

Supporting older Londoners



Boris Johnson



my 9 point plan for a Greater London

1. Cutting waste at City Hall – freeing up £3.5 billion for services.
2. Putting £445 back in your pocket by freezing the Mayoral share of council tax.
3. Creating 200,000 new jobs over the next four years.
4. Making our streets and homes safer with 1,000 more police on the beat.
5. Restoring 300 acres of green space and planting 20,000 street trees.
6. Investing £221 million to transform local high streets, supporting small businesses.
7. Ensuring a true Olympic legacy – 11,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs.
8. Reducing Tube delays 30% by 2015. Building Crossrail and orbital rail to link our suburbs. Extending the Bike Hire scheme.
9. Securing a better deal for London from No 10.

Supporting older Londoners details how points 4, 5 and 6 of my 9 point plan for Greater London will help Londoners aged 60 and over.

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Introduction

Dear Londoner,

This election comes at a critical time. Londoners are going through tough times and the choices we make now will determine whether our city remains world-class or declines.

I'm proud that London is a fantastically diverse city, boasting not just a great cultural and ethnic mix but also a great mix of ages.

London is neither a 'young' city nor a retirement town. It defies such descriptions, with a significant older population living alongside a younger one, contributing a huge amount from the capital's culture and economy. There are over 1.2 million people in London who are aged 60 and over, and this proportion is expected to grow fast over the next 20 years¹. The number of people over 65 is projected to increase by 34 per cent (nearly 300,000) to reach 1.17 million by 2031².

The biggest concern for older Londoners is to ensuring their home and neighbourhood is safe and their environment a pleasant place to live. That is why I have worked hard to cut waste and make sure public funding is spent on Londoners priorities, including putting a 1,000 extra police officers on London's streets since 2008³ leading to a 10 per cent cut in overall crime⁴ and 30 per cent on the bus network;⁵ scrapping my predecessor's propaganda newspaper 'The Londoner'⁶ and investing the savings on planting 10,000 street trees⁷; and protecting and extending the Freedom Pass to 24 hours⁸.

But there is more to do. I feel like a man who has built half a bridge. I can see the other side and what needs to be done.

I will reverse the decision by the previous Labour government to raise the age for which people were eligible for the Freedom Pass and ensure every Londoner aged 60 has one, from 1st September 2012. I will also lobby the suburban rail companies to allow its use before 9.30am. I will protect the roll out of step free stations as part of the Tube upgrade from Ken Livingstone's plans to take £1.14 billion out of the transport budget. And I will give older Londoners a greater voice in neighbourhood policing through new Safer Neighbourhood Boards with substantial increases to Safer Neighbourhood Teams in every ward in Greater London.

But above all, I will continue to keep the Mayor's share of council tax low, which has put an average of £445 back in Londoner's pockets since I was elected.

This shows we have made progress despite difficult times. At the Mayoral election on 3rd May this progress is at risk. The choice at this election is between taking London backwards and fresh-thinking and optimism for London's future.



Boris Johnson

1 ONS, *Estimated resident population mid 2010 by single year of age and sex*, 30 June 2011

2 The Mayor of London, *The London Plan*, July 2011

3 GLA, *The Mayor's Consultation Budget*, 22 December 2011, p.1

4 MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012. Comparing 45 months of Ken Livingstone (August 2004 – April 2008) with 45 months of Boris Johnson (May 2008 – January 2012). August 2004-April 2008 TNO was 3,486,028. In May 2008-January 2012 it was 3,110,245.

5 MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012. Comparing 45 months of Ken Livingstone (August 2004 – April 2008) with 45 months of Boris Johnson (May 2008 – January 2012). August 2004-April 2008 Bus related crime was 136,207. May 2008 to January 2012 Bus related crime was 91,545.

6 Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 12 December 2007

7 GLA, *Press Release*, 14 February 2012, link

8 GLA Website, *Mayor's Questions*, 17 December 2008

My priorities for a Greater London

Helping older Londoners get around

- Protect the 24-hour Freedom Pass and ensure that it is available on Transport for London services to all Londoners from age 60, from 1st September 2012.
- Lobby the Train Operating Companies to extend the Freedom Pass for use on suburban rail before 9.30am.
- Introduce a Courtesy Card to require those under 16s who benefit from free travel on the buses to treat other travellers with respect.
- Protect the expansion of step free stations as part of the Tube upgrade from Ken Livingstone's plans to take £1.14 billion out of the transport budget.
- Expand accessible bus stops to 70 per cent of the network and review the "Red Book" for bus drivers to ensure passengers get the best service.
- Secure the future of door-to-door services like Dial a Ride.
- Promote more shared space improvements to our public realm to make London's streets safer and more accessible for older Londoners.

Making London safer

- Maintain funding for the extra police on the transport network for my entire second term, which is at risk from Ken Livingstone's plan to take £1.14 billion out of the transport budget.
- Continue funding for 50 extra British Transport Police on the overland rail network and negotiate to bring them under a new "London Command".
- Combat alcohol-fuelled crime through the introduction of "Compulsory Sobriety" for drunken offenders, and establish a Strategic Licensing Unit to work with boroughs to sort out problem premises.

Making London a better place to live

- Keep the Mayor's share of council tax low.
- Prioritise households over the age of 60 for the RE:NEW programme to help the average household save £180 a year on their energy bills.
- Invest £6 million to improve 300 acres of green space and work with boroughs to create 100 Pocket Parks across Greater London.
- Maintain the strong protection of green space and presumption against development of back gardens in the London Plan.
- Deliver 1,800 supported homes using my new housing investment powers, and ensure that all new homes are built to Lifetime Home standards.
- Boost the First Steps programme of low-cost home ownership to help around 25,000 Londoners in this investment round through promoting to Londoners the Government's mortgage guarantee scheme, which will reduce deposits for 100,000 buyers.
- Take action on apprenticeships by driving the creation of an average of 1,000 new apprenticeships every week, and extending to apprentices over the age of 18 the same Transport for London travel discounts as students in full time education, with 30 per cent discount on season tickets.

Empowering older Londoners

- Support 'Know Your Rights' campaign to ensure Londoners receive full entitlements.
- Give local people a direct say on Community Payback to ensure offenders serving community sentences carry out tasks set by Safer Neighbourhood Boards, such as removing graffiti and clearing litter.
- Invest £221 million to transform local high streets, supporting small businesses.
- Promote volunteering programmes that help older Londoners, such the Team London scheme to help more than 600 people aged over 60 to learn and improve their IT skills.
- Work with partners to encourage well over 1,000 street parties across Greater London to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to help reduce the social isolation some older people can feel by fostering a sense of neighbourliness.

Helping older Londoners get around

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- Lobby the Train Operating Companies to extend the Freedom Pass for use on suburban rail before 9.30am.
- Introduce a Courtesy Card to require those under 16s who benefit from free travel on the buses to treat other travellers with respect.
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- Expand accessible bus stops to 70 per cent of the network and review the "Red Book" for bus drivers to ensure passengers get the best service.
- Secure the future of door-to-door services like Dial a Ride.
- Promote more shared space improvements to our public realm to make London's streets safer and more accessible for older Londoners.

Protect and extend the Freedom Pass

It is vital that we protect concessions for those who need them and have worked hard and paid into the system all their life. That is why I extended the Freedom Pass to 24 hours a day on the Transport for London (TfL) network to make travel easier for older Londoners⁹.

If elected, I will protect the full 24-hour Freedom Pass and will lobby hard for the private Train Operating Companies to offer a similar peak-time concession to Freedom Pass holders. And I will reverse the last Labour Government's decision to raise the age of eligibility for the Freedom Pass to 65 so that Londoners travel free when they turn 60, from 1st September 2012.

I will also guarantee concessionary travel for injured veteran soldiers, which I introduced in 2009¹⁰.

Courtesy Card

I have sought to make travelling in London a more pleasant experience. That is why one of my first actions was to ban alcohol on the Tube and buses¹¹. I want to widen this approach to the behaviour of young people in receipt of free travel.

At present, under-16s can travel for free on the buses in London with a ZIP card. This is an important concession which I am committed to continuing, and has provided welcome financial relief to parents across London.

But it is important that this concession comes with clear conditions. So I will strengthen the existing behaviour code by making it an explicit condition of free travel that under-16s give up their seats for older people, especially pensioners, and behave courteously to their fellow passengers. I will publish a three-point Courtesy Code on the back of each ZIP card which will remind card holders that they must:

- Give up their seat to an older, pregnant or disabled person.
- Be polite and not use offensive or threatening language.
- Be courteous to fellow passengers: for instance, not playing music out loud on a mobile phone.

This Courtesy Code will complement TfL's existing Behaviour Code, which every ZIP card holder has to observe, and any young person found breaching the Courtesy Code will have their free travel withdrawn.

I will also operate a 'two strikes and out' policy, where individuals are only able to earn their travel back once before the card is removed permanently for a second offence.

⁹ GLA Website, *Mayor's Questions*, 17 December 2008

¹⁰ GLA, *Mayor's Questions*, 16 July 2008

¹¹ BBC News Online, 7 May 2008

Making more stations step free

It is vital that we make our transport network more accessible. Despite the most challenging spending round for generations, I have secured record investment for London's transport network which will see the Tube upgrade and Crossrail delivered in full. This will mean tens of thousands of step free journeys every day on the network, significantly helping older travellers.

My aim is for half the rail network to be step free by the end of this decade.¹² I have increased the number of step free Tube stations, with 65 stations to be step-free by the 2012 Games.¹³ Step-free access has been provided at key interchange stations, including King's Cross St. Pancras, which has 10 new lifts.¹⁴ And step free access work will continue at Victoria, Tottenham Court Road, Liverpool Street and Bond Street and others.¹⁵

In contrast, Ken Livingstone's plans would take £1.14 billion out of the transport budget would put this major investment programme at risk.

Making the bus network more accessible

I will also continue to ensure that the bus network, and not just London Underground, is more accessible. Ramps on buses should always work and more bus stops should be accessible so that older Londoners can use the bus network as easily as possible.

I have doubled the number of accessible bus stops since 2008¹⁶, and all of London's 8,500 buses are low floor and fitted with wheelchair ramps.¹⁷ We have also introduced a more rigorous training regime to make sure bus drivers should always deploy the ramps, with regular inspections at bus depots to ensure the ramps work and that they are checked whilst in service. I will ensure we continue to keep up a rigid inspection regime.

I want to go further, so I am proposing to increase the number of accessible bus stops further from 58 per cent¹⁸ to 70 per cent by the end of the 2012/13 financial year to ensure that all Londoners can use bus services on which they rely.

It is vital that bus drivers are aware of the needs of older people using London's buses. I will review the bus drivers' "Red Book", and work with bus operators to continuously improve standards of service on the buses, so that older people get the best possible service using London's buses.

Dial a Ride

Under Ken Livingstone, the quality of Dial a Ride declined as costs soared, with the cost per passenger doubling¹⁹.

I recognise the importance of Dial a Ride and other door to door services to help Londoners get around. I have introduced a further 39 bespoke low-floor minibuses entered into the fleet and the highest number of trips since the service began in the 1980s, with more than 1.3 million trips during the 2010/11 financial year²⁰. I will continue to support Dial A Ride.

12 TfL, *Taking forward the Mayor's Transport Strategy Accessibility Implementation Plan*, March 2012

13 TfL, Press Release, *King's Cross St. Pancras Tube station is step-free with 10 new lifts*, 27 September 2010

14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.

16 TfL, *Taking forward the Mayor's Transport Strategy Accessibility Implementation Plan*, March 2012

17 TfL, *Buses*

18 GLA, *Mayors Questions*, December 2011

19 TfL, *Travel in London Report 4*, 2011, p. 174

20 TfL, *Annual Report and Statements of Accounts*, 2010/11

Roads Blackspot Fund

I will commit £50 million to enable immediate action to relieve the worst congestion blackspots in London²¹, with priority being given to those roads which cause the worst delays and blight the communities who live around them.

The Fund will take the type of approach illustrated, for example, in the recent redesign of Henlys Corner. Improvements will include:

- Redesigning roads to improve traffic flow.
- Optimising traffic signals.
- Removing unnecessary street clutter and improving the surrounding urban realm.
- Improving conditions for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

Less congestion also means lower pollution, improving the environment for local residents. By separating traffic more clearly, cyclists will be able to pass through the junctions more safely than before, and new crossings will make it possible for pedestrians to cross the road more safely.

Pedestrians and the public realm

Since I was elected, London has been leading the country in innovative road schemes ensuring pedestrians get a better deal on the roads, making it easier and safer for them. I installed the “X” diagonal pedestrian crossings at Oxford Circus, unravelled the one-way gyratory system along Piccadilly, and have supported the shared use of Exhibition Road. This gives pedestrians and drivers equal rights of way, which evidence shows reduces accidents as it discourages speeding, and encourages road users to take more responsibility for their risks.

The capital has too many guardrails, restricting the movement of pedestrians and also presenting a hazard for cyclists. I have removed a substantial number of guardrails along pavements²², making it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross, and stripped out other unnecessary street clutter. I will continue to work with the boroughs to push forward shared space schemes and scrap guardrails and promote this approach on new developments through the London Plan.

²¹ TfL *Business Plan 2011/12-2014/15*, p. 71, Table 10, Better Routes and Places

²² TfL, *Surface Transport Panel*, 11 May 2011

Making London safer

- Maintain funding for the extra police on the transport network for my entire second term, which is at risk from Ken Livingstone's plan to take £1.14 billion out of the transport budget.
- Continue funding for 50 extra British Transport Police on the overland rail network and negotiate to bring them under a new "London Command".
- Combat alcohol-fuelled crime through the introduction of "Compulsory Sobriety" for drunken offenders, and establish a Strategic Licensing Unit to work with boroughs to sort out problem premises.

Putting more police on the street

It is the first duty of the Mayor to ensure Londoners are safer, and feel safer, in their homes and neighbourhood. When I was elected, London had serious problems with crime. Today, London is on the way to being one of the safest big cities in the world. Londoners elected me to cut crime, and I have worked hard to successfully drive crime down. Specifically, comparing my term against that of my predecessor:

- Total crime has been cut by 10.8 per cent.²³ This includes the most serious offences such as murder, which has decreased by 25.9 per cent – the lowest rate since 1978.²⁴
- Youth violence has decreased by 13.8 per cent, with the number of youth murders halving.²⁵
- Robberies are down by 16.3 per cent.²⁶
- Robbery on public transport⁷ is down 46.5 per cent; crime on buses has fallen by 30 per cent²⁷ and crime on the Tube has fallen by 20 per cent.²⁸

Using my strengthened powers with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, my priority is to maintain police numbers. There are 1,000 more fully warranted police officers on London's streets at the end of this term than I inherited.²⁹ My strong relationship with the Government has secured an extra £90 million to ensure police numbers remain high.³⁰

I will maintain the extra 1,000 police I have put on the street throughout my second term.³¹

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

I also want to boost neighbourhood policing. Safer Neighbourhood Teams have made a huge contribution to cutting crime in London and making people feel safer in all of London's 624 wards. I have also given some Sergeants more responsibility to strengthen the response of their teams around the ward boundaries.

But I want to go further to help Safer Neighbourhood Teams do even more to combat crime. I will work with the Commissioner to boost Safer Neighbourhood Teams, with an additional 2,000 police, including adding up to three Police Officers and three Specials to every Team.

This extra capacity means that the team can focus more on solving and preventing crime, dealing with antisocial behaviour and critically giving a greater sense of territorial ownership and control to Londoners.

Safer Neighbourhood Boards

It is important the police focus on the priorities of local communities, and one of the clearest ways of achieving this is to enable neighbourhoods to set policing priorities. I will launch a new Safer Neighbourhood Board in every borough, to establish policing priorities for each neighbourhood and fulfil important responsibilities.

23 MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012. Comparing 45 months of Ken Livingstone (August 2004 – April 2008) with 45 months of Boris Johnson (May 2008 – January 2012). August 2004-April 2008 TNO was 3,486,028. In May 2008-January 2012 it was 3,110,245.

24 Ibid. August 2004-April 2008 Homicide was 645. May 2008- January 2012 it was 478.

25 MOPC *Statistics*. Youth Violence in 2008: 21,004; Youth Violence in 2011: 18,110.

26 Ibid. August 2004-April 2008 Robbery was 157,344. May 2008-January 2012 it was 131,634.

27 TfL, *Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Statistical Bulletin*, Q2 11/12, Table 2.1

28 TfL, *Press Release*, 21 February 2011

29 GLA, *The Mayor's Consultation Budget*, 22 December 2011, p.1

30 GLA, *Mayor's Final Budget 2011-12*; *Evening Standard*, 30 January 2012

31 Boris Johnson, *Crime Manifesto*, 2 April 2012

This will involve amalgamation of the current Community Police Engagement Group structure with the Met's Independent Advisory Group community engagement structure to avoid duplication, with members of these boards sitting on them for a maximum of three years and we will reserve places for councillors and young people on each board. These measures will ensure both a regular refresh of opinions, strong linkage with the boroughs and a wide diversity of views.

I will give each board a number of responsibilities; specifically a new duty to hear and monitor complaints from victims of crime and to monitor crime performance and community confidence in their area. They will also be required to monitor levels of complaints about borough-based police officers from the public and undertake the role of "Independent Custody Visitors", responsible for visiting local offenders post-arrest. Specifically they will have a duty to ensure that all wards have a ward panel of residents as a sounding board for the newly expanded Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

I will prioritise £1 million saved by this amalgamation into a borough problem-solving fund, from which the new boards can bid for crime prevention projects in their area.

I will also require the new boards to play a significant role in Community Payback.

Community Payback

When offenders are convicted, justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done. With the support of the Government, I will ensure that more offenders serving community sentences are visibly doing tasks that improve their neighbourhoods such as clearing roadside litter, cleaning up graffiti, or planting trees as part of a "Community Payback" scheme.

To ensure that offenders are doing work that is of value to the public, I will work with the probation service to empower the new Safer Neighbourhood Boards to set the tasks that offenders from their borough should undertake as payback to the neighbourhood for their crimes, after specifically canvassing the views of victims. This should include cleaning up graffiti and litter as set out later in this manifesto.

Cutting crime on public transport

Under my predecessor, crime on public transport, in particular buses, was rising substantially. On London Underground, public disorder offences on the tube increased by 521 per cent, violent crime by 56 per cent, and drug crime 128 per cent between 2001/2 and 2007/8³². On the bus network, violence on buses increased by 9 per cent between 2004/5 and 2007/8³³.

Since I was elected, I have put 697 extra police on the buses and Tube³⁴ and have banned alcohol³⁵. This has helped to cut bus crime by 30 per cent, with violence on buses falling by 21 per cent and Tube crime cut by 20 per cent³⁶. I have also cracked down on illegal minicabs – doubling the team dedicated to tackling the problem and making 1,300 arrests in 2010/11³⁷.

I will maintain the funding for the extra police I have put on the transport network for my whole second term, which is at risk from Ken Livingstone's plan to take £1.14 billion out of London's transport budget³⁸. I will also continue to prioritise a strong police presence on public transport, including continuing my funding for 50 extra British Transport Police on the overland rail network. I will lobby for a single "London Command" for the British Transport Police. As Mayor, I am also asking the Department for Transport to devolve responsibility for suburban London rail franchises to City Hall, and as part of this I will ensure that every station where responsibility is transferred is staffed to make it safer.

32 British Transport Police, *Statistical Bulletin 2002/03 – 2007/08*

33 Transport for London, *Crime and anti social behaviour statistics bulletin Q1 07/08*, Table 2.1; *Ibid.* Q1 08/09, Table 2.1)

34 Boris Johnson, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 March 2012

35 BBC News Online, 7 May 2008

36 GLA, *Press Release*, 21 February 2011; MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012. Comparing 45 months of Ken Livingstone (August 2004 – April 2008) with 44 months of Boris Johnson (May 2008 – January 2012). August 2004-April 2008 Bus related crime was 136,207. May 2008 to January 2012 Bus related crime was 91,545.

37 TfL, *Press Release, Safer Travel at Night: Over 1,300 drivers arrested last year as part of crackdown on unbooked 'minicabs'*, 23 May 2011

38 Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011

A smarter approach to alcohol and crime

London has a far worse problem with alcohol than England as a whole, with 11.7 alcohol related crimes for every 1,000 people compared to a national average of 7.6³⁹. In particular, we have the highest rate of alcohol-related violent crimes and sexual offences in the UK. Problem drinking can lead to domestic violence. Often it results in anti-social behaviour on the streets, with law-abiding citizens feeling threatened. Although much of the offending is relatively minor, it can be prolific with high reoffending rates, and young binge drinkers are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime.

When I was elected, I immediately banned drinking alcohol on public transport, which helped lead to the dramatic reduction in crime on tubes and buses.

I will ensure that existing laws banning the sale of alcohol to people who are drunk and to children under 18 are rigorously enforced. I will also establish a Strategic Licencing Unit at the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime with the task of monitoring alcohol crime by gathering new data from the London Ambulance Service and A&E departments while maintaining patient confidentiality, and then identifying problem premises, working with local authorities, police and residents to close them down. London will learn from a pilot in Cardiff, which showed that sharing data between hospitals and police enabled the police to cut the number of violent incidents including fistfights and stabbings by over 40 per cent⁴⁰.

Compulsory sobriety

At present, those convicted of alcohol-related crime often get punishments such as community orders that do little help to address the underlying cause or treatment that is ineffectual. I want to reverse the current approach of mandating treatment and merely hoping for sobriety, by enforcing sobriety and then offering treatment if needed.

In the United States sobriety testing for offenders convicted of alcohol-related crimes has been hugely successful in reducing alcohol related crime, with repeat drink driving being halved over two years, a reduction in domestic violence and a fall in the prison population of approximately 14 per cent⁴¹.

I believe we need to learn from this experience and I have secured funding from the Government to pilot sobriety testing which will see offenders fitted with tags, which are fitted to the ankle, measure air and perspiration emissions from the skin every 30 minutes⁴². Blood alcohol levels as low as 0.02 per cent can be detected, and the tags can then transmit that information to a base monitoring station. If someone is found not to be sober, the police will arrest them and usually the court will decide an offender will spend a night in custody before restarting the scheme.

Following my intensive campaign, the Government has agreed to legislate to compel an offender to attend a testing centre twice a day to be tested. The rigour and certainty of the consequence of testing has resulted in very positive compliance rates in the US and has also resulted in a fall in other offences. For instance, although some individuals were testing for drinking and driving, it has also led to a fall in domestic violence an offence on which we must make progress also using this scheme.

³⁹ Local Alcohol Profile for England, *Local Authority Alcohol Indicators*

⁴⁰ British Medical Journal Website, *Effectiveness of anonymised information sharing and use in health service, police, and local government partnership for preventing violence related injury: experimental study and time series analysis*, 16 June 2011

⁴¹ Alcohol Monitoring Systems Inc, *South Dakota 24/7 Sobriety Project Credited with Lowering Jail Populations*, 2009

⁴² GLA, Press Release, *Mayor welcomes new approach to alcohol related crime in London – but says more is needed*, 10 February 2012; BBC Website, *US-style alcohol tests to be used for problem drinkers*, 10 February 2012

Making London a better place to live

- Keep the Mayor's share of Council tax low.
- Prioritise households over the age of 60 for the RE:NEW programme to help the average household save £180 a year on their energy bills.
- Invest £6 million to improve 300 acres of green space and work with boroughs to create 100 Pocket Parks across Greater London.
- Maintain the strong protection of green space and presumption against development of back gardens in the London Plan.
- Deliver 1,800 supported homes using my new housing investment powers, and ensure that all new homes are built to Lifetime Home standards.
- Boost the First Steps programme of low-cost home ownership to help around 25,000 Londoners in this investment round through promoting to Londoners the Government's mortgage guarantee scheme which will reduce deposits for 100,000 buyers.
- Take action on apprenticeships by driving the creation of an average of 1,000 new apprenticeships every week, and extending to apprentices over the age of 18 the same Transport for London travel discounts as students in full time education, with 30 per cent discount on season tickets.

Keeping council tax low

Under Ken Livingstone, Londoners were subjected to huge hikes in their council tax through the Mayor's precept. Ken Livingstone increased the Mayor's share of council tax by 152 per cent during his eight years in office.

By cutting waste and making City Hall more efficient, I have frozen council tax for the last four years – saving the average Londoner in a Band D property £445 a year- and I will continue to do so.

Making housing more adaptable for older people

As Londoners live longer, it is critical that the needs of older Londoners are reflected in the homes we build and also provide specifically adapted, supported accommodation for older people. Under my direction, the Homes and Communities Agency, whose London board I chaired, 2,395 new supported homes were delivered by April 2011 – almost double the target I set.⁴³ And with the introduction of new design and space standards, I have promoted designing out crime, ensured both the London Housing Design Guide and London Plan specify that all new homes should be built to Lifetime Homes standards, and at least ten per cent should be wheelchair accessible.

Using my new housing powers which came into effect on 1 April 2012, I will deliver 1,800 supported homes in this investment round to meet the needs of older and vulnerable Londoners⁴⁴. I will also see that all new homes are built to Lifetime Homes standards and that one in ten should be wheelchair accessible.⁴⁵

Retrofitting

The rising cost of energy bills means that straightforward carbon reduction measures not only protect the environment and support London's economy, they can also significantly reduce household bills.

That is why I launched RE:NEW, which helps people adopt simple energy efficiency measures for free such as loft insulation, to reduce carbon emissions from existing homes in London, help residents save money on their energy bills and create "green" jobs. By the end of March, 55,000 homes had been helped,⁴⁶ saving tens of thousands tons of carbon and households around £180 a year on their fuel bills.⁴⁷ I will continue this drive by extending the programme to retrofit a further 20,000 homes through RE:NEW, with a further £3 million from the GLA budget. I will prioritise households over the age of 60 for the scheme.

⁴³ GLA, *The Revised London Housing Strategy*, December 2011

⁴⁴ GLA, *The revised London Housing Strategy*, December 2011

⁴⁵ GLA Website, *Housing Support*

⁴⁶ GLA Website, *RE:NEW FAQs*

⁴⁷ Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor helps Londoners in every borough save money off their home fuel bills*, 13 December 2011

Pocket Parks

It is crucial we improve London's local environment, to make neighbourhoods attractive places to live. While Ken Livingstone and his officials spent time and taxpayers' money jetting around the world, including £37,000 on first-class tickets to Havana, key aspects of our local environment were neglected.

That is why I launched Help a London Park, providing £6 million to help more than ten parks, with the public able to vote for their park to make them cleaner, safer, greener and better places to visit and enjoy. Ten parks received £400,000 each,⁴⁸ including Brent River Park in Ealing, Crane Valley Park in Richmond and Hounslow, Dollis Valley Green Walk in Barnet, Fairlop Waters Country Park in Redbridge, Parish Wood Park in Bexley and Wandle Park in Croydon. The Mayor's Premier Park, a prize of £2 million, was awarded to Burgess Park in Southwark. This has enabled Burgess Park to undergo a major renovation, match-funded by the borough council, as part of plans to regenerate the Aylesbury estate.

In total, I am delivering improvements to 300 acres of green space,⁴⁹ and will continue this by working with boroughs and community groups to establish 100 Pocket Parks, similar to those which grace Paris, to create more green space for families to play and relax in.

Combating litter and graffiti with Community Payback

Neighbourhoods can be blighted by litter and graffiti. No grime should be tolerated, and I will work with local authorities to wipe it from the face of London. Under Ken Livingstone, there was a 14 per cent rise in flytipping incidents, with a total of over 500,000 incidents dealt with by the boroughs in 2007-08⁵⁰ – at a total cost of around £20 million. In contrast, I have cut fly-tipping every year and in 2010-11 there were fewer than 250,000 incidents.⁵¹

I have supported the Capital Clean-up campaign, which aims to make London cleaner and greener for 2012 by coordinating events from litter-picks to education activities across the capital. An estimated 2,820 volunteers took part in more than 200 events across 25 boroughs during the 2011 campaign.⁵²

I will ensure that offenders serving community sentences are fully deployed to tackle these problems under the Community Payback scheme. The Earn Your Travel Back scheme has seen more than 3,000 young people earn travel costs through a range of activities with environmental charities such as the London Wildlife Trust.⁵³

Protecting back gardens

Under the last Labour government, gardens were classified as brownfield space and had no specific protection in Ken Livingstone's London Plan. As a consequence, back gardens were disappearing in favour of development. Under my predecessor, in 2006 alone, over a thousand London gardens were used for new build projects.⁵⁴

I promised to strengthen the protection of green spaces, and have done so. The new London Plan published in 2011 committed to protecting the green belt and other open spaces and private residential gardens are no longer classed as "previously developed land", with the new London Plan enabling boroughs to introduce a presumption against development on back gardens or other private residential gardens in their Local Development Frameworks.

I will retain the strong protections now afforded back gardens and other green space, and continue the presumption against development of back gardens, as part of the London Plan.

48 GLA Website, *Help a London Park*

49 *GLA Press Release*, 14 February 2012

50 DEFRA, *Fly tipping official statistics*

51 DEFRA, *Fly tipping official statistics*

52 GLA, Capital Clean-up, *Campaign Newsletter*, November 2011

53 Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011, 4040/2011

54 London Assembly Environment Committee, *Garden Grabbing Update*, 11 October 2007, p. 2

Securing London's future

It is important for London's future, and our economy, that we ensure future generations can afford to live and work in the capital. Many Londoners are concerned about the cost of living, and whether their sons and daughters will be able to afford a home or secure a job.

Low-cost home ownership is critical to help low and modest income Londoners on to the property ladder in an affordable way. I promised to launch the First Steps housing programme to help first-time buyers, and by April 2011 we had helped around 25,000 people buy their first home.⁵⁵ Together with promoting to Londoners the Government's mortgage guarantee scheme which will reduce deposits for 100,000 households, I will boost First Steps in this investment round to help a further 25,000 Londoners through the delivery of more than 18,000 First Steps homes.⁵⁶

I have also transformed opportunities for young Londoners. I have already created more than 54,000 apprenticeships⁵⁷ and national figures show that 84 per cent remain in continued employment.⁵⁸ I intend to do more and deliver 100,000 new apprenticeships by the end of this year. Yet when I arrived at City Hall, London had just 6 per cent of all apprenticeships in the UK,⁵⁹ with many sectors such as financial and professional services largely ignoring apprenticeships.

Over the last four years, I have campaigned hard to increase apprenticeship opportunities, signing up a host of new businesses to offer modern apprenticeships across all sectors of the London economy. I will continue to work constructively with London business to generate a further 250,000 apprenticeships by 2016 – this would more than double the current commitment, and mean on average 1,000 new apprenticeships being created every week. I will aim to maintain the current 84 per cent conversion rate to real jobs estimated by the Learning and Skills Council.⁶⁰ I will also extend the discounted travel benefits which full-time students receive to apprentices on recognised schemes, a discount worth 30 per cent on TfL season tickets.

55 GLA, *The Revised London Housing Strategy*, December 2011, Appendix One, based on 1.5 persons per home from CORE data.

56 GLA, *The Revised London Housing Strategy*, December 2011, Appendix One, based on 1.5 persons per home from CORE data.

57 Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor urges firms to boost apprenticeship opportunities for young Londoners*, 7 February 2012

58 Learning & Skills Council, *The Benefits of Completing an Apprenticeship*, April 2009, p30

59 ONS, *Population Estimates Total Persons for the UK, Constituent Countries and Regions - Mid 1971 to Mid 2010*, December 2011,

60 Learning & Skills Council, *The Benefits of Completing an Apprenticeship*, April 2009, p30

Empowering older Londoners

- Support ‘Know Your Rights’ campaign to ensure Londoners receive full entitlements.
- Give local people a direct say on Community Payback to ensure offenders serving community sentences carry out tasks set by Safer Neighbourhood Boards, such as removing graffiti and clearing litter.
- Invest £221 million to transform local high streets, supporting small businesses.
- Promote volunteering programmes that help older Londoners, such the Team London scheme to help more than 600 people aged over 60 to learn and improve their IT skills.
- Work with partners to encourage well over 1,000 street parties across Greater London to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee to help reduce the social isolation some older people can feel by fostering a sense of neighbourliness.

‘Know Your Rights’

I want to ensure older Londoners, who have worked hard and contributed, get back what they are entitled to from the Government. I promised at the last election to launch a ‘Know Your Rights’ campaign, and did so last year in partnership with Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureau and benefit and debt advice agencies.⁶¹ This has helped raise awareness of the support available to vulnerable Londoners from the Government, including Council tax relief and support to pay energy bills in the winter.

There are a wide range of benefits for older people. Pensioners across London are benefitting from the biggest ever rise to the state pension this year, meaning they will be £5.30 better off every week,⁶² as well as free eye tests, the winter fuel allowance, and the cold weather payment.⁶³

I will continue to support the ‘Know Your Rights’ campaign to ensure London’s 1 million older people receive in full what they are entitled to.

Regenerating town centres

The high street is the heartbeat of London’s business community and the current economic conditions make it ever more important to support the high street.

When I was elected, there was no comprehensive programme to support the high street despite long-term decline in many areas of London. Under my Mayoralty, a total of £221 million is being invested in regeneration across London’s boroughs. This investment will help riot-affected areas, improve high streets, protect existing jobs as well as delivering growth and new jobs. This includes:

- **Outer London Fund.** The £50 million Outer London Fund⁶⁴ is a three-year initiative launched in June 2011. It is designed to strengthen the vibrancy and growth of London’s high streets and local areas.
- **Regeneration Fund.** The £50 million Regeneration Fund⁶⁵ is designed to help make major long-term improvements to the capital’s town centres and high streets damaged by last summer’s riots.
- **London Enterprise Fund.** The £20 million London Enterprise Fund⁶⁶ is designed to fund major regeneration of Tottenham and Croydon, two of the worst hit areas in last summer’s riots.
- **External Funding.** A further £57 million from external funding⁶⁷ has been raised in match funding from other private and public-sector partners. This is expected to rise to £60 million once new contracts are signed.
- **Growing Places Fund.** London has secured £41 million from the Government’s Growing Places Fund⁶⁸, designed to boost economic growth by getting the required infrastructure built to enable the creation of new homes and jobs and get stalled projects moving again. This fund will be overseen by the London Enterprise Panel.

61 GLA website, *Older People*; GLA, *Mayor’s Questions*, 14 December 2011

62 George Osborne, *Budget Statement*, 21 March 2012

63 David Cameron, *Hansard*, 1 February 2012

64 Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor’s Outer London Fund goes live*, 13 June 2011

65 GLA Website, *Mayor’s regeneration fund*; GLA, Press Release, *Mayor to invest £50 million in long term regeneration of capital’s damaged town centres*, 11 August 2011

66 Mayor of London, Press Release, *£20m to transform Tottenham and Croydon following riots*, 17 August 2011

67 Mayor of London, *Mayor’s Questions*, 22 February 2012

68 London Enterprise Panel, *The Growing Places Fund in London*, February 2012

In total 75 schemes designed to improve local places⁶⁹ and local economies will be funded, 26 local boroughs will have benefitted from this investment, and none of this would have been possible without my intervention. This includes:

- £23 million for Croydon⁷⁰, including a support package to attract business, create more space for pedestrians and improve the transport interchange around West Croydon station, and improvements to the main high street.
- Over £5 million being invested in Bromley town centre⁷¹ to help around 500 businesses.
- Nearly £2 million being invested in Harrow town centre to improve access and support business, including an empty shops initiative⁷².
- £10.6 million to revitalise Peckham Rye Station and the surrounding area⁷³.
- £6.85 million into Southall High Street⁷⁴, including transforming a disused heritage building into a restaurant which would see around 1,500 young people trained during the next Mayoral term⁷⁵.

I will continue to drive this programme of investment across London, regenerating high streets and economies and making sure that local people benefit from the results.

London Growth Fund

It is critical we continue to stimulate London's economy. I successfully lobbied the Chancellor ahead of this year's Budget, and secured £70 million specifically to boost economic growth across the capital⁷⁶. I intend to use some of this funding to help restore confidence in lending to SMEs. This would complement the Government's scheme by focussing on growing existing companies and increasing the number of jobs in them rather than start-ups.

Working with partners such as the Federation of Small Businesses and professional organisations to administer this scheme, I will make available up to £35 million for loans, and will seek to attract private-sector funding to double the size and scope of this fund to £50 million, including the remaining European Regional Development Funds worth £10 million. The fund would provide average loans of around £100,000 for each company, and if successful in attracting other funds, could drive growth for around 500 companies. The funding would be a loan enabling repayments to be used again and again to help more small businesses in London throughout my next term. The fund will be managed on our behalf by private-sector fund managers contracted through the London Enterprise Panel.

Business Improvement Districts

I have supported the expansion of business improvement districts (BIDs). These have been instrumental in upgrading retail areas as well as industrial parks, and there are now around 25 across the capital. Under a BID, which is a private enterprise, local businesses work with the borough council and others, and are balloted on improvements they would like to see within the area to improve trade, such as greater security, cleaning up the local environment, or more promotional activity. Once improvements have been decided on, they are funded through a levy of businesses within the district.

A number of BIDs are being created, including Wimbledon, Orpington, and Sutton, and I will support the creation of further BIDs, working with boroughs and businesses to double the number to 50 in the next four years, focusing on town centres such as Bromley, Enfield, Richmond and Romford.

69 GLA Website, *Mayor's regeneration fund*; GLA Website, *Outer London Fund*; GLA Website, *Investing in growth*

70 Mayor of London, Press Release, *Help me make Croydon great again' Mayor tells investors*, 22 November 2011

71 The London Borough of Bromley, *Press Release, Market testing underway for plans to improve Bromley Town Centre*, 20 February 2012

72 GLA Website, *Outer London Fund*

73 Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor investing £177 million to regenerate capital*, 17 January 2012,

74 Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor investing £177 million to regenerate capital*, 17 January 2012,

75 Ealing Council, Press Release, *Southall cash injection totals nearly £7m*, 18 January 2012

76 HM Treasury, *Budget 2012*, 21 March 2012, p. 42

Volunteering

Since 2008, I have supported a wide range of volunteering activities which increase our sense of community and improve our shared experience of life in London. Based on the successful Cities of Service model, developed by Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York, and now operational in 100 other US cities, I have set up Team London. The purpose of the programme is to focus effort in areas where volunteering is likely to have the most impact and to set clear objectives to measure progress. I have committed £2.6 million, which has been matched by philanthropic support, to projects which support young people to reduce crime and improve community cohesion.

This includes supporting the successful current scheme to help over 600 people aged over 60 to learn and improve their IT skills⁷⁷. Over the last year, through my Team London programme, City Hall has provided funding for more than 600 people aged over 60 to gain or improve IT skills with help from young volunteers aged 16-18. This has given people the opportunity to learn how to use email and Skype to access online information on local services and keep in touch with their family.

Diamond Jubilee

The number of people living alone in London has doubled since the 1970s and is expected to triple by 2020⁷⁸.

It is therefore important we reduce the sense of isolation and loneliness that some older people can feel living in London. There are a number of ways the Mayor can help to do this. I have been determined to foster a greater sense of community by appointing a Street Party Ambassador and through my support of the Big Lunch, which has hosted a number of successful events to help bring communities together and foster a sense of neighbourliness, including street parties for the Royal Wedding.

I want to continue to champion this great work. This year I will strongly support the Big Jubilee Lunch to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I will work with partners to encourage well over 1,000 street parties across Greater London to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, presenting a fantastic opportunity for neighbours to come together and support older people who might otherwise spend the time alone.

⁷⁷ Team London website <http://www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon>

⁷⁸ http://www.london.gov.uk/media/press_releases_mayoral/boris-and-bab%E2%80%99s-big-lunch-bash

Supporting older Londoners

