students. A celebration party took place after the awards ceremony. The Deputy Mayor thought the awards were a wonderful opportunity to encourage and acknowledge the exceptional talents of young people and the event received wide media coverage.

Prevention, Early Intervention and Targeted Youth Support Seminar

On 13 October, fifty senior representatives participated in a GLA seminar organised by the Children and Young People's Unit to share research, good practice and London, national and international experiences on 'Prevention, Early Intervention and Targeted Youth Support'.

My Director of Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy, Munira Mirza, hosted and chaired the event on my behalf, and other Mayor's Office colleagues, as well as the Chair, Sir Trevor Chinn, and the new Chief Executive, Chris Robinson, of the Mayor's Fund for London, attended.

Some of the key messages from the research included that systematic reviews provide considerable evidence of effective interventions. For example, seminar attendees learned how a national, Institute of Education review of targeted youth support interventions showed that in tackling offending and anti social behaviour, there is good evidence of effectiveness for cognitive behaviour therapy and school-wide approaches.

One key area discussed that I am keen that the GLA explores further with London government partners is a need for a London specific resource or function that can give clear evidence of what works (and what does not work) to all the agencies involved including service directors in local authority, voluntary sector and regional government agencies, in order to influence where we invest in young people in London. This would help fulfil my administration's desire to build on what works.

Young Londoners Fund

The final stage of assessment for the Young Londoners' Fund – the part of the London Youth Offer for the voluntary and community sector – has been completed. Fifty-seven organisations that had been invited to go through to full application stage (from over

400 expressions of interest) have now been assessed and scored by both adult and young assessors.

Strategic bids (those over £400,000) were then visited by young people and localised bids (those over £100,000) were interviewed by young people. In total 32 interviews and 20 visits were carried out by young people. These were then also factored into the assessment. The Programme Board met on the 10 October and its final recommendations will be going for ratification to the LDA's Corporate Investment Panel.

A public announcement will subsequently be made on the successful projects to be funded by the LDA. Due diligence checks and contracting with the successful applicants will then commence and I expect the projects to begin delivery in early 2009.

Peer Outreach Workers

My Peer Outreach Workers team of young people is continuing to lead on and support significant engagement and participation initiatives with young Londoners.

On the Safer Neighbourhoods for Young People (SN4P) project, the team is now working alongside the Safer London Foundation to encourage more involvement of children and young people at a local level on the Safer Neighbourhood Panels. Peer Outreach Workers are participating in all the borough seminars organised by the Foundation to work with the panel chairs on improving the involvement that young Londoners have on the panels. My Peer Outreach Workers, and the Children and Young People's Unit, are also supporting the British Transport Police to establish a youth board. This board will help advise on issues of young people's safety and bring to the Police the wider views and experiences of young Londoners.

Peer Outreach Workers, supported by my Children and Young People's Unit, are working with the MPS and Football Foundation to establish a Londonwide Kickz Youth Board. This will be comprised of young people who attend Kickz activities at all major football clubs in London. Its responsibilities will include evaluating the success of the projects on a regional and local level, assisting with applying for funding and leading on the national evaluation of the Kickz programme.

The You're Welcome project that I have reported on earlier in the year is now being rolled out across London. My Peer Outreach Workers will be training young Londoners from every borough to assess local health services for their accessibility to children and young people. This involves working with the local PCTs and youth services on improvements and building on good practice that they have identified.

Finally, as a result of the success of the You're Welcome project, the Peer Outreach Workers team is now supporting the Well London project of the London Health Commission. The young people are working with the YMCA, at the Super Output Area level in communities, to provide support for local young people in planning and running projects that will benefit them.

Improving Young Londoners' Musical Education

On 24 October, I announced plans to increase music participation and improve music education for young people in London.

At a breakfast meeting attended by opinion formers from the music education world, musicians, music practitioners and my Director of Culture Policy Munira Mirza explored how the Greater London Authority (GLA) can work with other agencies to encourage more young people to make music and further their musical interests and skills.

Although many excellent initiatives for affordable music exist in parts of London, I am keen to build on these and develop a more coordinated approach. This work will tie in with my new cultural strategy that is due to be launched later this year.

As part of this strategy, I am initiating a 'musical instrument amnesty' in conjunction with Time Out. The aim of No Strings Attached is to enable as many young people as possible to have access to a musical instrument by encouraging Londoners to donate their unused instruments.

Economic and Business Policy

International Business Advisory Council

On 5 October, I hosted the inaugural meeting of the International Business Advisory Council for London (IBAC London) at City Hall. The meeting was Chaired by WPP's Sir Martin Sorrell and attended by 30 council members. Discussions focused around ways to improve London's liveability and members put forward some excellent ideas that will be used to develop policies to secure London's position as a global business center.

Some of the key themes of discussion were:

- The need to continue improving the capital's transport infrastructure - looking at truly integrated modes of transport;
- The need to make London a more affordable place to live;
- The knock-on effects of the global economic trouble to ordinary Londoners;
- The need to challenge the negative perception of the city by playing to its strengths and particularly the transformation that will be delivered by the 2012 Games.

I have agreed that the costs of holding the annual IBAC London meetings will be met by the GLA (although sponsors will be sought where appropriate).

I have also agreed the draft terms of reference for the IBAC London, and subsequent agreement of the terms with the IBAC London Chair and members, and agreed that the GLA's Director of Marketing will act as the IBAC London Secretary.

In addition, I have approved: a virement of £10,000 from the stakeholder project development fund budget to the Private Sector team budget; a virement of £6,000 from the International team budget to the Private Sector team budget; and an allocation of £5,000 from the Private Sector team budget, for the purposes of the first meeting on 5 October.

Economic Recovery Action Plan

On 27 October, I announced the development of my Economic Recovery Action Plan designed to support Londoners and businesses through the predicted economic hardship ahead.

Over the past few weeks, I have been consulting extensively with my Policy Director, Anthony Browne, and a range of business groups, small companies, finance houses and leading multinationals, on measures that will help support the economy and Londoners, as well as preparing the capital for future economic upturn.

Under the current plan, I intend to:

- Deliver more affordable housing by removing the rigid top down rule that 50 per cent of all new homes built must be affordable, making many developments economically unviable;
- Introduce a range of energy efficiency programmes to help businesses and Londoners cut their energy bills;
- Lobby government to have a competitive tax regime to ensure London remains a global centre;
- Revamp the international promotion of London to ensure we remain a global magnet for tourism, business and talent.

Further measures being developed, include: bringing forward large scale infrastructure investment projects to help secure London jobs now; streamlining procurement procedures to make it easier for small companies to bid for GLA group work and paying them more quickly when they are successful contractors; and setting up schemes to help Londoners made unemployed in the downturn to find new jobs.

Loomba Trust Annual Gala Dinner

On 2 October I spoke at the Loomba Trust's Annual Gala Dinner, held in celebration of Diwali. The Loomba Trust was established 1997 to raise awareness of, and care for, poor widows and their dependents. The event was co-hosted by the UK India Business Council and London First, and it celebrated the international day of non-violence which was designated by the United Nations last year to commemorate Mahatma Ghandhi's birthday.

The dinner was attended by 300 guests including Mr Shiv Shankar Mukerjee, the Indian High Commissioner; senior politicians, dignitaries and business leaders from both the British and Indian communities in London.

National Employment and Health Innovations Network (NEHIN)

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, addressed the National Employment and Health Innovations Network at City Hall on 6 October. NEHIN is a well established and highly regarded national network which provides regular opportunities for innovators and policy makers to meet to exchange ideas, experience and evidence covering the whole field of health and work.

My Deputy Mayor spoke on 'The new administrations approach to health and work' and also launched the 'London Works For Better Health Campaign.'

Japanese Business Reception

On 13 October I attend a Japanese business reception hosted by Think London, to celebrate the importance of London and the UK's economic and cultural links with Japan. I spoke about my views on the current economic situation and how I propose to tackle it as well as the continued strengthening of economic and cultural links between London and Japan.

Construction Industry Marketers Group Lunch

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, addressed the Construction Industry Marketers Group Lunch on 27 October. The lunch was attended by senior directors and managers representing all sectors of the UK construction industry. The Deputy Mayor spoke on the vision for London's built environment and the contribution that the construction industry might make.

London Games Festival

On 24 October, the third annual London Games Festival (LGF) and Fringe opened to showcase the finest gaming and interactive entertainment across the capital. Building on the success of previous years, this 2008 Festival and Fringe brings together a broad and diverse range of consumer and industry activities to ensure that there's something of interest for everyone, from the casual gamer to the die-hard fan!

The LGF demonstrates the creativity and range of the gaming industry, which, as an important part of London's creative sector, and makes a vital contribution to the economy as whole. With events across the capital, the festival has something for everyone and illustrates the popularity of this thriving form of entertainment.

International

EU Committee of the Regions

I have agreed to nominate Deputy Mayor Ian Clement to the EU Committee of the Regions as alternate member for London.

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Olympic Legacy Board of Advisors

On 2 October, I announced the appointment of a Legacy Board of Advisors to assist me in securing the best possible future for the Olympic Park after the 2012 Games.

The new Board will advise on all aspects of the legacy programme for London. It will, in particular, focus on the emerging proposals for physical development and regeneration in and around the Olympic Park after the Games and the business plan for the Olympic Park and legacy venues. It will provide advice on how to maximise the regeneration benefits for existing and new communities in East London while ensuring an appropriate return on the public investment in the Park. It will also focus on high standards of management and maintenance of the Park and venues while delivering viability, affordability and the best possible use of the venues by Londoners and by elite athletes.

Legacy discussions with the Deputy Mayor

On 13 October, I welcomed the Deputy Mayor of Beijing, Mr Chen Gang, to City Hall where we discussed how Beijing can contribute to the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and broaden partnership and collaboration between the two cities on economic and cultural matters.

I underlined how one of my main priorities is the legacy of the 2012 Games and ensuring the transformation of East London into a new and prosperous area of the capital. The Deputy Mayor also confirmed Beijing's interest and that the Municipal Education Commission has been delegated to look into potential collaborations between London and Chinese universities, which could contribute to the legacy developments planned for the Olympic Park.

Government Liaison

Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee

On 7 October, I gave evidence alongside Neale Coleman and Peter Rogers (LDA), to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, on the London 2012 Games and lessons from Beijing.

Meeting with the Minister for Housing

On 21 October, I met with Margaret Beckett MP, Minister for Housing. Our discussion focused on my forthcoming Housing Strategy and targeted funding stream, affordable housing targets and the Homes and Communities Agency, National Housing and Planning Advice Unit Housing Supply Figures and London Plan Revised Housing Targets.

Meeting with John Redwood MP

On 21 October, I met with John Redwood MP to discuss his suggestions for improving capacity, flow and safety on the roads.

Meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport

On 22 October, I met with Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Transport. We discussed a range of issues including the London Underground PPP, Crossrail, smoothing traffic flow, East London Line Phase 2b, Oyster on National Rail and Olympics transport issues.

Local Government Relations

Meeting with Joanne McCartney AM and the London Borough of Enfield

On 3 October, I met with Joanne McCartney and representatives from the borough of Enfield to discuss issues around the Transport for London properties on the A406. We had a positive discussion and officers are now working on this together across the organisations to take this forward.

Visit to Bexley

On 8 October, I was delighted to visit Bexley and hold my first local press conference in the police station at Bexleyheath. I was also joined by Met Police Commander Rod Jarman and Transport Commissioner Peter Hendy to announce the 30 locations across London that will benefit from new transport policing teams. This follows the success of the three pilot teams I launched in May that have reduced some crimes by more than a third.

I was also pleased to officially open the Sidcup Leisure Centre along with borough Leader, Cllr Teresa O'Neill.

Meeting with the Leader of Westminster

On 9 October, I met with Cllr Colin Barrow, Leader of Westminster. We discussed a variety of issues including Westminster's involvement in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the development of Exhibition Road and my proposals for a cycle-hire scheme in central London

Future of London Conference

On 21 October, I spoke at the Future of London conference and focussed mainly on the challenges we face in the current economic climate and the importance of continued investment in our transport infrastructure.

Meeting with the Leader of Islington

On 23 October, I met with Cllr James Kempton, Leader of Islington. We had a useful discussion and covered areas such as my proposals for a cycle-hire scheme in central London, local transport concerns and concerns about the safety of young people in the borough.

Housing

Housing investment

I have written to the Minister of Housing to recommended that resources totalling £24,645,513 from London's Regional Housing Pot for 2008/09 be distributed as follows:

- £10,634,375 be allocated to London boroughs to enable them to bring back into residential occupation 668 empty homes.
- £10,278,000 be allocated to those London boroughs that have already achieved the Decent Homes standard but wish to undertake improvements to a higher standard.
- £1,483,625 be made available to extend or re-convert 25 homes to create larger homes to be let to overcrowded households.
- £2,249,513 be made available for the refurbishment of 51 existing Gypsy and Traveller pitches and the delivery of 4 new pitches.

Affordable housing targets

On 22 October, I took the first steps towards removing the 50 per cent London wide affordable housing target, a manifesto pledge, by opening negotiations with London boroughs to agree a programme to deliver 50,000 affordable homes across the city over the next three years.

The indicative targets I have proposed to each borough is based on a careful consideration of these circumstances, starting with their capacity for new housing as measured by their statutory London Plan housing provision target. I also took into account affordable housing supply over the last three years in each borough, as measured by official government statistics, reasoning that we can expect more from those boroughs who have consistently delivered high levels of affordable housing. Finally, I took into account the Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets for affordable housing provision over the next three years that 23 London boroughs have adopted. In some cases these seem quite low compared to what I believe boroughs can deliver, perhaps due in part to a lack of clarity in the definitions used for setting LAA targets. I believe that in many of these cases boroughs can deliver significantly above the levels indicated by their LAA target. Where we agree a higher target this will be incorporated into their Local Area Agreement when it is updated in early 2009.

The targets that I have proposed are a starting point for negotiation. Each borough will have the opportunity to present its own evidence in discussions with the GLA before final targets are agreed early in 2009.

The target to deliver 50,000 affordable homes over three years will be a key aim in my London Housing Strategy, which will be published in draft form for consultation with the Assembly in the near future. In the longer term I intend to alter the London Plan to remove prescriptive and counter-productive targets (such as the 50 per cent affordable housing target for new development) and to enable a higher proportion of shared ownership and other ‘intermediate’ housing."

Culture and events

Black History Season 2008

Black History Month, now in its twenty-first year, celebrates the contributions made by Black people to the fabric of British life. The scheme was celebrated widely throughout the country and here in London by boroughs, libraries, schools, places of work and cultural organisations. This year the GLA, in an extended 'Season', held a varied range of events that were open to all. The theme for the GLA's season was the anniversary of the Empire Windrush in 1948, marking the arrival of emigrants from the West Indies. At the beginning of the season I launched the Ministry of Defence exhibition 'We Were There' with WW2 veterans and a serving officer from the Princess of Wales Regiment. Other events during the season included Walking and River Tours, seminars on early settlers in London and how the coming of Ska and Calypso music changed the shape of London's Black music scene forever.

The events were well attended; the school events were oversubscribed, with over 200 school children and young people aged between 9 and 18 attending the 'We Were There' exhibition, which featured guided tours from serving army personnel. Evening

seminars on the legacy of the Windrush Generation were also well attended and a programme of literary events delivered by the Sohemian Society took place in Notting Hill. Partners included The Imperial War Museum, Urban Image, Bill Kenwright Ltd, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Westminster University. Media partners included The Voice, Metro and BBC South Africa.

60th Windrush Anniversary

On 3 October, I met with ex-servicemen and women, who were passengers on the Empire Windrush in 1948, to mark the 60th anniversary of the famous ship's arrival. I was joined by veteran guests at the official launch of Black History Season, which pays homage to the Windrush with a series of events, exhibitions, and lectures at City Hall.

Unveiling of The Bronze Woman Monument

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended on my behalf the unveiling of The Bronze Woman Monument at Stockwell Memorial Gardens on 8 October. Baroness Scotland, Attorney General, and Margaret Hodge MP, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism also attended.

The monument celebrates the contribution of black women to British society and was inspired by a poem written 30 years ago by a Guyanese lady called Cecile Nobrega.

Tribute to London's Hospice Movement

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, hosted the 'Tribute to London's Hospice Movement' in London's Living Room, City Hall on Wednesday 8th October and spoke on my behalf. Richard paid tribute to the work of the London Hospice movement and acknowledged the importance of high quality end of life care.

The reception celebrated the contribution of London's hospice movement as well as presenting an opportunity to consider some of the challenges London faces to improve services for people at the end of their lives.

Over 150 people attended the reception and guests included London Hospice Chief Executives, staff, volunteers, service users, PCT staff and commissioners, Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, local authority leads in adult social care, London councillors and GLA officers and staff.

Olympic and Paralympic Heroes Parade

On 16 October, following their enormous success in Beijing this summer, 400 of Britain's Olympic and Paralympic athletes took part in a Heroes Parade through the streets of London. The event was co-ordinated by my Events team and the Squares Management team, in association with British Olympic Association, British Paralympic Association, City of London, Westminster City Council, Metropolitan Police Service and the BBC.

The parade began at Mansion House at an official start attended by the Lord Mayor of London. All the athletes traveled on specially adapted floats through the city, past St Paul's Cathedral, into Fleet Street, the Stand and onto Trafalgar Square. All along the route many thousands of people came out to cheer the parade as it passed by.

At Trafalgar Square the athletes received a heroes welcome from the large waiting crowds. Athletes were received on specially constructed stage platforms with large screens, and a number took part in media interviews that were shown live on BBC1. Our athletes at this summer's Olympic Games and Paralympic Games were an inspiration to all of us and it is right that we salute them as we prepare to host the next games in this wonderful city of ours.

Film London and London Film Day

On 22 October, I met with key players from London's production industry, and announced my plans to harness the film industry, to boost London's economy and maintain city's position as the cultural capital of the world.

At the film summit, hosted in City Hall, I announced a new set of priorities for Film London, the capital's film and media agency, including new legislation to make it easier to film around the capital and a pledge to double the funding for the London Borough Film Fund Challenge to £100,000, increasing grassroots film-making opportunities across London. I also revealed plans for the London Film Day, a new campaign to provide Londoners of all ages and across all boroughs with more opportunity to engage with film through a range of exciting screenings and special film and educational events.

Since Film London was launched in 2004, there has been a massive 40% increase in filming in the capital. The screen industry employs 100,000 people in London and visiting productions generate revenue for local councils and businesses; for instance, this year Kudos Film and TV produced 60 hours of television in 12 months with a total budget of over £50 million, most of it based here in the capital. Images of the capital on screen also encourage tourism, with one in five tourists citing film images as a reason for travel.

Black writing since the 1950's

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and spoke on my behalf at 'Black writing since the 1950's' at Kensington Town Hall on 29 October. The event was part of Black History month and my Deputy Mayor spoke on aspects of the history of black people in the UK and why Black History month is important to Londoners.

Annakut Festival

My Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, celebrated the Hindu New Year on my behalf at Neasden Temple on 29 October.

The Deputy Mayor addressed the event which is the largest Hindu festival in London celebrating the Hindu New Year. Some 35,000 people attended during the day and Richard spoke to some 1,000 devotees whilst there. Richard spoke of how impressive it is that London hosts the largest celebration in Europe for the Hindu New Year and praised the positive contribution by the Indian population to life in London.

Notting Hill Carnival

I retrospectively approved funding of £12,500 to Notting Hill Mas Bands Association (NHMBA) as a contribution towards its costs of producing and organising the Grand

Carnival Costume Splash (the "Event") which took place on 16 August 2008 as part of wider Notting Hill Carnival related activities which took place bank holiday, 23 - 25 August 2008.

Trafalgar and Parliament Squares

Eid in the Square

On 11 October, I attended Eid in the Square, an event to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr, one of the main festivals of the Islamic calendar that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims all over the world bring 30 days of fasting to a close.

This event was organised by my Events team with support from the Muslim Council of Britain London Affair's Committee and wider Muslim community and cultural groups. The celebrations, which attracted an audience of around 20,000 people over the day, included a variety of music performances from the main stage; a cultural exhibition on Islam; a sponsors exhibition marquee; market stalls selling Islamic clothing, music CDs and ceramics; food stalls; prayer marquees; and a children's marquee with a craft workshop including calligraphy and face-painting.

Diwali on the Square

Diwali on the Square is an annual event arranged to mark the Festival of Diwali, which symbolizes the power of light over darkness and has religious and cultural significance for Hindu, Sikhs and Jains.

The event took place on 19 October on Trafalgar Square and attracted 25,000 or more throughout the day. The audience, which included many families and young people, were able to enjoy open air 'garba' dancing and stage performances of music and dance, including Indian TV and pop acts. To enhance the atmosphere coloured lights and lanterns were placed around the Square.

Diwali in the Square 2008 was organised by my events team and the Diwali in London Committee, a voluntary group with representatives from different Hindu organisations. The principal sponsor for the event was Barclays. Other sponsors included Transport for London plus media partners Star TV and Club Asia Radio.

Skills

Personal Best Volunteering Scheme

On 14 October, participants in the LDA's ground breaking Personal Best volunteering scheme helped steward crowds and runners at the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon on Sunday. Fifteen Personal Best students from six London boroughs - Waltham Forest, Hackney, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, Westminster and Southwark - directed crowds, handing out refreshments to runners and offered information to visitors at the Hyde Park event.

Personal Best is run by the London Development Agency (LDA) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help some of the city's most disadvantaged, including long term unemployed people, to improve their job prospects. It uses the excitement of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to promote training for an accredited volunteering qualification while also offering participants support into further volunteering, training or work. Closer to the time, graduates will be offered an interview to become a volunteer at the 2012 Games.

Cultural Skills Fund

On 16 October, I invited organisations in the capital to apply for funding to support the development of skills amongst Londoners in the run up to 2012. The 2012 London Cultural Skills Fund, which has been set up by the London Development Agency (LDA), will help people gain skills by offering opportunities to work in creative and cultural fields such as music, theatre, film and fashion, during the first two years of the Cultural Olympiad.

Worth £1.2 million, the aim of the fund is to encourage creativity and help to build a spirit of cultural innovation in the run up to 2012. It is to be administered by Arts Council England and will provide grants to community groups, third sector organisations and local authorities in London. Organisations across the capital - particularly those in the voluntary sector - are being encouraged to apply for grants worth between £25,000 and £50,000.

GLA Organisation

Maintenance Contracts

Further to MD122 and following strategy analysis with the Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning, I have approved a longer contract period for the supply of building infrastructure maintenance services contract and subsequent award of a contract to the most economically advantageous bidder for a 5 year period, with options to extend the contract for a further 2 years in separate 1 year lots.

I have also approved a longer contract period for the supply of a window cleaning and fabric maintenance contract and subsequent award of a contract to the most economically advantageous bidder for a 5 year period, with options to extend the contract for a further 2 years in separate 1 year lots.

Diwali on the Square Budget

I agreed to increase the total budget from £70,000 to £78,500, as a result of increased sponsorship, to enhance Diwali on the Square, which took place in Trafalgar Square on 19 October.

I agreed to increase the total contract sum up to £65,000 with producer GDF to enable the additional expenditure on expanded production for the event. (The purpose of the expanded production was to provide additional sponsor marquees, facilities, lighting and decoration).

C40 Secretariat

I retrospectively approved funding of £21,250 from the GLA's Environment Programme budget towards the cost of the C40 Secretariat for the first quarter 2008/09.

I have also retrospectively approved the receipt of funding of £17,500 from the Clinton Climate Change Initiative ("CCI") towards the cost of the C40 activities for the first quarter 2008/09 and to adjust the Environment Programme Budget accordingly.

Finally, I have approved, in principle, the transfer of responsibility for the C40 Secretariat from London to the City of Toronto from 1 July 2008, as agreed by Mayor Miller and myself. This will be formalised by a Memorandum of Understanding.

Delegation of Planning Decisions

I have rescinded my previous delegation of certain planning decisions to the Deputy Mayor, Government Relations.

I have approved the delegation of my planning functions, in relation to referrals of planning applications of potential strategic importance, local development plans, and stopping up orders, to the Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning, and the Deputy Mayor, Government Relations in circumstances where, for whatever reason, I am unavailable or unable to make a decision.

Appointments

London Skills and Employment Board

On 14 October, I announced the appointment of nine new members to the London Skills and Employment Board (LSEB), which I statutorily chair. I also reappointed twelve existing Board members.

I made a manifesto commitment that the Board should represent London's smaller businesses as well as large ones. The new appointments provide the Board with additional employer expertise from the key employment and business sectors for London, and strengthen links to Higher Education and the London Boroughs. The Board provides leadership to boost adult skills and jobs in the capital and includes top London business leaders, large employers, small businesses, education specialists, local authorities and union representation.

I am fully focused on ensuring London pulls through the current economic downturn, emerging stronger than ever and retaining its position as a leading world city. To achieve this we must ensure that London's employers have access to the skills they need, which is particularly important in more challenging economic times.

We know our small businesses are a key part of London's economy and have a whole range of different skills needs to that of large businesses. The Board has produced an excellent Strategy but now comes the more important task of delivery.

Planning and Development Control

London View Management Framework

I approved the proposal to seek competitive tenders for the provision of specialist technical services pursuant to the Authority's review of the London View Management Framework SOG (LVMF).

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Odeon, 263-265 Kensington High Street, RB Kensington and Chelsea
I have written to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Rayners Lane Estate, Phases E-H, LB Harrow
I have written to the London Borough of Harrow stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Wembley Central Square, 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.

Apart-hotel, Olympia, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
I have written to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Eltham Hill Technology College, 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.

RAF Bentley Priory, LB Harrow
I have written to the London Borough of Harrow stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Former South Bank University Site, 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.

Turks Boatyard, RB Kingston
I have written to the Royal Borough of Kingston stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Elizabeth House, 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.

6 Paris Gardens & 20-21 Hatfields, 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.

58-64 Three Colt Lane, 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.

44-46 Borough 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.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Kier Hardie Primary School (Area 3, Canning Town), LB Newham
- Mill Hill Golf Course, LB Barnet
- Isle of Dogs, Crossrail Station, LB Tower Hamlets
- Unit 4, Second Way, LB Brent
- 44-46 Borough Road, LB Southwark
- Former Goodmans Fields, LB Tower Hamlets
- Dickens Yard, LB Ealing
- Thames Wharf, Dock Road, LB Newham
- 38-46 Albert Embankment, LB Lambeth
- 18-42 Wharf Road, LB Hackney
- Thames Refinery, Tate and Lyle Factory, LB Newham
- 86-88 Upper Richmond Road, LB Wandsworth
- Telehouse West, LB Tower Hamlets
- Land between Cumberland Avenue & Rainsford Road, LB Brent
- Grand Plaza Hotel, City of Westminster
- RAF East Camp, LB Barnet

Development Plans

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

- Mill Hill East Area Action Plan – Statement of Common Ground for the Examination in Public, LB Barnet
- Core Strategy – Towards Preferred Options, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Core Strategy – Submission Stage, LB Wandsworth

Decisions made under delegation to Head of Planning Decisions

- Cannon Street Railway Bridge, LB Southwark and City of London
- Paddington New Yard and adjoining land draft planning brief, Westminster City Council
- Caspian Works and Lewis House, LB Tower Hamlets

- Hillingdon Council SPD: Future use and development of RAF Uxbridge – consultation draft, LB Hillingdon
- Crossrail: Bond Street Station (Eastern Ticket Hall), Bond Street Station (Western Ticket Hall), Tottenham Court Road Station (Eastern Ticket Hall), Tottenham Court Road Station (Western Ticket Hall) draft planning briefs, City of Westminster

Key Engagements

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

- I recorded a message of support for Byte Night on 2 October
- I met with Kate Hoey MP on 2 October
- I addressed the Loomba Trust Diwali Dinner on 2 October
- I chaired the Olympic Board Meeting on 2 October
- I met with Bob Wigley on 2 October
- I launched the Black History Season on 3 October
- I attended the International Business Council Dinner on 4 October
- I attended the International Business Council Conference on 5 October
- I attended the Bloomberg Roundtable Discussion on 6 October
- I met with Sir Trevor Chinn & McKinseys on 6 October
- I attended the Bloomberg Dinner on 6 October
- I chaired the MPA Full Authority Meeting on 6 October
- I attended the ES Influentials Party on 6 October
- I met with David Ross on 6 October
- I attended the Bob Wigley Group on London Competitiveness on 7 October
- I attended the stone-laying ceremony at Excel London on 7 October
- I attended the opening of the Great Ormond Street Hospital new Children's Cancer Centre on 7 October
- I met with Harvey McGrath & Peter Rogers on 8 October
- I chaired the Olympic Park Regeneration Steering Group on 8 October
- I met with David Milliband, Foreign Secretary on 9 October
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 9 October
- I addressed the UBS Annual dinner for Leading Women on 9 October
- I met with David Stern NBA on 10 October
- I met with Nikesh Arora, Google on 10 October
- I attended the Private Equity Foundation Event in Newham on 10 October
- I met with Steve Hart, Unite on 10 October
- I attended Eid in the Square on 11 October
- I met with Vice Mayor of Beijing, Chen Gang on 13 October
- I attended the Think London Japanese Reception on 13 October
- I met with HRH Duke of York on 13 October
- I met with Darren Johnson AM - Deputy Chair to the Assembly on 14 October
- I addressed the MPS Service Conference on 14 October
- I addressed the Policy Exchange Gala Dinner on 14 October
- I attended the Crossrail Reception on 15 October
- I addressed the House of Lords London Group on 15 October

- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 15 October
- I attended the Olympic Reception at Buckingham Palace on 16 October
- I attended the Olympic Winners Tour on 16 October
- I addressed the Guns, Gangs & Weapons Practitioners Forum Annual Seminar on 16 October
- I addressed the Diwali celebration in Trafalgar square on 19 October
- I spoke at the Minhaj-ul-Quran Mosque in Newham on 19 October
- I met Mo Ibrahim & Kofi Annan on 20 October
- I met with Robert Napier & Bob Kerslake on 20 October
- I chaired the Homes & Communities Agency London Shadow Board on 20 October
- I met with the Indian High Commissioner on 20 October
- I attended the Olympic Funders Committee on 21 October
- I attended the Altitude Birthday Party on 21 October
- I met with Val Shawcross AM, Cllr Caroline Pidgeon AM, Cllr Jenny Jones AM & representatives from the Cross River Partnership on 21 October
- I chaired the London Film Summit on 22 October
- I attended The Mayor's Gala Film showing on 22 October
- I attended the Olympic Board Meeting on 22 October
- I chaired the regular planning meeting on 22 October
- I met with Roger Evans AM on 23 October
- I attended the NFL Sports Summit 'Welcome to London' reception at St Paul's Cathedral on 23 October.

Ends