

Flushed with success?



What can we do about London's loos? This is far from a laughing matter for many Londoners says Joanne McCartney AM who represents Enfield and Haringey.

In the last five years there's been a big drop in the number of toilets provided by local councils – a fall of 40 per cent. There are only 400

public toilets for a city of 7 million people.

An investigation by the London Assembly Health and Public Services Committee, which Joanne chairs, showed that the lack of public toilets directly affects the quality of people's lives. Londoners find it difficult to find a public toilet – for elderly and disabled people, or those with small children it's even worse.

'When you do find one it is often filthy,' added Joanne. 'This affects our tourism too – Beijing are building 3,500 new loos for the 2008 Olympics – we need to catch up.'

'It's ridiculous that council's aren't obliged to provide toilets – this should be mandatory not discretionary. And we are also looking at toilet provision in stations and at transport interchanges to see how this can be improved.'

Tour de France comes to London

Murad Qureshi AM, Londonwide Assembly Member, says Londoners are already excited about the idea of the world's top cyclists riding down their streets, when the Tour de France comes to London in July 2007.

Around 200 riders will start their 3,500 kilometre race in central London and head towards Kent, through Bermondsey, Deptford, Greenwich and Erith.

The start of the Tour, The Grand Départ, will come to London and Kent over three days during the weekend 6-8 July 2007 and is expected to attract more than a million visitors to London, providing a significant boost to the capital's economy.

It's also expected to boost cycling which is on the rise in London – the number of cycle journeys is estimated to have doubled over the past five years. Accidents involving cyclists have dropped by 40 per cent.

Murad said: 'This will be a great spectacle for local people and it will be another demonstration of London's ability to stage major sporting events.'



London News

NEWS FROM THE LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR GROUP

Mayor puts London's safety first



On London's streets the Mayor's drive to put local police back on the beat is showing results. The programme for putting a police Safer Neighbourhood Team in every local area in London is gathering pace.

Every ward will have their team in place by April and by the end of the year they will be at full strength with a police sergeant, two constables and three police support officers. The largest areas will have their team increased to 8 officers or more.

The Mayor's "public safety" budget gives all of the increase in the precept, except for the Olympic levy, to the new policing set-up - the Safer

Neighbourhood Teams.

Mayor Ken Livingstone said: "London is one of the safest capital cities in the world but there are still too many areas where people do not feel secure. These measures are another big step towards cracking down on crime and anti-social behaviour.

"Even with this additional funding for police my budget for the coming year will be limited to a rise of no more than 65 pence a week on the council tax precept."

The Mayor's public safety drive has had the strong backing of Labour Members of the London Assembly that has the job of scrutinising and approving the

Mayor's Budget.

That's why they led the way in getting approval for the increases in the Mayor's Budget that is collected through the London Borough's council tax.



Mayor Ken Livingstone meets members of a Safer Neighbourhood Team on a borough visit.

Contact your Assembly Members

The London Assembly scrutinises the work of the Mayor and investigates issues of concern to Londoners.

If you have questions about London's transport, roads, policing, fire service or strategic planning, then we want to hear from you! Please respond using the form below.

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Nicky Gavron is Deputy Mayor and a London-wide Assembly Member



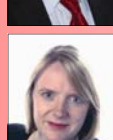
Len Duvall is Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority and Assembly Member for Greenwich and Lewisham.



Jennette Arnold is Chair of the London Health Commission and Assembly Member for Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest.



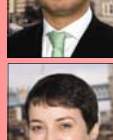
John Biggs is Vice Chair of the London Development Agency and Assembly Member for City and East London.



Joanne McCartney is Chair of the Assembly Health & Public Services Committee and Assembly Member for Enfield & Haringey.



Murad Qureshi is Vice Chair of the Assembly Environment Committee and a London-wide Assembly Member.



Valerie Shawcross is Chair of the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) and Assembly Member for Lambeth and Southwark.

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Spring/Summer 06 Edition

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Neighbourhood policing—a quiet revolution



As the Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority I've worked closely with the Mayor on the "quiet revolution" in policing London's streets. This is part of a wider vision to encourage respect and make the city

safe for Londoners.

By the end of the year every ward in the capital will have a full strength Safer Neighbourhood Team of at least 6 officers.

Is that the end of it? Will we say 'job done, we've made London a safer place?' No.

Far from this being the end of our drive to make Londoners feel safe and secure in their city, it is just the beginning.

As well as providing a reassuring presence on the streets, Safer Neighbourhood Teams will also tackle anti-social irritants like graffiti and broken windows. Some might consider these minor matters, but nonetheless they send out a negative message—that no-one cares and it's fine to wreck the place.

Quickly repairing windows, scrubbing off the graffiti as soon as it appears turn that negative message into a positive one – somebody is watching and taking action.

Policing is important but it can't work on its own. I believe we need big changes in the way our teams work with the local council and the local councillors.

For example when a beat officer spots a stolen car. steps are taken to remove it and deal with the crime – but, if a broken window or vandalised fence is spotted then no action can be taken unless there is a threat to those walking by.

Maybe the beat officer should have ways of involving the owner or the council in getting these things repaired before a neighbourhood begins to take on the appearance of a high-crime area.

In short I believe that now we have Safer Neighbourhood Teams – people dedicated to making the area safer – we should look at innovative ways of using them to change peoples' attitudes to petty crime and vandalism, so that society will no longer tolerate a climate that seems to encourage crime and anti-social behaviour.

Len Duvall AM
Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority and Labour Assembly Member for Greenwich and Lewisham

If you have any ideas on making your area safer, please use the slip on the back page to let us know.



Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be in every ward in London by the end of 2006.

Crackdown on vehicle fumes will "make Londoners healthier"



Deputy Mayor and Labour Environment spokesperson Nicky Gavron AM, says the crackdown on dirty transport operators will have a major benefit on the health of Londoners.

She welcomed the Mayor's announcement of a London-wide Low Emission Zone. Lorry, coach and bus companies have until 2008 to clean

up their act. If they fail to meet tough pollution standards they face a hefty charge for high-polluting vehicles driven within Greater London.

Nicky said, 'The 2002 Health in London Report identified air quality as a key measure for improving the health of Londoners, particularly the young, the elderly and those with respiratory difficulties.'

The Commission was established by Mayor Ken Livingstone in 2000 to help him ensure all the policies he is pursuing also benefit the health of Londoners.



Vehicles like this will need to meet strict emission standards.

Working for safety on our overground rail network

Safety at overground rail stations has unfortunately become a big issue for London recently. The London Assembly Transport Committee recently published a report highlighting a widespread public fear of using overground stations at night, often when no staff are on duty.

Valerie Shawcross, Labour Assembly Member for Lambeth & Southwark is one of the AM's who has been working hard to highlight this issue in recent months. Following various comments and complaints from constituents about overground stations and services in Lambeth and Southwark, Val is conducting her own survey into passengers views on security and safety at stations.

Val said 'From my own experience I know that travelling on a train late at night can be worrying and I know drunkenness, graffiti and vandalism make people feel uneasy. Coming through quiet train stations at night can feel very threatening indeed. The Mayor's budget this year includes funding for an additional 89 British Transport Police officers to

patrol various overground stations across the capital. Together with the new Safer Neighbourhood Teams this is excellent news for all those who rely on the overground network.

'I will be passing on the results of my survey to the British Transport Police and Safer Neighbourhood Teams so that these new resources can be directed to where they are most needed on overground services.'



Val is campaigning for improvements at London's overground rail stations.



Safer travel at night

Jennette Arnold, Labour Assembly Member for North East London has been heavily involved with the Safer Travel at Night or STAN campaign since it began.

central London late at night can choose from more night bus routes than ever before, most of which have CCTV, get a licensed cab from the new marshalled ranks, or find a cab firm by using the new text service. The text message service is particularly innovative—by texting HOME to 60835 customers can receive numbers for local cab firms direct to their mobile.

STAN aims to warn travellers, particularly women, about the risks of using unlicensed minicabs and promoting safer alternatives. 'Great progress has been made on this' said Jennette, 'However, around ten sexual assaults are still committed by unlicensed minicab drivers every months. This is still too many and with so many safer transport options available there really is no need to take the risk. 'Those wishing to travel home from

The task of licensing all drivers should be completed this summer. However, all minicab vehicles have now been licensed—look out for the distinctive disc in the rear window.'

London going for gold in 2012

Londoners' support for our Olympic bid was crucial to our success in Singapore, and is one of our biggest assets as we prepare to host the 2012 Games.

thousands of working families long after the Games are over.

The unique character of London: its pride, diversity and tolerance, is what made our bid stand out, and what continues to inspire us to make these Games the best ever.

There will be upgrades on the East London line, extra carriages on the Jubilee line, the new Channel Tunnel Rail Link and extension of the DLR to City Airport - with £7.2bn of Government investment going in. Communities across London will benefit hugely from the Olympic legacy.

John Biggs AM
Vice Chair of London Development Agency and Labour Assembly Member for City and East London

Our vision for the 2012 Games sees London regenerated, with up to 104,000 additional homes and 249,000 jobs in the region. We will also create the largest urban park seen in Europe for over 150 years; at least three new schools will be built; and the athletes' village will provide a legacy of affordable housing for

Image of new ExCel site, Docklands