

Boris Johnson's election pledges 2008 (Compiled by London Forum May 2008)

Housing

London is going through a period of expansion faster than anything we have seen in the last forty years. Hundreds of thousands of people arrive to live and work here each year because this is the greatest city in the world. But this success has a price.

The average first-time buyer in London has to pay over sixty per cent more for their home than the national average. Hundreds of thousands of London families are being pushed into poverty because of the cost of housing. The severe shortage of homes has been called a crisis and that's no overstatement.

The Mayor has an important role to play in the provision of affordable housing. But what does 'affordable' actually mean? It must not mean second best. It must not mean high rise council flats. It must not mean cramped and overcrowded. We must build houses that will still be loved and respected in 100 years, dwellings of distinction and grace that satisfy the instinct for differentiation that is deep in the human soul.

My approach will focus on delivering more of the homes Londoners want by working with the London boroughs on new developments - not bullying and berating them - and by helping people on low incomes with a variety of financial keys to the doors:

We need to work in partnership with local councils to increase the number of affordable homes, year on year, in every borough. Quotas are not the answer and local residents should have a say in what is most appropriate for their community.

We must develop more family-sized homes with gardens, and we need to give more Londoners the chance to own their family home.

We should leave a lasting legacy for future generations. Now, more than ever, we have an opportunity to reshape what our great city looks and feels like. That means homes and buildings that are not just functional, but beautiful.

Part of the legacy should be the protection of London's historic views. Yes, London needs development but we should be developing building that compliment rather than block these.

Housing Manifesto: Building a Better London

London is one of the most desirable places to live in the country, offering better job prospects and cultural amenities than anywhere else in the UK. But the price of these benefits is a rising cost of living that is reducing Londoners' quality of life. The single biggest effect on this is the cost of housing. House prices in London have accelerated faster than wages over the last eight years, and many Londoners now cannot afford to buy a home in their own city.

Those lucky enough to own their home have to work longer hours to meet ever-rising mortgage costs, and those still searching have to take on mountains of debt in order to get on the ladder.

After eight years under Labour's Ken Livingstone, housing waiting lists in some areas have almost tripled, while fewer affordable homes are being built and the quality of developments has declined. The number of first-time buyers in the city has almost halved.

We urgently need fresh thinking to get more homes built and to give a helping hand to those who want to own their own home. We need a fresh approach to help low-income Londoners move off waiting lists and into homes that are affordable and high quality.

We need a new era of cooperation between London's Mayor and the borough councils, to forge the best solutions for local communities.

We must embrace fresh ideas and break with the tired approach of the past.

My vision is a London where the quality of what we build is as important as the quantity; a place where young families can afford a home of their own; a city where we value and protect open green spaces and historic views.

If elected, I will enact the following measures;

My Pledges

I will:

1. Help More Londoners Afford Their Own Home

Release GLA-owned land and £130 million from the Regional Housing Pot to launch a new 'FirstSteps Housing Scheme', which will be open to first-time buyers frozen out of Government schemes

Work with the boroughs to build 50,000 more affordable homes by 2011

Invest £60 million from the Regional Housing Pot to start renovating the capital's 84,205 empty properties to help low-income Londoners off waiting lists

Incentivise the boroughs to release dormant housing to those stuck in bed and breakfast accommodation, by returning the Mayor's precept to them

Work with local councils to deliver more family-sized homes

Increase shared ownership schemes for low-income families by a third

Protect private tenants from unscrupulous landlords by publishing an online 'Fair Rents Guide'

Explore the possibility of a tenant deposit scheme with a guaranteed arbitration period of one month

2. Design Developments To Combat Crime

Amend the London Plan to attach more importance to designing out crime, without compromising the aesthetic quality of developments

3. Protect Green Spaces and Historic Views

Reinstate planning rules that protect the views of St Paul's Cathedral and the Palace of Westminster and reinforce protection around new viewing corridors

Toughen up the London Plan to prevent development on domestic gardens and use planning agreements to protect small shops

Encourage builders to build more environmentally-friendly homes in the private sector and encourage boroughs to adopt the 'Merton Rule' for on-site renewable energy

Protect the green belt by using the Mayor's powers to refuse applications to build on it

Crime and Safety

Londoners are told that crime is going down. They are reassured that there are more police on the streets, and that more money is being spent on security. Yet most Londoners don't feel any safer because every day the headlines tell a different story: the tally of teenagers murdered in London last year reached 27 and violent crime is on the increase.

If we look up from the newspaper we feel no safer; on the top decks of buses, on station platforms and street corners a culture of incivility and adolescent anarchy has been allowed to spread, unchallenged.

It is the Mayor's first duty to ensure the safety and security of all Londoners and his second to reassure them that they truly are safe, to offer an antidote to the apprehension that darkens every late-night bus ride or walk home.

This is not an area in which we should throw our hands up in defeat, blaming violent video games or a decline in moral values. I want everyone in this city to have the optimism and confidence that goes with increased safety and will use all the powers at my disposal to achieve it:

We have to work with the police and communities to prevent young Londoners becoming victims of gang violence. I will give support to the wonderful work of local community projects that get young people off the streets and give them purpose and a realisation of their value as members of society. I will provide £2.6 million to fund hand-held scanners or new knife archways at transport hubs to hinder the mobility of those who carry knives and guns.

The police do a brave and difficult job, but they are burdened by bureaucracy. Too much time and money is spent on form-filling, when it could be used to employ more police on the beat. I will lobby for an end to the stop and account form - this would mean that police could spend an extra 160,048 hours on the beat - the equivalent of adding 78 new officers to the force.

We must stand up for our brave, hard-working police men and women to ensure they get a fair deal from government.

I will provide local neighbourhoods with New York-style crime maps, to enable residents to hold local police to account.

More people are travelling by bus that at anytime since the 1960s, but they are increasingly intimidated by antisocial behaviour. I will double the strength of Safer Transport Teams, by releasing funding for approximately 440 extra PCSOs to patrol the buses and trial live CCTV. I will give revenue inspectors more powers to tackle fare evasion.

Those who abuse their free transport privileges will be able to earn back their free Oyster by doing community service as part of my Payback London scheme.

I will provide funding for 3 new Rape Crisis Centres to help the forgotten victims of sexual violence.

Gang culture

Recently a kid was stabbed to death round the corner from me, in broad daylight, in front of hundreds of horrified shoppers. Since then there have been terrible stabbings in Edmonton and Bexley. There have now been two teenage murders in London since the New Year dawned.

We simply cannot go on at this rate. We cannot allow 2008 to be as bad as 2007, when 27 teenagers were murdered. It is time we got a grip on the culture of the gangs and gang-related killings.

This matters to London. It needs leadership; and it is a scandal that so far we have heard little or nothing from the Mayor, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, or the Home Secretary. We need positive action, a short, medium and long term strategy for getting us out of this mess.

It is time for a concerted policy to tackle the scourge of teenage gang killings, and that coordination is surely the paramount job of the Mayor. If people feel the streets of London aren't safe, that negates so much of the other good work being done by the police. Over the coming months I will be announcing my plans to tackle this growing problem and I am outlining some of the specific proposals now.

To make our streets safer, we must of course begin with the police. It's not just a question of ensuring a more visible police presence, and cutting the paperwork that keeps so many officers in the back room.

We need a clear signal - from the top of the Met - that tackling the gangs is a priority. We need to do far more to end the prevalence of knives and guns on the streets and on public transport, and it is time we at least considered the use of remote hand-held scanners that can detect weapons at a distance.

The idea has been promoted by Lord Stevens, the former Commissioner, and it has the advantage of allowing officers to "search" without stopping, and without being seen to victimise some communities.

We need to prevent the teenage gangs from treating the buses as getaway cars, and intimidating other passengers.

That's why I have proposed a trial of live CCTV on some routes, so that the police can see the violence taking place as soon as they are alerted to it by the bus driver - and immediately go to the scene.

We should be making sure that all new building in London is designed to make crime more difficult; and that means no more vulnerable walkways or dimly-lit stairwells - no more repetition of past mistakes.

But we will never deal with this problem unless we also understand why kids seek out gangs. In some ways, their choice is rational. The gang provides a sense of security, opportunities to earn the esteem of their peers. The gang can be a kind of family; and that's why we should be doing so much more to allow them to obtain these benefits - excitement, competition, achievement - but in other ways.

The Mayor could be doing so much more to encourage competitive sport of all kinds, with all its potential for developing emotional maturity and for allowing young males to let off steam. There is so much that could be done with the arts.

But above all, we should be using mayoral funds to encourage the thousands of volunteers who are working with the kids - and their parents - and trying to nip the problem in the bud, trying to steer them away from criminality, because that is the best way to save the taxpayer millions.

There are people across London who are doing life changing work - organisations like the Street Pastors, XLP, Prospex, Kids Company, Eastside Young Leaders - and what we need to do now is to bring all these people together into a London-wide network.

Where necessary, we should be helping them expand with London Development Agency money, and not wasting it, like the current administration, on pointless politically correct agitprop. We need to do this now, if the problem is not to be even worse in a few years' time.

We need to take London's gang culture seriously if this year's toll is not to be a tragic repeat of 2007, or worse.

Crime Manifesto: Making London Safer

We are lucky to live in the greatest city on earth. But after ten years of a Labour government, and eight years of a Labour Mayor, we need to stop kidding ourselves about crime.

We have a Home Secretary who says she is frightened to walk the streets of Peckham.

We have had 27 teenagers murdered by other kids in 2007. We have seen a steady and undisputed rise in robbery, violence against the person and other violent crimes.

And we all know that we are suffering from an epidemic of unreported crime. Bitter experience has taught us that too often the police do not have the time or the resources to deal with our case.

So what can we do?

We could perhaps shrug our shoulders and say that crime, disorder and incivility are just a part of city life.

We could turn a blind eye to the robberies and the muggings, and hope that no one we love will be a victim. We could throw up our hands, in the manner of the current Labour Mayor, and say that these problems are beyond our control - caused by television and the glamorising of violence.

We could accept defeat. We could declare that we have run out of ideas.

Or we could say that enough is enough.

The Mayor of London has a statutory and moral duty to lead the fight-back against crime.

I reject the fatalism and defeatism of the Labour Mayor. I reject the assumption that we can do nothing.

I believe that by systematically tackling small crimes we can drive out more serious crime.

I believe that we can change the lives of kids who would otherwise be sucked into a nightmarish culture of violence and criminality.

As soon as I become Mayor I will take action, and implement the following measures:

My Pledges

I will:

Provide strong leadership

By taking responsibility and chairing the Metropolitan Police Authority and using my influence to tear up red tape and needless form-filling, so we can get more police out on the streets.

Make buses, trains and stations safer

By spending less money on press officers and more money on police officers to increase their presence on buses, trains and station platforms.

By introducing 'Payback London', a scheme that will require under 18s who abuse their right to free bus travel to earn it back through community service projects.

Tackle knife and gun crimes

By demanding they are treated as a high priority by the police, and using every strand of Mayoral power to prevent it through funding community groups, sports schemes and handheld weapon scanners.

Help the ignored victims of sexual violence

By providing desperately needed long-term funding for new Rape Crisis Centres to help the ignored victims of sexual violence - a horrendous crime that is on the increase.

Demand a police service accountable to you

By providing local communities with New York-style crime maps which show the true crime levels in every neighbourhood, which can then be used to ensure Borough Commanders are held to account at monthly open public meetings.

Transport

Everyone who has sweltered in a tube train stuck between stations, who has endured aggressive behaviour on the top deck of a bus, who has been gridlocked in London traffic, or who has dodged death while cycling through the streets, knows that there are serious problems with London transport.

Getting from A to B is a daily struggle for many who live in this city, whether they live in zone 1 or zone 6.

A Mayor exists to solve these problems, but not enough has been done. While we now have greater spending on transport, the money is not always invested wisely. For every pound we spend on fares, too much is spent on running costs and advertising - too little is spent on investment in the technology and infrastructure that will improve transport in the future.

We pay the highest fares in Europe and we deserve value for money:

Londoners must see more police on the buses, especially in outer London. This is why I will double the number of police officers to patrol them.

Suburban stations need to be safer, which is why I will provide funding for 50 extra British Transport Police Officers to patrol the worst stations.

The bendy bus is unsuitable for London's streets, they are twice as dangerous as non-articulated buses and have almost three times the rate of fare evasion. I will phase out bendy buses and run a new competition to find a 21st century Routemaster that has full disabled access, runs on clean fuel and has conductors.

I will introduce live, interactive bus tracking so you can see where your bus is and avoid long waits at the bus stop.

The tube needs to be rescued from the ruins of Gordon Brown's finance deal, so that vital upgrades that were promised actually happen. I will look again at having an air-conditioned tube. We need to take the thumbs of the RMT off the windpipe of London commuters with a no-strike deal that gives both sides the benefit of an independent arbitrator.

The Congestion Charge must be reformed. Congestion has now risen above pre-Congestion Charge levels. Ken Livingstone's £25 levy will not improve congestion or emissions and will hit families and small businesses - it is a stick with which to beat motorists which is why I will not introduce it.

Cars stuck in traffic emit more than cars that are moving so we need to rephase traffic lights to get traffic moving more smoothly and to achieve this, I will lobby government for powers to fine utility companies that run overtime when digging up the roads.

We must also encourage Londoners to walk and cycle more and I will provide £2 million for safe cycle parking. I will work with boroughs to improve existing cycle and walking routes.

I will fight for London's rail commuters and campaign for longer trains, more frequent services and Oyster at all stations.

The Freedom Pass will be protected as an untouchable right for London pensioners.

Injured veterans who live in London will be able to travel free on London buses.

I will lobby for long-term projects that London needs, including the Oxford Street Tram, East London Line Phase 2, DLR and Transit extensions and the Crossrail to Ebbsfleet.

We will continue to oppose the construction of a third runway at Heathrow airport.

Transport Manifesto: Getting Londoners Moving

London's roads, river and rails are the arteries that keep our great city alive.

Our Tube, buses and trains together carry over 10 million Londoners every day. Our roads are some of the most intensively used in Europe. Our transport system is the lifeblood of our city.

Yet after eight years of a Labour Mayor, we too often spend our mornings and evenings in cramped, overcrowded carriages or sitting for hours in traffic, and we pay the highest fares in Europe.

It is a fact that it takes Londoners almost twice as long to get to work as anyone else in the country, which is why it is essential that we get Londoners moving - because the time we spend stuck in traffic jams, or stuck on trains is time we could be spending with our friends and families.

Our challenge, therefore, is to make our transport system better to improve our quality of life.

However, in response to this challenge, we hear nothing but the same old out-of-date solutions from a Labour Mayor who has run out of ideas.

We have had to watch as vital reports and fresh ideas have been suppressed, while this Labour Mayor has pursued far-flung projects, completely out of touch with Londoners' concerns.

We have had to sit through incompetence and financial mismanagement on a gargantuan scale. London's transport networks deserve a change for the better.

My vision is of a London that is not subject to the same old rigid approach, but is run according to new ideas and fresh thinking.

My vision is a London where children and adults cycle and walk to school or work and feel safe to do so.

My vision is a London with trains and buses that can compete with the very best in the world - for speed, reliability, quality of journey and basic aesthetics.

I believe we need a fresh approach, and I will enact the following measures;

I will:

1. Put The Commuter First

By focusing on making traffic flow more smoothly through measures like re-phasing traffic lights, allowing motorcycles in bus lanes and cracking down on utility companies who dig up the roads.

By tackling congestion to reduce emissions.

By re-instating tidal flow at the Blackwall tunnel and opposing increased tolls at the Dartford crossing.

By improving public transport in outer London through orbital bus routes and campaigning for better rail services.

2. Make Public Transport Safer And More Secure

By spending less on press officers and more on police officers to patrol the network - increasing their presence on buses and station platforms in outer London.

By introducing 'Payback London', a scheme that will require under-18s who abuse their right to free bus travel to earn it back through community service.

By cracking down on illegal minicabs.

3. Tackle Problems With A Fresh Perspective

By supporting different forms of transport like river services, and renewing traditional forms by commissioning a 21st century Routemaster with conductors.

By making London a truly cycle-friendly city through increasing secure cycle parking and introducing a bike-hire scheme.

4. Make Transport More Convenient

By improving the daily commuter experience through better information, and extending the Oyster top-up network.

By halting the proposed Tube ticket office closures, and ensuring there is always a manned ticket office at every station.

Environment

At their best, London's open spaces are quite simply breathtaking. What could be more uplifting than a walk through Hampstead Heath on an autumn afternoon, or a picnic in St James's Park in full summer bloom? Our environment has an enormous impact on our sense of wellbeing, and it is vital that we cherish our city and strive to make it cleaner and greener.

In recent years London has lost record numbers of street trees. Our city has the worst record on recycling in the entire country. And, despite being one of the first major cities in the world to introduce clean air regulations, thousands of Londoners die every year from illnesses relating to poor air quality. This is not good enough.

City Hall should lead the improvements to London's environment and strongly support efforts to tackle climate change. Environmental issues will rank high on my mayoral agenda:

I will support the Low Emission Zone to improve air quality.

I will take a zero tolerance approach to littering and graffiting.

Some areas are better than others when it comes to cleaning their streets. I will work with underperforming areas to help them deliver cleaner streets for their residents.

I will protect and preserve our beautiful open spaces by working with local councils to ensure they are safe and pristine. I will plant more street trees.

I will work with local councils to improve our record on recycling so that it becomes a natural part of all Londoners' lives.

I will continue to work in association with other cities across the world to tackle climate change.

I will practice what I preach with a series of environmentally friendly measures to be adopted across the GLA family including: a ban on bottled water, a ban on internal flights, recycling, green procurement and sustainability.

Environment Manifesto: Protecting Our Local Environment

It is vital that we cherish our city - its parks, suburbs, streets and town centres - and strive to make it cleaner and greener.

Our local environment has a major impact on our wellbeing and even on our safety. If public spaces suffer from graffiti, fly-tipping and symptoms of neglect, it sends a message to the community that the spaces we share have little value, leading to diminished communities and higher levels of crime.

Areas that have pleasant, clean, open spaces are less likely to suffer from crime. That is why I will make the improvement of our local open spaces a top priority on the environmental agenda.

While the current Labour Mayor and his officials have spent time and taxpayers' money jetting around the world attending climate change conferences, key aspects of our local environment have been neglected.

I will improve our local environment by providing £6million to make our open spaces cleaner and safer. I will fund the planting of 10,000 street trees to improve the residential streets that need them most, and will amend the London Plan to protect domestic gardens from being lost to new developments.

I will also take action to make London the greenest city in the world.

The Mayor's status affords the opportunity to set a positive example of environmentally-friendly practice to organisations and residents across the capital. I will use the position to procure greener and cleaner goods and services for Londoners, and will work with the boroughs to negotiate the best deals from environmentally-friendly suppliers.

It seems strange that while the current Mayor evangelises about energy efficiency, the lights at City Hall are left to burn all night. I want City Hall and the bodies of the GLA to have a clean carbon conscience under my Mayoralty.

This will be achieved with a mixture of the latest technology and simple common sense: motion sensors instead of night-long lighting; filtered tap water instead of environmentally-damaging bottled water; travelling to UK conferences by train rather than carbon-chugging aeroplane.

Above all I will work to make London a pleasant and safe place to live, by nurturing and protecting the public spaces that bind us all together.

My Pledges

I will:

1. Protect And Preserve Open Spaces

Use the Mayor's powers to protect the green belt and protect against development on gardens.

Invest £6 million in making our open spaces cleaner and safer.

Invest in 10,000 street trees to improve the local neighbourhoods that need them most.

2. Make It Easier To Recycle And Reduce Waste

Promote innovative new schemes that pay Londoners to recycle.

Work closely with boroughs to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, and support a ban on plastic bags.

3. Make Transport More Sustainable

Oppose the third runway at Heathrow and mixed mode operation.

Promote hybrid buses and get traffic moving more smoothly to reduce congestion and so reduce emissions.

Make London a genuinely cycle-friendly city to promote modal shift.

4. Help Tackle Climate Change

Work to help cut London's carbon emissions by 60% from their 1990 levels by 2025, through promoting greater energy efficiency and cutting congestion.

Work with the boroughs to encourage Londoners to install insulation in return for Council Tax rebates.

Champion innovation through an annual Mayor's prize of £20,000 for the best new ideas for low carbon technology from London's students.

Backing London Business

Our capital is the economic engine room of the nation. London and Londoners contribute around £90 billion to the British exchequer each year and generate 17% of the UK's GDP. At the core of this performance is London's business community. In particular, our famous financial services sector employs hundreds of thousands of the brightest and best minds from around the world, themselves drawn here by London's dynamism and prosperity.

But this success is not just powered from the glittering citadels in the square mile and the large multinationals based there; it has also been driven by London's growing creative industries, its small and medium enterprises and sole traders. The millions of people who work in business here have all, in one way or another, contributed to London's phenomenal success.

We must not be complacent; the fortunes of great cities rise and fall, and their success must be nurtured diligently. Observers are warning that business confidence in London has fallen to an all-time low. London's businesses are now facing massive economic uncertainty. As consumers get nervous and borrowing becomes more expensive, economic growth is slowing.

However, an economic slowdown is not the only challenge facing London's economy. Even before the credit crunch hit, the capital's economy was showing some signs of wear and tear; London recently lost its lead as the most entrepreneurial region in the UK, and under Ken Livingstone's Mayoralty the number of new businesses registered each year has fallen.

As the cost of living and working in London has escalated over the last decade, so the financial burden on business has grown. To add to this, a decade of Labour Government has meant a major increase in taxation as well as a raft of new regulations. The result of this is that people are increasingly disinclined to start their own enterprise, and existing small businesses are finding it harder to grow - all of which diminishes London's economic potential.

Moreover the historic success of London's businesses has not resulted in prosperity across the city - indeed the capital has the highest child poverty rate in the UK, and contains four of the eight most deprived local authority areas in the country. The ability of politicians to address these social inequalities largely depends on the growth and strength of London's economy.

In these circumstances it is essential that the Mayor takes a positive lead and ensures the best possible conditions for London businesses - large and small.

From an international perspective, that means ensuring that the City of London remains the most attractive and competitive location for larger businesses to base their offices. We must never forget that most can just as easily conduct their operations from New York, Shanghai, Dubai or Mumbai - and we must keep striving to be the best.

A major reason for the City's appeal as a place to do business is an attractive regulatory and taxation regime. It is essential that we continue to resist unnecessary regulation and over-taxation that would drive business and investors elsewhere. I am acutely aware of this threat, and if elected will use every strand of Mayoral power to fight against Labour Government over-regulation and over-taxation.

Of course, drawing business to London is about more than promising profit margins, it's about appealing to people. If we are to continue to attract some of the brightest people and the most profitable businesses from around the planet, we must make sure this city is a welcoming and hospitable place; that the infrastructure is efficient and the urban environment attractive. We must continually promote the fact that London is a pre-eminent cultural centre and a dynamic and vibrant place to be. Above all we must tackle the scourge of violent crime that is fast tarnishing London's reputation.

The Mayor must also stand up for London's small businesses, which have suffered terribly over the last decade as a result of Labour Government taxation and over-regulation. If elected I will fight to cut the red tape that is strangling aspiration and ambition, so that our small and medium enterprise (SME) sector can flourish. And I will work to ensure that our infrastructure sets the right conditions for entrepreneurial success - efficient transport, rigorous policing, reasonable rent costs, and so on. SMEs add greatly to London's rich variety and they must be championed.

And the Mayor must create the right conditions for individual success by promoting and providing skills and training, so that Londoners are equipped with the qualifications that employers need. I am determined to defeat the poverty of aspiration that plagues parts of London. When our young people are dispirited and disengaged our whole society suffers. Everyone should be able to participate in the life and economy of our great city, and everyone should enjoy the same opportunities to succeed.

I want to broaden aspirations and tap into latent ambition. First, we need an exciting skills strategy that clearly illustrates to young people how they can invest in a brighter future for themselves. And we must also pay greater attention to encouraging enterprise and entrepreneurialism, particularly amongst those who are currently underrepresented in London business, which includes women, those from BAME communities, and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

As Mayor I will be a champion for all London business. I will defend the City against the onslaught of Labour Government legislation; stand up for small businesses whose livelihood is threatened by giant corporations or the escalating cost of working in London; and help aspirant Londoners gain the skills they need to achieve their ambitions.

Business manifesto

I will establish genuine communication channels between City Hall, City business and small businesses, and I will work with London's entrepreneurs and business leaders to keep our capital competitive and improve Londoners' quality of life.

My pledges

I will:

1. Work With London's Businesses

Hold biannual summits with representatives from across London's business communities.

Listen to the results of consultations.

Review the LDA's enterprise activity to ensure that London's businesses and communities are getting the support they need.

Make it easier for businesses to do business with the GLA group, the London 2012 Organising Committee and Olympic Delivery Authority.

2. Make London An Attractive Place To Do Business

Make business crime a police priority.

Encourage planners to use section 106 to secure affordable premises for small businesses.

Scrap the £25 Congestion Charge which would cost London's businesses thousands of pounds a year.

Help all businesses avoid congestion charge fines by allowing them to pay by account.

Improve London's transport infrastructure.

Champion London at home and abroad.

3. Provide Training That Businesses Need And Londoners Want

Cut through bureaucracy and consolidate the Adult Skills agendas and funding organisations in London.

Listen to employers and Londoners.

Promote skills to Londoners through a single branded service for advice and guidance.

Champion and support London's 2011 WorldSkills Competition.

An age-friendly London

When people talk of London as a diverse city, they usually mean our great cultural and ethnic mix. But London also boasts a great mix of ages; while some places can be characterised as 'young' cities and others are known as retirement towns, London defies such descriptions, with a significant older population living alongside a younger one.

If elected as Mayor of London in May, I will work to improve our city for all Londoners, including the more than one million pensioners who live in the capital.

The biggest concern for many older Londoners is that the fear of crime prevents them from living their lives fully and freely. Those who have given much to our communities deserve to have special recognition and support.

If older Londoners have seen the neighbourhoods they have known for decades decline into dangerous territory, and if every journey they make on public transport is tainted by fear and suspicion, it is understandable that they might want to retreat from London life. But I refuse to accept this situation.

I reject the notion that there must be no-go areas in our city, and that our older population must resign themselves to lives led in fear.

My primary goal as Mayor of London will be to tackle crime and return a feeling of safety to our streets, to ensure that everyone can participate in the life, culture and economy of the greatest city on earth - regardless of their age or the neighbourhood they live in.

We must work to make London more age-friendly by improving transport services, protecting and extending the Freedom Pass, and ensuring accessibility to public services. It is also important to recognise that community-based enterprises like local Post Offices and small shops are vital for older Londoners, and they must be protected accordingly.

It is said that you can judge a place and a people by the way they treat their elderly citizens. Under my Mayoralty I am certain that London will be judged as a civilised place; a city that cares for and acknowledges its older citizens.

Seniors' Manifesto

My Pledges

I will:

1. Make London Safer

Chair the Metropolitan Police Authority to make our streets safer.

Stand up against excessive police form-filling and support the scrapping of the stop and account form, lobbying the Government hard for its removal.

Expect Police Community Support Officers to take some of the administrative burden from police officers, so they can spend more time out on the streets.

Crack down on binge-drinking and 'name and shame' councils that fail to use their powers to tackle the problem.

2. Help Older Londoners Get Around Safely

Protect and extend the Freedom Pass by working with the local councils (who fund it) to make it valid 24 hours a day.

Increase safety on buses by doubling the amount of police officers on patrol, adding 440 extra officers; and fund 50 extra fully-warranted British Transport Police Officers to patrol the worst railway stations in outer London.

Crack down on the young people who create trouble on the buses through the Payback London scheme, which will withdraw their right to free bus travel and allow them to earn it back by undertaking community service.

Work with the Government and train operators to make more overground stations step-free.

3. Make London Age Friendly

Encourage developers to design safer walkways, better paving, and greener spaces into new developments, including in the Thames Gateway.

Preserve the existence of small, independent shops through better protection in planning legislation.

Improve open spaces in London, and work with local councils to improve street cleanliness.

Safeguard domestic gardens by preventing developments on them.

Improve respect for older people by encouraging organisations to recruit older people as volunteers, including for the Olympics.

Instruct the London Skills and Employment Board to run a campaign to promote age equality in the work place.

4. Fight For Essential Public Services

Support local health services by campaigning against closures and fighting to save local GP services.

Campaign to protect Post Offices.

Encourage awareness and take-up of entitlements by older people, especially Council Tax, through a 'Your Rights' information campaign.

Introduce an automatic one-off Council Tax rebate to encourage home insulation, making homes warmer and more environmentally friendly.

Olympics

In just four years' time the greatest sporting event in the world will roll into the greatest city in the world and I can't wait for the Games to begin. But for the Olympics and Paralympics to be judged as a truly great event, it must be about more than three weeks of athletics. When the Olympic flame has passed on, London must have changed for the better.

It gives us a tremendous opportunity to regenerate huge parts of London. It is the responsibility of the Mayor to champion this change and ensure that the city is left a legacy that will last a lifetime: affordable homes, improved transport links, world-class sports facilities and new jobs.

Moreover, the Mayor must ensure that any extra costs do not pick the pockets of council taxpayers in London.

My priorities for making sure the Olympic and Paralympic Games will benefit our city will be:

To fight for a lasting legacy for London; the after-effects of the Olympics must be felt for decades.

To stand up for the London council taxpayer to ensure that they don't pay a penny more than they already do to fund the Games.

To work with the security services to ensure that London is prepared for and properly protected during the Olympics.

Healthcare

London has profound health problems. The capital has the highest number of trusts where maternity provision was graded poor: 19 out of 27, or 70 per cent. Eight of the 10 worst trusts in the country were in London. Not one of the capital's 27 hospital trusts was awarded a top rating.

One in four drug users live in the city; we have higher rates of obesity than the rest of England which accounts for 4000 deaths every year, the number of 11 to 18 year olds in London treated for alcohol related diseases has almost doubled since 2001-02; a faster rate of increase than in any other English region.

It is a scandal that a child born in Haringey is three times more likely to die at birth than a child born in Richmond, and that if you travel eight stops on the Jubilee Line, from Westminster to Canning Town, the average life expectancy of residents declines by eight years. That is as great as the difference in life expectancy between Britain and Lebanon.

No Mayor can ignore this. Just because the Mayoral remit doesn't currently have any powers over healthcare, it doesn't mean City Hall should wash its hands of it. I will take a far more proactive approach to these issues:

I will make it my moral duty to speak up for Londoners and help them by telling them frankly what kind of healthcare they are actually getting. The data is out there, and I will highlight where the government is failing us.

I will beef up the role of the London Health Commission, allocating it a permanent budget to ensure that everything within the Mayor's remit, be it transport, housing or skills, makes reducing these health inequalities a priority. We are considering a model on public health closer to that operating in the United States to bring together Directors of Public Health and counterparts in local government (borough councils) to assess the needs of local communities.

I will lobby for public health money to be safeguarded against being used to plug holes in NHS budgets.

I will stand up against local hospital closures.

I will make our streets and open spaces safer, so that Londoners feel confident in cycling and exercising outdoors.

The Mayor's job

London is a global city, a pre-eminent cultural centre, an economic powerhouse and a place of unparalleled opportunity. The capital needs the kind of leadership only an elected Mayor can provide; one strong voice to speak up for our city's interests and assure our pivotal position in the country and the world.

By and large, having this office has helped London, not hindered it. But City Hall's vast team of spin doctors can't change the fact that people want more from their Mayor: more common sense, more consideration, more bang for their buck.

It's time to move on to a new style of government in London:

I will be Mayor for all London and all Londoners; my job as Mayor will be to promote understanding, integration and harmony. There will be an end to the current system of cronyism, divide-and-rule and consultation by box-ticking.

I will make City Hall more accountable. Information about Mayoral advisors will be available on the web with their contact details and their register of interests will also be available online.

I will stand up for London on every issue that matters, whether it falls under the Mayoral remit or not.

Above all, I will be the Mayor who listens to Londoners.

Making London's Mayor Accountable

I believe Londoners should have a greater say on how their city is run, more information on how decisions are made and details on how City Hall money is spent.

Ken Livingstone has presided over a budget of more than £10billion and demands £311 per year from the average taxpaying household in London. Yet Londoners have little confidence in the Mayor spending their money with care and prudence. Mayor Livingstone's extravagant spending on publicity, his jaunts to Cuba and Venezuela at taxpayers' expense, and the recent reports of his close advisers using their influence to manipulate the expenditure of public money have all confirmed that Ken Livingstone's Mayoralty is unaccountable and disdainful of scrutiny.

If elected, I will aim to create a different style of government at City Hall by introducing a series of measures designed to make my Mayoralty more accountable, and spending more transparent.

The first of these will be the reform of People's Question Times, open public forums where ordinary residents are able to question the Mayor and London Assembly members. Under my plans, not only will we hold these events more frequently, but we will establish question sessions that focus on myself and perhaps my Deputy too, giving Londoners the chance to question their Mayor more directly.

By exercising the Mayor's right to chair the Metropolitan Police Authority, I will take direct responsibility for tackling crime, and will be fully accountable for police performance. Local Borough Commanders will be required to hold monthly open public meetings so that local people can regularly hold their police to account.

Too often, Ken Livingstone has ignored the views of Londoners. Under my administration, City Hall will listen to public consultations, which will help shape policy. To this end, I will hold a new consultation on the Western extension of the Congestion Charge, and I pledge to abide by the result.

I will also take account of the concerns of all London businesses by holding biannual summits with business representatives, and I will take a less adversarial approach with locally-elected councils.

We need more open information on how City Hall spends our money. I will strip away the secrets by publishing an open register of interests for all Mayoral advisers, and I will provide a search function on the Mayor's website enabling Londoners to instantly find all grants, contracts and programmes over £1,000. I will also conduct a full review of London Development Agency grants.

Finally, to demonstrate my commitment to accountability, if elected, I pledge to run for no more than two terms - because leading this great city is a privilege, not a right.

I will:

1. Give Londoners More Say

Communicate in plain English and listen to the results of consultations.

Hold more People's Question Times, so Londoners can directly question the Mayor and senior officials.

Work closely with locally-elected Councillors instead of berating them.

2. End The Culture Of Cronyism At City Hall

Create a Cabinet for London, to assist in running London in a more business-like, transparent manner.

Pledge to stand for only two terms if elected.

Introduce tough new rules for Mayoral advisers to ensure their interests are declared and in the open.

3. Restore Trust In How City Hall Spends Our Money

Launch an immediate review of City Hall finances, to report initial findings within the first 100 days.

Launch an independent review of all London Development Agency grants.

Enable Londoners to view all GLA grants, contracts and programmes worth over £1,000 on the Mayor's website.

Ensure that Londoners will not pay any more than 38p per week for the Olympics.

The details above were extracted from the 2008 election manifesto of Boris Johnson by London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies