

# Victoria BORWICK

Londonwide Assembly Member

E-Newsletter - February 2015



## 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 looking into disability hate crime, a continued push in campaigning against Female Genital Mutilation, consistently holding the Metropolitan Police to account regarding their use of Taser along with her continued calls for caution regarding the retention of people's internet and phone information collected as a result of the Draft Communications Data Bill.

## Greater London Authority News

### Victoria Leads Investigation into Disability Hate Crime

Victoria's report "Hidden Hate" uncovered widespread dissatisfaction with how the criminal justice system deals with hate crime against people with disabilities.

New specialist research of disabled people in London carried out for the report showed that 85% of respondents encountered abuse, 59% of those failed to report the incident to authorities and over half had been unsatisfied with how the police had handled the case.

"We have to do more to stamp out disability hate crime. Too many disabled

Londoners have little faith that their issues will be dealt with effectively by our justice system."



"My report makes clear that the judicial system is not working well enough for those with physical and learning disabilities."

"The Metropolitan Police Service are working hard to improve their service for Londoners, but it is

clear to me that there is more to do."

"I have provided the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime with a copy of my report to inform their Hate Crime Reduction Strategy, and I am confident that we will begin to see some much needed progress as a result."

For the full report, please click on the link: <http://glaconservatives.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Hidden-Hate.pdf>

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

*Victoria*

[victoria.borwick@london.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.borwick@london.gov.uk)

### Victoria appears on London Live

Victoria recently appeared on London Live to discuss the Transport Committee's investigation into taxi and private hire services in the capital. Victoria was joined by Steve McNamara, the General Secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association.

Victoria commented: "London is fortunate to have the best taxi drivers in the world. When you see that jolly orange sign coming towards you, you can be sure that is the taxi to get into because the driver has done The



Knowledge, their vehicle has been checked and their driver has been properly vetted."

Victoria expressed reservations regarding the private taxi company, Uber: "London has a regulated taxi industry and that has helped us maintain the

best drivers. Do we want somebody else to arrive who doesn't follow any of those regulations? Is that safe for Londoners? It cannot be right that one section of the industry is regulated only for a new company to come in and not follow those rules. It has to be a fair playing field."

## Transport Committee

Victoria recently launched a call for information from London's Councillors to bring forward improvements for London's transport network.

"I was delighted to see my transport initiative drawing numerous constructive responses from Councillors across London."

The responses were sent through to the Mayor for inclusion in the transport improvements that will be made for London's 2050 infrastructure plan .



The Transport Committee recently visited the Farringdon site for Crossrail. The implications of this new transport network will be significant in Central London, allowing other transport modes to be reconfigured.



## Greater London Authority News

### Mayor Supports Victoria's Call to Tackle Legal Highs

Victoria raised the growing issue of legal highs at the recent Mayors Question Time, receiving cross party endorsement across the London Assembly along with the Mayors backing to look into this issue further.

A legal high is a substance with stimulant or mood-altering properties, whose sale or use is not banned under the Misuse of Drugs Act. They are mostly sold in so-called "head shops", specialising in the sale of part powders and laughing gas.

"Not only do legal highs leave a mess due to the numerous containers be-

ing littered on our streets, they mimic the effects of drugs that are already illegal."

"More people died last year from legal highs than from using ecstasy. We have rightly banned ecstasy, which caused 43 deaths, so we need to ban legal highs, which caused 60 deaths."

"I brought this to Boris's

attention at Mayor's Question Time and consequently the police and crime team are going to invest serious effort in preventing more needless deaths."

"My message to anyone thinking of using legal highs is this: Don't do it. These substances are not safe, and you're risking everything by taking them."



### Victoria Gains Confirmation that Crossrail 2 will be Accessible for Disabled People

At the recent Transport Committee, Victoria received assurances from the Managing Director of Planning at TfL, Michelle Dix, that all new-build stations constructed on the route of Crossrail 2 will include toilets as well the trains having step-free access.

This confirmation means that Crossrail 2 stations built within London will be fully accessible to disabled people.

Victoria said:

"Having step-free access is not only important for wheelchair users, it's also important for people with prams, luggage and for people with heavy bags. I think that it is very outdated to say that step-free access only benefits people in wheelchairs so

I am delighted to have received assurances from TfL that all Crossrail 2 stations will have step-free access."

"I have no doubt that the Transport Committee here at the London Assembly will hold TfL to account to ensure that they fulfil this pledge."



**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](mailto:Victoria.Borwick@london.gov.uk) Tel: 020 7983 4955  
Address: **Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London, London SE1 2AA**