

Victoria BORWICK

Londonwide Assembly Member

E-Newsletter - Spring 2010



Victoria's London Assembly Committees

Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA)

The MPA holds the Commissioner rigorously to account and ensures an effective and efficient police service. The MPA works closely with the MPS and its partners, including London's 33 borough councils, crime and disorder reduction partnerships and other agencies in the criminal justice system.



Transport Committee

The Transport committee monitors the actions, policies and strategies of Transport for London and London Underground. It also scrutinises and reports on the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

Victoria is also leading an investigation into how to improve the transport services along Oxford, Regent and Bond Street looking at reducing the number of buses to ease the flow of traffic.

Greater London Authority News

Scrutinising the Mayor

As part of my work I have been scrutinising the Mayor's budget, in which he confirmed that the GLA council tax precept will be frozen for another year. A move followed by most local authorities who have held down their council tax too. I'm glad Boris

understands the need to cut costs and expenditure to reduce the burden on Londoners in these extremely difficult financial times.

I have also been examining the strategies the Mayor has published which aim to improve transport in the capital, deliver more homes, plan for future development,

encourage the job creation, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

If you have any queries about my work on the Assembly or have any issues you would like me to raise on the Mayor's policies don't hesitate to get in touch.

Victoria

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Victoria tells national policing conference 'the buck stops here'

Victoria delivered the keynote speech to the Association of Police Authorities, telling them that elected politicians should be responsible for setting police priorities and holding the police to account.

Speaking in Nottingham, Victoria explained that

Focus on: Policing

because Boris Johnson was the Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority, "in London the buck stops with the Mayor".

She disagreed with the view that there should be no political involvement in policing, saying that elected local members of police authorities should be the "fierce advocates" of the public. While

operational matters should be left to the police, politicians must hold "chief constables to account and securing effective and efficient policing for their areas."

"the buck stops with the Mayor"

The full text of Victoria's speech can be found here: <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/news/press/2009/11/075/>

Civil Liberties panel review of G20 policing

Victoria has been elected to Chair the new Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) Civil Liberties panel.

The panel has been set up to scrutinise the Met Police's work and ensure the police retain public trust by balancing the needs of civil liberties with the need to maintain public safety and order through proportionate

policing. In this role, Victoria has chaired several open meetings on the policing of the G20 demonstrations to listen to views on how events were handled, and what lessons could be learned.

"policing must balance civil liberties with keeping the public safe"

The Civil Liberties panel will report on its findings and make recommendations on how policing of

public order events could be improved. Victoria said: "Maintaining public confidence in the police is extremely important. I think the panel will help by identifying areas where policing could be improved, and has a vital role in assessing how the Met should handle serious issues."

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If you have view on the policing of protests, the DNA database, ID cards or any civil liberties issue you can submit your thoughts by contacting Victoria at the GLA.

Greater London Authority News

Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee (EDCST)

The role of EDCST committee is to examine the economic development, social development, culture, sport and tourism in London. It scrutinises the Mayor's strategies



and policies in these areas and also monitors the development and legacy for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Civil Liberties Policing Panel

The panel has established ensure the police retain public trust by balancing the needs of civil liberties with the need to keep the public safe.

Following the report on the policing of G20 protests, Victoria will now lead the panel to investigate the role of DNA in police work and ask how long a database of DNA samples should be kept by the police for use in future criminal investigations.

Strategies to Shape London

The Mayor has recently published London's first Housing Strategy to help the creation of more, quality homes. In the strategy he has pledged £60m to help bring empty homes back into use, put more emphasis on building family homes to prevent over-

crowding and introduced generous minimum space standards for all new homes to stop the creation of 'rabbit hutches' in the capital.

Commenting, Victoria said: "The Housing Strategy marks a significant shift in direction from Boris Johnson. His focus on building bigger, better houses is

extremely welcome and a change from the past policies that just tried to construct as many as possible regardless of their quality."

In addition to housing, the Mayor has also produced draft strategies on transport, planning, economic development and the environment."

Each of the Mayor's strategies can be found by following the links:

Housing: <http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/london-housing-strategy>
London Plan (draft): <http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london/london-plan/>
Transport (draft): <http://mts.tfl.gov.uk/default.aspx>
Climate Change (draft): <http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/london-environment>
Econ. Development (draft): <http://lda-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/eds/eds>

Time to get moving on Oxford Street congestion

Victoria has led an investigation by the London Assembly Transport Committee into reducing congestion on Oxford Street.

The report found that despite the street's phenomenal popularity with shoppers, is blighted by a "slow-moving procession of buses and taxis" causing terrible congestion.

Victoria has called on the Mayor to work with Transport for London (TfL) and Westminster Council to reduce the number of buses that travel through the area, because it should be a destination not a transit route. Longer-term solutions include providing a shuttle bus along Oxford Street, and rationalising

the number of buses. Currently, people on Oxford Street often shuffle along overcrowded pavements while up to 300 buses an hour and other vehicles inch forward at four mph.

Victoria said: "The wall of slow-moving metal tarnishes what should be a world-class shopping experience. Oxford Street is a vital retail destination that generates £5.5billion a year for the UK

economy. There has to be a better balance between the needs of pedestrians and public transport.

"It's time for the agencies involved to stop talking about solutions and actually radically re-examine central London bus routes so genuine improvements become a reality. TfL has proposed a 10% reduction in bus travelling along the road for two years, but we need more rapid change."



Traffic jam: Buses queue along Oxford Street

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: 0207 983 4955

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