

Victoria BORWICK

Londonwide Assembly Member

E-Newsletter - December 2011



Victoria's London Assembly Committees

Health & Public Services Committee

Victoria is the newly elected Chairman of this Committee, which is currently investigating fuel poverty, ambulance services and childcare provision across London.



Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA)

The MPA sets the strategic priorities for the policing of London. Members oversee the Met to ensure it is cutting crime in the capital and making the city a safer place.

Transport Committee

The Committee advocates for a better public transport system for the capital, especially for the quicker upgrade to key tube lines.

Greater London Authority News

Victoria Takes Aim at Fuel Poverty

Victoria has been campaigning for energy companies to give Londoners a better deal in tackling fuel poverty.

Each year around 2,700 people in the UK die because they are unable to heat cold homes and London is particularly affected by fuel poverty because of the high cost of living and energy companies raising their prices.

Victoria has sponsored a motion, agreed unanimously by the Assembly, calling for London to get a better share of funding from energy companies

for home insulation and other energy-efficiency measures. Currently London homes receive only a 4% share of this national funding.

Victoria said: "Energy bills have been rising relentlessly. Recent price hikes of up to 18% mean the average household bill in London

"Energy bills are rising relentlessly"

could soon be £1,200 a year.

"Not only should customers be getting a fair price from their energy companies, but they should also be getting victoria.borwick@london.gov.uk



access to measures that help to reduce their energy bills."

The Committee has also been investigating other important issues such as access to mental health services in London.

To find out more [click here](#)

Victoria

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

Olympics Security

Victoria has visited the Olympic Park with members of the police and the MPA's Olympics and Paralympics Sub-Committee to examine the security arrangements ahead of next year's Games.

The group was given a tour of the Park to see the newly completed facilities, whilst being briefed on the security threats and challenges that the police will face during the Games period.



Victoria at the Olympic Park with Police and MPA members

Olympics security has a budget of over £600 million. As a member of the Sub-Committee, Victoria has an important role in overseeing the scrutiny of this expenditure.

Victoria also used the

visit to repeat her concerns about the so-called "Games Lanes", which will be reserved for sponsors, officials and athletes and will be closed to ordinary traffic.

Victoria said: "Next year London will be welcoming the world to see the Olympic Games. Safety will be absolutely paramount during this time for Londoners, visitors and participants.

"However, we will also need to make sure that life is as normal as possible during this time."

Economy, Culture and Sport Committee (ECS)

The Committee looks at economic development, culture, sport and tourism issues affecting London. A key aspect of its work is monitoring preparations for the Olympic Games.

Victoria has recently inspected plans for the Torch Relay, which is going through London from May to July 2012.



Civil Liberties Panel

Victoria is the Chairman of the Panel that was established to ensure the police balance civil liberties with the need to keep the public safe.

Victoria led a key report into the policing of the [G20 protests](#) on how the Met can better control demonstrations. *If you would like a paper copy of the report, please write to:*

MPA
10 Dean Farrar Street
London SW1H 0NY

Greater London Authority News

Visit to Belvedere Waste to Energy Plant

Victoria has recently visited the Riverside Waste from Energy Facility at Belvedere to inspect its newly completed facilities.

The new plant will be a shared facility by boroughs in the Western Riverside area. It will generate electricity from the waste that cannot be recycled, diverting at least 300,000 tonnes of rubbish from landfill each year.

Metals will also be removed for recycling before the waste is treated, whilst the 'bottom ash' will be converted into building materials.

The facility is expected to become fully operational in 2012, once the testing of its systems is complete.

Victoria said: "It was fantastic to see Belvedere's new facilities, all fully completed, and is a great example of cross-borough working. It was a long struggle to get here and there were obstacles to overcome

along the way. I look forward to seeing this plant up and running, providing a vital service for London's residents."



Victoria with colleagues at the Belvedere Waste to Energy Facility

DNA Report Published

Victoria's report into the use of DNA by the police has been published.

The report, entitled "Protecting the Innocent", has looked at whether it is right to keep people's DNA even if they have not committed a crime. It follows an extensive investigation led by Victoria as Chair of the Civil Liberties Panel at the MPA.

The report looks at what happens to a DNA sample from when it is taken by police from an individual, through to its inclusion on the national DNA database. The whole process is examined in detail, and focuses on the impact on

individuals, specifically their perceptions, fears and concerns.

The report recommends providing clear and accessible information to those who have had their DNA taken, strengthening police processes in relation to DNA and improving oversight of the national DNA database to further protect the public.

Victoria said: "The public needs absolute reassurance that DNA samples are correctly handled by the police at all times.

"I hope that our recommendations, and the evidence we have gathered, will be valuable to both Londoners and those in the Met who carry out this important duty."

New Met Commissioner

Victoria has welcomed the appointment of Bernard Hogan-Howe as the new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

The new Commissioner has a reputation for successfully fighting gang violence, and has already launched a major operation to crack down on uninsured drivers, to disrupt the activities of organised criminals.

Meanwhile, over 3,000 people have already been arrested following this summer's riots.

Victoria said: "Our new Commissioner has an impressive track record, with the skills and experience needed to tackle crime in London."

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.

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