

Mayor Boris Johnson's published priorities May 2008

HOUSING AND PLANNING

First Steps housing scheme for first time buyers

The Mayor is concerned housing costs are out of reach of a growing number of Londoners. Government schemes are aimed at those on low incomes or key sector workers, but the open market is out of reach of many ordinary professionals, especially young couples. First Steps will provide low cost, high quality housing discounted by at least 20 per cent of market rate by releasing surplus brownfield land held by the GLA estate. £130 million from the Regional Housing Pot will be released to start the scheme.

Scrap the 50 per cent affordable housing target

The Mayor believes the 50 per cent target is too rigid and is leading to good proposals being refused, especially on smaller sites. The Mayor is concerned the proportion of affordable housing has fallen to 34 per cent since the 50 per cent target was introduced and will amend the London Plan to remove the restriction.

Deliver 50,000 new affordable homes by 2011

The Mayor believes 50,000 new homes are needed to correct London's affordable housing crisis. Housing waiting lists have increased by 68 per cent since 2000, and over 60,000 families now live in temporary accommodation in London. The Regional Housing Pot will fund this.

Change the Intermediate / Social Housing split from 70:30 to 60:40

The Mayor believes all Londoners, whatever their income, should be helped onto the housing ladder. Changing the split would also free up more social housing for those unable to enter shared ownership housing schemes.

Lobby government for a one-stop shop to advise on shared equity schemes

The Mayor believes there is confusion over shared ownership schemes. A one-stop shop would ensure appropriate advice is given to those wanting to enter into intermediate housing, tailored to needs and income.

Full audit of GLA property to determine suitable locations

The Mayor will work with boroughs to identify land held by the GLA that is suitable for First Steps housing development, starting with surplus land held by the LDA and TfL on which planning applications have not yet been granted.

Amend Mayor's Housing Strategy to ensure Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) are involved in the design of affordable housing

The Mayor wants new social housing to be better designed. This will be achieved by amending the draft Housing Strategy to encourage RSLs to work with developers at the design stage of new developments.

Empty homes

Londonwide audit of empty homes, both private and public

The Mayor wants long-term empty homes occupied to reduce housing waiting lists. The audit will identify empty homes for regeneration. This will be through a variety of incentives, including increasing the Decent Homes grant to encourage private owners to make their homes habitable and let them to Londoners in need of social housing.

Cut the number of total empty homes to one per cent by 2011

The Mayor believes the target in the Mayor's draft Housing Strategy to reduce the number of empty homes by 0.2 per cent by 2016 is too low. The Mayor will set a new target to reduce the number of empty homes, backed by specific incentives.

Return empty homes owned by public bodies into use as social housing

The Mayor wants to reduce the number of empty homes owned by councils. This will be achieved by returning the Mayor's council tax precept to boroughs that transfer empty homes intended for a different long-term use to short life-housing providers.

Ending empty home tax rebates

The Mayor believes the council tax rebate on empty homes encourages private owners to leave second homes unoccupied. He will therefore exert pressure on councils to end council tax incentives on empty homes.

Encouraging boroughs to undertake 'hidden homes' audits

The Mayor believes 'hidden homes' are a cost-effective way of regenerating parts of London and providing homes for social tenants quickly. The empty homes audit will find 'hidden homes', including on the GLA estate.

Rented property

Introduce an online fair rents guide

Private rents have increased dramatically in the capital. The web-based Fair Rents Guide will ensure Londoners do not get ripped-off by unscrupulous landlords.

Investigate tenancy deposit scheme for rent paid up to £25,000 per year

The Mayor wants to minimise the risk of private tenants losing part or all of their deposits. Although tenant deposit schemes exist, the delay in returning deposits and the high cost of deposits means Londoners can end up out of pocket between tenancies. This scheme would guarantee deposits are returned within four weeks.

Sustainability

Clarify Housing Strategy to call for all new homes to meet Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes by 2010, and Level 6 by 2016

The Mayor believes residential homes built without public money should still meet the tougher environmental criteria under the Sustainable Code and will amend the Housing Strategy to reflect this.

Produce strategy on encouraging sustainable growth in outer London

The Mayor is concerned that the outer boroughs are disconnected from the London Plan and will promote their regeneration through a forum promoting the unique needs of London's suburbs.

Protect historic views by reinstating the original viewing corridor under Regional Planning Guidance 3A (RPG3A)

The Mayor wants to protect historic views of London, especially St Paul's and the Palace of Westminster. The London View Management Framework, which replaced RPG3A, reduced protection of the ten views of these two historic buildings and will be amended to better protect them.

Call on government to legally protect councils who adopt the Merton Rule for on-site renewable energy

The Mayor believes borough councils should have the freedom to negotiate on-site renewable targets and supports the introduction of the Merton Rule into legislation.

The London Plan

Amend London Plan to encourage co-operation in Thames Gateway boroughs

The Mayor is concerned that the Thames Gateway Development Corporation is failing to adequately coordinate development of the Thames Gateway. The Mayor wants to meet with the head of the development corporation to gauge progress and set milestones.

Remove the promotion of tall buildings in the London Plan

The Mayor is concerned the London Plan actively promotes tall buildings, and will amend the plan to ensure it is more balanced.

Amend London Plan so councils secure proportion of affordable units for small independent retailers in developments

The Mayor wants to support small, independent shops and will encourage boroughs to use, where possible, Section 106 agreements to secure affordable retail space.

Add new viewing corridors by amending the London Plan and extending the protection in RPG3A to views of the St James's skyline

The Mayor is concerned that protection of these views is ambiguous. He will therefore amend the London View Management Framework to toughen up protection of landscape and river views.

Discourage development on back gardens

The Mayor wants to protect the capital's open spaces, and at present the London Plan does not protect domestic gardens from residential development.

Change London Plan to ensure it addresses needs of older people

The Mayor wants to build vibrant, mixed communities, and will therefore ensure that the London Plan promotes 'Lifetime Homes'

Enhance provision and protection of street trees

The Mayor believes street trees improve the quality of life of all Londoners but is concerned some of the capital's streets, especially in deprived areas, have none at all. The Mayor will investigate whether the London Plan can be revised to ensure large developments include a certain ratio of street trees.

TRANSPORT

Roads

Traffic light rephasing

The Mayor will tackle congestion by ensuring smoother traffic flow. Transport for London (TfL) will be directed to rephase lights so traffic is stationary for shorter periods of time, whilst maintaining pedestrian safeguards.

Fixed Penalty Notices for delays caused by roadworks

Badly planned roadworks have a huge impact on traffic congestion, particularly bus reliability. Therefore, the Mayor aims to secure the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices under the Fixed Permit Scheme to utility companies that cause delays.

Re-instate Blackwall Tunnel tidal flow

The Mayor will seek to re-instate tidal flow at Blackwall Tunnel, to improve the chronic congestion in the area.

Oppose Dartford Crossing charge increase

The Mayor will lobby government to allow London residents who use the Dartford Crossing to get a 50% discount

Motorcycles in bus lanes

The Mayor believes TfL's recent trial indicates allowing motorcycles in bus lanes could have a safety benefit for both motorcyclists and vulnerable road users alike. By allowing motorcycles in bus lanes, the Mayor hopes to encourage a modal shift from cars to motorcycles, easing congestion and improving emissions in the long term.

Congestion charge

Scrap £25 congestion charge

The Mayor believes this proposal lacks environmental merit, and would have led to more congestion. Therefore, it will be scrapped as soon as is practicably possible.

Consultation on western extension

The Mayor will lead a clearly accountable administration. Therefore, he will hold a new consultation on the western extension of the congestion charge and abide by the result.

Payment reform

The Mayor will make it easier for people to pay the congestion charge, introducing a system for everybody to pay by account, thus avoiding fines for paying on the day.

Buses and coaches

LiveBus, online bus tracking

The Mayor wants to make planning bus journeys easier and more convenient. The LiveBus system will allow Londoners to see online where their next bus is, thus improving service information.

Trial of orbital express bus routes

Outer London congestion must be addressed by improving public transport. There are viable alternatives for journeys into central London, but often not for journeys between outer London town centres. The Mayor plans to trial express bus routes to run between major transport hubs in outer London, and which stop infrequently. If successful, this will become a major part of policy to encourage a modal shift to public transport.

Commuter coach services from outside London

As overcrowding increases on rail services into London, the Mayor will see if commuter coach services can provide an alternative. These services are growing in popularity with users guaranteed a seat, and competitive prices. The Mayor will work with coach companies to see how these services can be expanded.

Phasing out bendy buses

The Mayor believes bendy buses are not suitable for London's roads, and was elected on a clear mandate to scrap them. This process will take time, as it requires waiting for contracts to expire and negotiating new agreements for different types of bus.

Competition to design 21st century Routemaster

The Mayor recognises this will be a lengthy process, and has asked TfL to start setting up the competition.

Work with local councils to synchronise bus lane enforcement

The Mayor supports priority measures to help improve bus reliability, and believes there should be greater synchronicity of bus lane enforcement so drivers are not caught unawares.

Tube

Stop Tube ticket office closures

The Mayor believes local people value Tube station ticket offices and intends to take steps to preserve them.

Re-investigate Tube air conditioning

The Mayor will ask TfL to re-investigate how air conditioning can be made to work on the Tube. The problem is on the deep surface lines, like Northern and Piccadilly, and the Mayor believes a solution can be found.

Investigate one hour later Tube opening on Friday and Saturday nights

There is huge public demand for later running Tube services. Although there are issues around accommodating vital engineering works, and staff negotiations, the Mayor does not consider these problems insurmountable.

Strengthen independent arbitration for the Public Private Partnership (PPP)

The Mayor's first priority is to ensure the smooth handover of Metronet. Longer term, he believes there should be stronger independent arbitration to ensure taxpayers' money is safeguarded.

Prioritise track and signalling upgrades for PPP

The Mayor wants to improve Tube reliability. A key part of this is to ensure that upgrades focus on track and signalling, as these elements will allow for a better frequency of services.

Ensure promised Tube upgrades are still funded

The Mayor believes that the promised upgrades must happen as planned. Londoners may be rightly concerned that the fallout from Metronet will result in cutbacks. The Mayor will use his powers to ensure this does not happen.

Tube no-strike deals / independent pay arbiter

The Mayor aims to negotiate a no strike deal with the Tube unions. In return, the Mayor will submit to independent arbitration for pay negotiations. The Mayor recognises this will not be easy, but he intends to pursue a solution to the threat of industrial action.

Rail

Emergency public summit with rail companies

Millions of Londoners, especially in outer London, rely on rail services for their daily commute. The Mayor believes these services are not good enough, and will act as the rail commuters' champion over the next four years. He will hold a public summit with the train operating companies and lay out what he expects from them.

Cycling

Velib-style cycle hire scheme

The Mayor is committed to making London a genuinely cycle-friendly city. He has already held discussions with TfL on how to implement this scheme, and will consult widely with cycle groups and local councils.

13,000 extra cycle parks

A crucial part of encouraging Londoners to cycle more is to provide secure cycle parking. This will also help tackle cycle theft.

Prioritise cycling and cycle parking in London Plan

The Mayor believes new housing developments should include the provision of secure cycle parking. This will help make cycling easier and more convenient.

River transport

Integrate Oyster Pay As You Go into commuter river services

River transport has huge potential as a form of transport. Passenger numbers have been growing steadily over recent years. The Mayor wants to make river transport more convenient, by allowing Londoners to use Oyster Pay As You Go on the river.

Investigate expanding river services

The Mayor believes there is room for expansion of river services, and will work closely with river operators and pier owners to achieve this.

Black cabs

Scrap mid-year black cab inspections

Taxis are some of the safest vehicles on the road, and drivers take great care and pride in their vehicles. The Mayor therefore believes two inspections each year is unnecessary, and will scrap the mid year inspection as soon as possible. Vehicle safety is a serious issue, and the Mayor aims to increase the number of on street inspections instead.

TfL to scrap PCO Notice 44/06

This penalises cab drivers for stopping on red routes to allow passengers to use cashpoints. The Mayor believes this is an unnecessary restriction as many Londoners who use cabs ask the driver to stop at a cashpoint on route, particularly late at night.

Black cab trade representative on TfL Board

Black cabs are an important public service, and as such should have formal representation on the TfL Board.

Licensed minicab representative on TfL Board

Licensed minicabs are an important part of the transport mix, and their growing numbers mean they should be properly represented on the TfL Board.

Oyster

Increase number of Oyster outlets in outer London

The Mayor believes that more Londoners should have access to Oyster outlets, particularly in outer London so they can top up more often and benefit from lower fares.

Allow direct debit use to automatically renew Oyster travelcards

The Mayor wants to help Londoners have one less thing to worry about on their commute. Progress has already been made through auto-top and paying online, and direct debits will add to that.

Make Freedom Pass available before 9am

The Mayor is 100 per cent committed both to protecting the Freedom Pass and making it available before 9am. TfL anticipate this measure could be introduced by September.

Accessibility

Ensure fully functioning mobility facilities on all buses

The Mayor is committed to improving disabled access to transport in London, and will work with TfL and the bus companies to ensure that there are strict guidelines so that ramps and mobility equipment are fully functioning at all times.

Secure more funds to make overground stations step-free

As part of the Mayor's commitment to improving transport accessibility, he will secure more funds for step free access at overground stations, as many disabled Londoners rely on this network.

New booking system for Dial a Ride

A regular complaint about Dial a Ride is the inadequate booking system, and the Mayor will address this through implementing a better replacement.

Crackdown on abuse of blue badge parking spaces

The Mayor is committed to ensuring that enforcement of blue badge spaces remains robust, as door-to-door transport is essential for many disabled Londoners.

Veterans' travel pass

The Mayor recognises the bravery and sacrifice made by our armed forces, and the fact that returning veterans can have a tough time. The Mayor believes giving veterans free bus travel will help them by providing better access to employment opportunities.

ENVIRONMENT

Parks and open spaces

Priority Parks programme

The Mayor believes parks and open spaces are key to the capital's quality of life, and will invest £6 million into improving the quality and safety of London's parks, funded by scrapping 'The Londoner' publication.

Plant 10,000 new street trees

The Mayor will work with Trees for Cities to promote street trees. This plan will be kick-started by committing £1 million each year to plant 10,000 street trees, funded by scrapping 'The Londoner'.

GLA group

Encourage GLA group staff to volunteer on environmental projects

The Mayor wants to actively promote volunteering in London, especially time spent improving open spaces to the benefit of everyone. He believes the GLA group should lead the way with all staff volunteering one day a year to this cause.

Ban bottled water across GLA group

The Mayor does not believe public bodies should be spending taxpayers' money on expensive bottled water that is environmentally unsustainable and will ban it immediately within City Hall.

Support trial of retrofitting existing GLA buildings, and extend across group

The Mayor believes buildings owned by the GLA should lead the way in retrofitting. He will extend the existing C40 scheme to all buildings owned by the GLA.

Waste and recycling

London Waste and Recycling Board

The Mayor will allocate £24 million earmarked by the LDA for a separate waste management strategy to a single, streamlined recycling body, the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWRB). The Mayor believes this will help minimise waste transport movement that account for up to 10 per cent of London's traffic movements.

The Mayor does not believe it is sensible to have two separate waste funds for London. He will therefore lobby government to allow the Mayor to chair the LWRB.

The Mayor believes that one condition of providing LDA funding to the LWRB should be to more effectively manage restaurant waste so that less is sent to landfill.

Lobby for a ban on single use plastic bags

The Mayor wants to see the Government take a far less cautious approach to banning single-use plastic bags and supports proposals that the Government should negotiate a voluntary agreement with producers and retailers.

Champion schemes like Freecycle that enable goods to be re-used

The Mayor will champion boroughs operating Freecycle and encourage all London boroughs to have a Freecycle outlet whereby to match people who want to get rid of goods with people who want them. He believes this will help reduce the number of re-usable items entering the waste stream.

Encourage boroughs to work with organisations like Recyclebank

The Mayor will champion recycling and wants to make it easy for Londoners. He will investigate the US scheme, RecycleBank, which pays to recycle whilst reducing the amount of waste to (and connected expense of) landfill.

Reducing emissions

Commit to 60 per cent carbon reduction target by 2025

The Mayor believes London needs to set an example to the world as a sustainable, green city, and will work with national and local government towards a target to reduce the capital's emissions by 60 per cent from their 1990 levels by 2025.

Oppose Heathrow Expansion

The Mayor does not believe the economic benefits of the third runway match the environmental costs. He believes the consultation on Heathrow was flawed and should be conducted again, as it failed to make any noise assessment of flights moving to all-day rather than half-day. He is also concerned that by 2010, at its current size, Heathrow would breach mandatory EU air quality limits. For these three reasons, the Mayor will lobby the government to withdraw plans to expand Heathrow.

Encourage more hybrid buses

The Mayor believes London's bus fleet should be converted to less carbon-intensive fuel, and will monitor closely technological developments in this area with the intention of deploying it within London's bus fleet when possible. He will push the other C40 cities to maximise their collective purchasing power when the price is right.

Review remaining stages of Low Emission Zone rollout

The Mayor believes improving air quality must be a GLA priority. He will review the Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) to ensure it is working effectively and achieving its aim of improving air quality without impacting on small business.

Exempt ambulances from Low Emission Zone

The Mayor is concerned ambulances fall foul of the £200 LEZ levy and will exempt them completely from the next stage of the rollout.

Public involvement

Insulation schemes

The Mayor is concerned that few Londoners have signed up to existing home insulation schemes and believes evidence from around the UK shows that a one-off Council Tax rebate is the biggest incentive for people to install insulation. He will work with British Gas and the boroughs to introduce a Council Tax rebate.

Environmental crime phonenumber

Provision of a non-emergency number for reporting environmental crime will make it easier for people to report and track fly-tipping and other offences in their local area.

Research

Commission study on hydroelectric power for electricity on the Thames

The Mayor will commission the study as part of a drive towards using London's existing natural and man-made infrastructure to provide heat and power to meet some of London's needs.

Mayoral prize for low carbon technology

The Mayor will stimulate research within low carbon technology by introducing the first Mayoral prize of £20,000 open to all London graduates and judged by a panel of academics.

Investigate geothermal heat pumps in Crossrail tunnels

The Mayor believes considerable decentralised heat can be generated using existing infrastructure, such as Crossrail, being built across London. He believes exploring geothermal heat pumps will complement discussions with Thames Water on providing decentralised heat to homes built in the Thames Gateway by using supply channels to the Barking Power Station.

CRIME

Policing

Cutting excessive form filling for police

The Mayor will lobby the government to reduce the amount of time police spend on paperwork. When the Mayor assumes the Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) he will make it a strategic priority for the police to reduce the amount of time lost to form filling.

Support scrapping of stop and account form and stop and search form

The Mayor will use the influence of his office to lobby the government to scrap the stop and account and stop and search forms.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

The Mayor believes that Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) play a valuable part in policing London and wants to extend their powers and give them more responsibility. He wants PCSOs to relieve police officers of

some of the paperwork weighing them down, so they can spend more time on the beat. Police operational issues are the responsibility of the Commissioner, and the Mayor will work closely with him on this and related issues.

Payback London

This Mayoral scheme targets the minority of under-18s abusing their right to free travel. It encourages them to balance their travel privileges with the responsibility to behave by permanently withdrawing their free travel and only allowing it to be earned back through community service.

Review of police recruitment

The Mayor wants London's police force to represent its diverse population. He will work to ensure that police recruitment policies reflect and pursue this aim, so that more people from BME backgrounds and more women are in the police force.

Policing public transport

Increasing Safer Transport Teams

The Mayor is committed to cracking down on 'minor' crime to drive out more serious crime. To this end, he will increase the uniformed presence on public transport, particularly buses, and will add 440 extra PCSOs to Safer Transport Teams. The Mayor is committed to rolling this out in the early stages of his administration.

More British Transport Police officers

To clamp down on low-level crime and disorder at suburban rail stations, 50 new British Transport Police officers will patrol the worst stations in outer London. The Mayor is committed to rolling this out in the early stages of his administration.

More officers for Transport Operational Command Unit (TOCU) Cab Enforcement Unit

To continue the crackdown on illegal minicabs – whose drivers are often linked to serious crime including sexual assault – the Mayor will allocate 34 extra fully-warranted police officers to the Cab Enforcement Unit. This will allow an increase in active operations to clear areas of illegal minicabs and will boost visible enforcement.

Crackdown on fare evasion

To reduce high levels of fare evasion, particularly on buses, the Mayor will increase the powers of Revenue Protection Inspectors so they can demand the name and address of fare dodgers, instead of only requesting them as they can at present. The Mayor has instructed TfL to investigate how this could be achieved.

Live CCTV trial on buses

The Mayor has made a commitment to increase passenger safety and prevent crime on buses. He will trial live CCTV for six months on a selection of the worst bus routes. This will allow the police to view a reported incident instantly and respond accordingly.

Banning alcohol on the Tube

From 1 June, drinking alcohol on public transport in London will be banned. The Mayor believes this measure is an important part of cracking down on crime on public transport.

Gun and knife crime

New handheld scanners and knife arches

The Mayor will prioritise a crackdown on gun and knife crime by equipping the police to catch greater numbers of weapon-carrying individuals. He will increase the likelihood of such individuals getting caught by funding more handheld scanners and knife arches, to be used mainly at transport hubs.

Funding for community sports projects

The Mayor will use London Development Agency money to fund community sports projects that will give children and young people structure and a disciplined environment. In turn this will deter more young people from crime and help to tackle child obesity.

Alcohol and drugs

Returning seized drug assets to MPS

The Mayor believes that more drug assets seized in London should be returned to London. He will lobby to ensure that the proceeds of drug crime in London are re-invested in the form of drug education and drug treatment programmes in the capital.

Action on under-age drinking

The Mayor will publish league tables to 'name and shame' councils that do not take action on premises selling out of hours or to under-18s. The Mayor believes that binge drinking is a major problem in London and, given the well established link between violent crime and alcohol, wants councils to use their licensing powers to crack down on establishments caught breaking licensing laws.

Victims of crime

New Rape Crisis Centres

The Mayor will provide funding for four Rape Crisis Centres across London. He will also secure the future of London's only current Rape Crisis Centre in Croydon.

Following the Victims' Code of Practice

The Mayor believes that public confidence in the police can be boosted by ensuring victims are consistently dealt with to the highest standards. This could also encourage more people to report crime, especially low-level incidents of disorder that often go unreported. The Mayor will work with the Commissioner to achieve this, and to ensure that police satisfaction rates are consistently improved, particularly in relation to victim support.

More youth victim support mentors

A recent survey for the Youth Justice Board found that teenagers were over three times more likely to report a crime to their friends than the police. Young victims of crime would vastly benefit from the support of mentors their own age, and a greater number of such mentors would also encourage young people to report crime more often.

Supporting the greater use of restorative justice

Restorative justice has a crucial role to play in victim support and reducing recidivism. Traditional justice is about punishing the perpetrators, but restorative justice is about perpetrators making amends directly to the victims they have harmed. The Mayor will work with the police and voluntary groups to support and encourage the greater use of restorative justice as part of his plan to help the victims of crime.

Business crime

Non-emergency number for businesses to report crime

The Mayor wants to make it easier for businesses to report crime. Provision of a non-emergency number would allow businesses to get a speedier response to incidents, which would make it easier to deal with insurance issues, increase confidence in police and encourage more businesses to report such crimes.

Mayor's Fund for London

A major part of the fight against violent crime is to give young Londoners structures and discipline to help keep them off the streets. Therefore, the Mayor plans to set up the first Mayor's Fund for London, which will harness finances from London's wealth creators to support voluntary groups that are changing lives. This is in addition to the £79 million provided by government for the London Youth Offer.

Public information

Crime mapping

The Mayor believes that the public should have access to better information about crime levels in their local area, so they can more effectively hold their local police commanders to account. The Mayor will seek to make the existing crime maps available to the public as soon as possible.

Monthly public meetings with Borough Commanders

In order to increase police accountability and boost performance, the Mayor will ask Borough Commanders to hold monthly open public meetings, to be well-publicised in the local community.

Designing out crime

Deterring crime in suburban stations

The Mayor believes that improved design of public spaces can enhance passenger safety and deter crime. To this end, he will work with train operating companies to improve the design of stations in outer London by providing well-lit areas, clearing up graffiti quickly and securing exit and entry points.

New housing developments

The Mayor acknowledges the important role design can play in preventing crime. He will seek to ensure that the design of new housing developments will incorporate safety features like secure access, well-lit areas and green spaces.

BUSINESS AND SKILLS

Supporting London's businesses

Champion London's business at home and abroad

As we enter into a period of financial uncertainty, London's economy and businesses need a champion. The Mayor will ensure Westminster listens to London's business community, and will use his office to make sure international investors continue to see London as an attractive place to do business.

Hold biannual summits with London's business communities

The Mayor wants City Hall to be more business-friendly. To achieve this he will set up a regular dialogue with representatives of businesses, large and small, to communicate his business policies, and for business to raise its concerns with the Mayor directly.

Review London Development Agency's enterprise activity to ensure business gets support it needs

The Mayor intends to review how the LDA operates, including its enterprise activity.

**Encourage small firms to do business with the GLA group,
London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Olympic Delivery Authority**

The Mayor will review and reform the procurement rules at City Hall. A target may be introduced to ensure the GLA procures a proportion of goods and services from local small businesses. Fostering skills
Ask government to reverse £100 million funding cut for qualifications

There is clearly a demand for highly skilled labour in the capital. Over 40 per cent of London's jobs already require degree level qualifications. Therefore the Mayor will campaign against the government's plan to cut £100 million of funding for equivalent or lower qualifications.

Restructure and consolidate bodies responsible for skills provision in London

The Mayor believes there should be more coordination between London's skills bodies, and that there should be a single pool of public funding for skills in London.

Give the London Skills and Employment Board (LSEB) more control over LDA budget for adult skills

The Mayor believes LDA money for adult skills should be better focused and the LSEB should therefore have more say in this.

Give small to medium enterprises greater representation on the LSEB

Small to medium sized enterprises provide 40 per cent of London's business employment, and the Mayor believes they should therefore have greater representation on the LSEB.

Create and promote a single brand for skills training and advice

The Mayor wants to introduce a single, highly recognisable umbrella brand to promote skills training and advice in London, and to increase demand. In time this would become a one-stop shop for employers, employees and unemployed Londoners.

Promote 2011 Skills Olympics

The Mayor is committed to taking advantage of opportunities presented by the 2011 Skills Olympics to promote skills training to Londoners.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Encourage apprenticeships in run-up to Olympics

The Olympics present an unrivalled opportunity to provide skills training for jobs in 2012. The Mayor thinks too few apprenticeships are being offered, and will use his position on the Olympic Board to encourage more.

Ensure older people are central to Olympic volunteering strategy

Volunteering is hugely popular amongst older Londoners, and the Olympics are a great way to harness that demand. The Mayor will therefore ensure older people are central to the Olympic volunteering strategy.

Age equality

Instruct London Skills and Employment Board to run a campaign to promote age equality in the workplace
The Mayor does not believe employers should discriminate on the basis of age, and will instruct the LSEB to run a campaign to promote age equality in the workplace.

The GLA abroad

Review GLA offices abroad

Whilst the Mayor fully endorses the representation of London overseas, he is also committed to reviewing the GLA offices abroad to ensure they provide value for money. The Venezuela office will be scrapped.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Countering closures

Campaign against hospital closures

The Mayor will use the full influence of his office to campaign against hospital closures.

Amend London Plan to recognise need for a Post Offices within walking distance of residents

The Mayor believes Post Offices serve a crucial social function for communities across London, and will do everything in his power to protect them.

Health

Reform London Health Commission, to ensure it measures inequalities within as well as between boroughs and to monitor changes in NHS London

Although the Mayor has no power over health, it is a huge issue for Londoners. Therefore, he will use the London Health Commission to monitor performance, and represent Londoners' concerns to NHS London.

Call for separate public health budgets

Public health has a crucial role to play in disease prevention, and the Mayor believes that the public health budget should be ring-fenced to protect against short-term financial pressures.

Pensioners' rights

Work with boroughs to start annual 'Your Rights' information campaign, aimed at older people

The Mayor recognises that life as a pensioner is tough, and believes that too few older Londoners are taking advantage of financial help that is available. An annual 'Your Rights' campaign will make older Londoners better aware of this.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Communicating with Londoners

Use plain English

The Mayor was elected on a platform of accountability and transparency, and part of that is communicating in a clear and unambiguous manner.

Listen to the results of consultations

The Mayor is committed to listening to consultations to restore trust in City Hall.

Hold more People's Question Times

The Mayor believes Londoners should have more opportunities to question their Mayor, and has committed to increasing the number of People's Question Times.

Money

Launch immediate review of City Hall running costs

The Mayor has appointed a Forensic Audit Panel to undertake the review.

Launch independent review of the London Development Agency and all grants given by that body

The Mayor has already appointed a Forensic Audit Panel to undertake the review.

Enable Londoners to view all expenditure over £1,000 on Mayor's website

The Mayor is committed to providing financial transparency, and will implement a comprehensive search engine for this purpose.

Ensure Londoners pay no more than 38p per week for the Olympics

This is a firm commitment, and the Mayor will be robust on this point.

Appointments

Create a cabinet for London

The Mayor has appointed a number of Deputy Mayors who will advise the Mayor and meet on a regular basis.

Reform the process of making appointments

The Mayor has already held discussions with senior officials on how the appointment process can be made more transparent.

Strengthen accountability of Mayoral advisers

The Mayor expects details of all his senior appointments to appear online, and will hold discussions with the new Chair of the London Assembly on how they wish to scrutinise his Deputy Mayors and senior advisers. There will be a register of interests online, and mayoral advisers will be required to regularly appear before the Assembly.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Greater London Arts Festival

London is the major cultural capital of the world, and the Mayor wants to enhance this through a Greater London Arts festival.

Support individual festivals and cultural celebrations

The Mayor believes events celebrating individual cultures and faiths help promote and further cement an environment of tolerance and understanding. He will therefore use the resources of his office to support them.