

Victoria BORWICK

Londonwide Assembly Member

E-Newsletter - November 2013



Victoria's London Assembly Committees

Police & Crime Committee

The Police and Crime Committee examines the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and reviews the police and crime plan for London.



Victoria has raised a number of important issues. These include her concerns around disability hate crime, the monitoring of dangerous convicted criminals who are let out of prison; increasing the opportunity for victims to challenge the police, and concerns over the misuse of internet and phone information collected as a result of the Draft Communications Data Bill.

Greater London Authority News

Victoria Welcomes GLA Report on OAP's contribution to London's Economy

The key findings in the report are: The paid work of older Londoners contributes an estimated £47bn per year to the economy. An estimated 16% of older Londoners provide care to other adults, which represents an economic contribution of roughly £4.7bn per year. Victoria said:

"Older Londoners are not slowing down and enjoying leisurely retirements. This timely

report shows they are at the coalface of our economy, contributing through paid as well as unpaid work. Nearly 42% of Team London Ambassadors who volunteered during the Olympic and Paralympic Games were aged over 50 and 12%

"Older Londoners are not slowing down"

were over 65. Proving that whatever our age, we all have a positive contribution to make London's success as a city".



If you would like to read the report in full, you can access it on the GLA website: <http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/business-economy/publications/gla-economics/the-economic-contribution-of-older-londoners>

Victoria

If you've got an issue or opinion, please write to

victoria.borwick@london.gov.uk

London Thames Passenger Boat Investigation Committee

Victoria is chairing the GLA committee investigating the handling of the incident on September 29th, in which a London Duck Tours vehicle caught fire, forcing the passengers on board to evacuate the vessel. Appearing before the committee, London Duck Tours' MD John Bigos said the company had always placed passenger safety at the heart of its service. After the

meeting, Victoria commented:

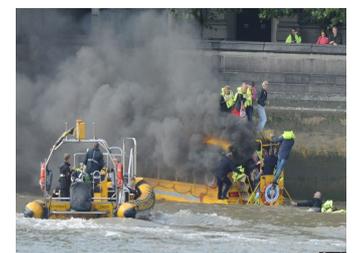
"Thames boat trips are a must for many visitors to London and it is essential that all the organisations involved in safety on the river learn lessons from the fire aboard a 'Dukw tour' boat last month to ensure it cannot happen again.

"We heard a detailed account of the response to the fire, the safety requirements and regulatory framework for the vehicle involved, as well as accounts from a

passenger involved.

"The vast majority of trips pass off without incident, but I hope our investigation – and subsequent report – will go some way towards ensuring that river tours aboard these unique vessels remain enjoyable for all involved."

(Image courtesy of the Huffington Post)



Transport Committee

There are now approximately 6 million users of the buses each day and around 3.5 million using the underground so there is increased pressure on TfL to continue to expand and develop the network.

Residents have welcomed being able to use their oyster cards on the overground within London and welcome the orbital rail.

Victoria has been calling for Transport for London to re-think bus routes in Central London. Shorter routes, combined with flexible ticketing would enable TfL to provide more reliable services.

Spare capacity could then be used to expand the network, which is particularly important for outer London. Victoria has called for a detailed review of the routes that serve Oxford Street, many of which are historical routes, and during the day are often underused. With greater flexibility of the management of the fleet, TfL could be more responsive to passenger demand.

The Assembly have welcomed the VIP days in Oxford Street and Regent Street, which enable shoppers to take over the streets with no buses or traffic.

Greater London Authority News

Three Quarters of Theft Cases Screened Out by the Metropolitan Police

73% of theft crimes in London are not being investigated by police, according to figures uncovered by Victoria Borwick.

Victoria is now calling for victims of crime to be allowed the right to appeal to their local safer neighbourhood boards – groups of local volunteers working with local police, which come into existence from 2014 – if the police decide not to investigate their crime. Victoria Borwick said:

“It is shocking that the Met are refusing to

investigate an alarmingly high number of acquisitive crimes. If you are a thief in London, you can be safe in the knowledge that about three quarters of your crimes, reported by victims, will be completely ignored by police.”

“Meanwhile victims are being abandoned by the people they expect to protect them. Resources are tight and police must prioritise crimes; but we must make it clear that cases such as theft and burglary are not minor. They can have a devastating impact on the confidence, wellbeing and finances of the victim.

“Victims will not get the justice they deserve if their experiences are dis-

regarded. The new policy by the CPS – which would allow victims to appeal against decisions by prosecutors not to charge suspects – is a major advance. However, we should go further and – if police decide not to investigate a crime in the first place – give victims the right to appeal to their forthcoming local safer neighbourhood boards.”



(Image courtesy of The Telegraph)

Victoria Calls for Greater Community Involvement in Policing

At the Police and Crime meeting, Victoria Borwick asked the Mayor to introduce a Met Smartphone app for the ‘Met Police Beat’ which allows an individual to follow and communicate with their Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).

Commenting, Victoria said:

“The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police says we need to improve

technology to engage with Londoners.



(Image courtesy of the Met Police)

This app could prove to be a ground-breaking way to re-connect communities with their local police.”

“Surrey police have a Smartphone App which allows the public to connect with their local

SNTs. It makes the police far more accessible as it provides residents with local crime information. It also gives local people the opportunity to have a say over local priorities and be actively involved.”

“Most SNT police are very hard-working and this App will ensure we know what police are doing each day and allow the public to help fight crime through information sharing”.

Following the riots, the police have been looking into ways to engage with communities.

Get In Touch - Whether you've got something you want raised with the Mayor, or a view on how to improve services in London under the Mayor's responsibilities - Victoria would be happy to hear from you.

How to contact Victoria: Email: Victoria.Borwick@london.gov.uk Tel: **020 7983 4955**
Address: **Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London, London SE1 2AA**