



# LCA Monthly

CLIENT BRIEFING NOTE ON LONDON ISSUES  
MAY 2011



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The ceremonial high spirits that accompanied President Barack Obama's visit to London, following on from last month's Royal Wedding, have provided a little taste of what the capital will be like next summer. We are getting another four day weekend for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course, the city will be in celebration mode for a full three weeks during the Olympic Games. Yes, it will be tricky, and there are plenty of questions still to answer - How will we all get around? Where will all the tourists stay? How will the chap who landed £11,000 worth of tickets pay for them? Despite the uncertainty, one thing is clear - we know how to throw a party.

The overwhelming response to ticket sales is a fair indication of the excitement that will take hold next July and while LOCOG has received some criticism for a system that rewards those who are most able to put large sums of money at risk, those who missed out have been promised first refusal on the next round of available tickets.

The last few months have also shed light on some of the more serious issues that the capital could face next year. The news that armed police will now carry out patrols on the tube makes real the security threat. While Transport Secretary Phillip Hammond played down the move, tourists and Londoners alike will undoubtedly feel unnerved at the sight of guns on the underground.

The entire policing operation will no doubt be under immense scrutiny. The Metropolitan Police Service has recently been taken to task on some fundamental issues, from crowd control to youth crime and front-line policing, that it is crucial to get right. With two big rulings on its treatment of protestors made this month, the Met will be hoping to consign at least some of the recent controversy to the past, even if the phone-hacking scandal looks likely to drag on indefinitely.

But we've got this summer to get through first and the party of the year happens next week. The last ever Party Near the Park, the annual fundraising event for property industry charity Landaid, is on Thursday 9 June and as ever, LCA's Robert Gordon Clark, Eva Dixon and the Brunettes will be taking to the stage to sing and dance their way to stardom. It's a great cause which helps young and disadvantaged people thrive within their communities. To donate £5 and cast your vote for LCA's effort please text PNTPO8 to 70070 and click here for more info about [LandAid](#).

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## LONDON COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY

MIDDLESEX HOUSE | 34-42 CLEVELAND STREET | LONDON | W1T 4JE  
T: 020 7612 8480 | F: 020 7612 8481 | E: LCA@LONDONCOMMUNICATIONS.CO.UK

## Section One: The Mayor

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From issuing congestion charging fines to the President of the USA to allegedly cheating against the Met Commissioner during an impromptu game of table tennis, Boris has seemingly upped the stakes a little this month – there has been a distinctive whiff (or is that wiff-waff?) of election campaigning in the air, with **latest polls** showing the current Mayor and his Labour predecessor running very close.

While the Coalition battles on with the proposed NHS reforms, the Mayor has pressed ahead with plans for a new London-wide **public health board**. While he currently has no official powers over health, Boris has made it clear he would like some and, as NHS London may – possibly – be disbanded next year, he has wasted no time in bidding for part of that remit. The board would be chaired by the Mayor and tackle issues such as mental health, obesity and immunisation, it has been proposed.

The Mayor has also been seeking to seize the agenda on jobs and training, accused by some of deliberately waiting for the publication of the latest national unemployment figures to announce that more than 2,000 people have taken on **jobs or apprenticeships** at the Greater London Authority (GLA) since April 2010. The Mayor has also taken credit for creating jobs for an additional 1,000 unemployed people through the GLA's £3.4bn supplier network. A condition of GLA contracts is the provision of jobs and skills training and the Mayor has funded a 'Skills Supplier Team' to oversee this activity. This model is now being rolled out by other organisations including Crossrail, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

Meanwhile, the Mayor also made sure he was on hand to launch a new scheme funded by the Royal Bank of Scotland and the European Union which will help 1,000 budding entrepreneurs get the skills and knowledge they need to run businesses. The **business bootcamp** initiative, based on a similar programme in New York, will be run by Capital Enterprise, a membership body for organisations who support enterprises in London.

The decision to merge Study, Think and **Visit London** into the new promotional body called London & Partners may yet cause the Mayor a headache or two. The London Assembly has launched an investigation into Visit London's pension deficit following the GLA's refusal to take it on post the new merger. The move has left creditors of the tourism body owed a total of £2.5m and the pensions of 39 former staff members in doubt. Sir Peter Rogers, adviser to the Mayor and former chief executive of the London Development Agency (funders of Visit London) has said that the scale of the issue needs to be fully assessed before action can be taken.



*Greater London Authority*

*Former Visit London staff to have their say on pension deficit <http://bit.ly/iC7Nq1>*

*@governmentnews [Government News](#)*

London & Partners and the Arab British Chamber of Commerce will fund the first ever celebration of **Arab culture** in the capital this summer. Shubbak: a Window on Contemporary Arab Culture will take place from 4-24 July.

The **South Bank** will meanwhile be getting a £4m makeover in time for the Olympics as part of the Mayor's Great Outdoors initiative to invest in London's public spaces. The two-mile stretch between Tower and Westminster Bridges will benefit from improvements to pavements layouts, lighting, seating and disability access. The Mayor's target is to invest £220m in 50 public realm projects by 2012.

In other culturally-related Mayoral news, 400 young musicians will be awarded scholarships as part of the newly launched **Mayor of London's Fund for Young Musicians**. The new charity has been set up to meet Boris Johnson's cultural strategy objectives and will aim to raise £2m over the next year in order to fund scholarships and provide another 10,000 children the chance to work alongside professional musicians. The Mayor is the founding patron of the charity and trustees include Peter Millican, the developer behind the King's Place concert hall and Lord Black of Brentwood, the executive director of the Telegraph Media Group.

A new survey by the **Fostering Network** has revealed that there is a need for 2,000 more foster carers in London and a particularly severe shortage of those willing to care for teenagers aged 11-15 years old. The Mayor has called for more Londoners to come forward as carers and has hosted a party at City Hall to celebrate the role they play in young people's lives. Click here for the [website](#)

Source London, a membership network of **electric car** charging points has been launched by the Mayor. For an annual fee of £100 members will get unlimited use of 150 charging points in the capital and there are plans in place to install up to 1,300 by 2013. Discussions are also underway to allow Source London members to use the charging points that are part of a similar scheme in the East of England.

As if we were in any doubt, the Mayor has officially started his campaign for re-election next year with a mailshot to two million Londoners outlining his achievements whilst in office. The four-page paper – imaginatively entitled Boris's Record – covers transport upgrades, the completion of the Olympic Stadium and the Mayor's work to reduce gun and knife crime. Meanwhile, his opponent **Ken Livingstone's** campaign has not wasted any time. The former Mayor has launched his [new website](#), an updated version of the 2008 incarnation, complete with a comments feed, Twitter stream and You Tube channel.



*“With both main candidate’s websites up and running it’s interesting to see the different approaches. Both are trying to show that they are savvy with tweets, Facebook links and chances to show your support online, but for face to face contact Ken is definitely ahead. He’s planning an event in each Borough to help shape his manifesto whereas the only two events Boris has listed so far, you have to buy tickets for. Of course Boris is already out and about meeting Londoners every day but will he try and replicate Ken’s more structured approach in the run up to the elections?”*

*Suzi Lawrence, Director, LCA*

## Section Two: London General News

The Liberal Democrats' proposals to introduce a new voting system were firmly rejected by the public at the **alternative vote** (AV) referendum on 5 May. Voting differed slightly in the capital, with just over 60% voting against the reform compared to the national figure of 67.9%. David Cameron's Conservatives were left celebrating when 27 out of 33 of the capital's local authorities fell into the 'No' camp, the same way their leader voted. But there was some respite for the Liberal Democrats with more than 50% of voters in Camden, Islington, Haringey, Lambeth, Hackney and Southwark voting in favour. Few surprises perhaps, although fears that the turnout could be as low as 15% due to a lack of accompanying local elections in the capital proved to be unfounded. In fact, London saw an impressive turnout of 35.4%, which meant that 1.86m people casted their votes on the issue.

London pulled out all the stops to welcome **US President Barack Obama** during a much publicised three-day visit. The media made much of the President's barbie at 10 Downing Street, followed by a joint press conference with David Cameron. However, it was Obama's impressive motorcade that generated the most headlines, particularly when Boris Johnson used it to remind the President that the US still owes the capital £5.5m in unpaid congestion charges by slapping a charge on the bomb-proof Presidential limo known as 'The Beast'. The US Embassy is claiming exemption for all its vehicles – including presumably The Beast – from paying "direct taxes" but the Mayor still wants payment as he maintains there is a difference between a 'charge' and a 'tax'. It was during Obama's Irish visit that The Beast got its real come-uppance, getting grounded on a traffic hump with a dreadful scraping noise and much laughter all round – although it was claimed Obama was not actually inside at the time.



*David Cameron and President Obama serve up a BBQ in the garden of Number 10*  
#obamainuk <http://flic.kr/p/9LT8KL>  
@Number10gov UK Prime Minister

The sound of wedding bells could be in the air at the **Houses of Parliament** after a group of MPs earmarked Westminster Hall, one of the oldest parts of the Parliament complex, as a money-spinning marriage venue. Weddings could now become a regular event at the Palace of Westminster and are expected to generate around £100,000 a year for the Government's coffers, with the qualifications that the ceremonial celebrations have to be deemed appropriate by the Commons Administration Committee. A second idea has been floated in the form of paid for afternoon tea on the Terrace Pavilion for those who have taken tours. Both new ventures would only be offered when Parliament is in recess.

It would seem that London is currently the darling of the film industry. A number of **big screen blockbusters** including the final *Harry Potter* movie, the latest *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *X-Men* films, as well as a comic book adaptation of Captain America have all recently been filmed in the capital. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* was filmed at Leavesden Studios, the former aircraft plant in Watford, and the fourth instalment of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise was filmed at Hampton Court Palace and the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, as well as Pinewood Studios.

A coroner has concluded that no further lives could have been saved during **7/7 bombings** but did formally rule that the victims had been unlawfully killed. 52 people were killed and more than 700 people were injured in the four suicide attacks in 2005. A total of 309 witnesses and 197 statements were heard during the inquest. Lady Justice Hallett concluded that there are no grounds for any future public inquiry but made nine recommendations aimed at saving lives in the future. The bereaved called for the recommendations to be implemented as "swiftly as possible". Some of the families called for an overhaul of Britain's security services as they believe that MI5 could have done more to prevent the atrocities.

“ I am not aware of our having left any reasonable stone unturned. One would hope, therefore, that these proceedings will be an end to the investigation of what happened on 7/7.  
Coroner Lady Justice Hallett

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PC Simon Harwood, the Scotland Yard officer who struck **Ian Tomlinson** during the G20 protests just over two years ago, will stand trial for manslaughter. Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer had originally stated that there was insufficient evidence to bring criminal proceedings, but has now released a statement saying that new information had emerged during the recent inquest into Tomlinson's death which has made it possible to proceed. Harwood will appear before City of Westminster Magistrates' Court on 20 June.

A separate inquiry has found that police officers were justified in pulling a protestor from his wheelchair and "inadvertently" hitting him with a baton at the **student fees demonstrations** last year. Protester Jody McIntyre had claimed to be the victim of unprovoked action by police after a video of the incident came to light. But Scotland Yard's Directorate of Professional Standards has found that the actions of officers were "justifiable and lawful given the volatile and dangerous situation."

There was mixed news on **gun crime** during May. According to the latest Met figures, gun crime is on the decline. There were 273 fewer instances during February to April 2011 than in the same period last year – a 32.8% reduction. However, the fact that some of those victims were innocent bystanders has ensured that the crime has remained in the headlines. Detectives investigating the shooting in South London of five-year-old Thusa Kamaleswaran have now released CCTV stills in the hope of tracking down "crucial" witnesses. Thusa was paralysed from the waist down when she was caught in the crossfire of a gang shootout while inside a shop in Lambeth in March. Three young men stand accused of attempted murder. More recently 25-year-old Sodiq Adebiyi was killed nearby in Stockwell when men on a motorbike fired at him right in front of police officers on May 31.

The **Met Police** has in the meantime come under criticism for "screening out" four in ten crimes because they are too difficult to solve, meaning that more than 360,000 crimes were marked as requiring "no further investigation" last year. The new figures have been released under the Freedom of Information Act and show that more than 20,000 violent crimes, including 61 attacks with offensive weapons, 236 sexual offences and 5,420 robberies, were "screened out" last year. It is claimed that the force is too stretched and that the crimes were not investigated to allow officers to focus their time on solvable cases.

Meanwhile, Lord Prescott has won the right to challenge the Met in the High Court over its failure to inform him, and other victims, that they were potential victims of the *News of the World* **phone hacking scandal**. Lord Prescott, the former Deputy PM, Chris Bryant MP, former Scotland Yard deputy assistant commissioner Brian Paddick and journalist Brendan Montague have all been given permission for a judicial review into the handling of their cases by police.

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*The defendant will be aware of the duty of candour expected of every public authority in this kind of case.*

*Mr Justice Foskett explains why he has given the go ahead for Lord Prescott to launch a judicial review into how the Met has handled the phone-hacking inquiry.*

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Elsewhere in the courts, a Court of Appeal has found that **Sharon Shoemsmith** was unlawfully dismissed as Head of Children's Services at Haringey Council amid allegations that she could have done more to protect 17-month-old Baby Peter Connelly, who died after horrific abuse in August 2007. A Serious Case Review at the time of Peter's death found that it was "avoidable" and that there had been a "catalogue of failures". Peter, originally known as 'Baby P', had been seen 60 times by medics and social workers, placed on the Child Protection Register and removed from his mother's custody on several occasions. None of which prevented his agonising death. The ruling marks the end of Shoemsmith's two-year legal battle and could see her awarded financial compensation – and yet more opprobrium. Shoemsmith has said she now hopes to continue working with children in some capacity, but not surprisingly has yet to find a suitable alternative.

London councils have been asked to hand over more land for **allotments** after new figures were released showing that waiting list times are now between 40 and 100 years long. In Islington 259 people are on a list for 60 plots, Camden has 945 residents for 195 plots and Wandsworth has 1,860 budding vegetable growers holding out for one of just 366 plots, according to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. More info [here](#).

Wandsworth Council has come under fire for controversially planning to charge parents £2.50 for their children to use **Battersea Park Adventure Playground**. The fee would apply to all aged between five and 16 playing on the slides, swings and table tennis facilities. The Conservative Council has claimed that the park is “*unique*” and the fee is needed because on weekends half the families attending come from other parts of the city and Wandsworth council taxpayers foot the £200,000 annual upkeep bill. Bexley Council is also planning to charge children at least £1 to use Belvedere Splash Park – the largest free access wet play park in the country.

A total of 14 applications for new **free schools** in London have been approved ‘*in principle*’ and will now be developed into a business case in a bid to secure government funding. Supporters of the proposed Michaela School in Lambeth have spoken out about their belief that it would improve standards and opportunities for some of the capital’s poorest pupils. Meanwhile, Oscar-winning actress Dame Helen Mirren has lent her support to 400 families in Wapping, Limehouse and Shadwell – some of the East End’s most underprivileged areas – who believe that their children do not have access to a good local school. Successful applicants will be notified in September.

Campaigners have welcomed the news that Westminster City Council will not go ahead with plans to **ban rough sleeping** in Victoria. A consultation over whether to introduce a byelaw banning homeless people from sleeping in and around the Westminster Cathedral piazza showed a lack of support for the idea. However, a second part of the proposed byelaw which would see soup runs banned from the same area may still go ahead if alternative ways to help rough sleepers can be found. A meeting in July will decide if the ban will go ahead.

**NHS Trusts** in London are now facing £100m of debt, according to new figures reported by the *Evening Standard*. At least six Trusts are believed to be in trouble amid claims that patients will be the hardest hit as the NHS struggles to make further savings. Topping the list was South London Healthcare NHS Trust which is forecasting a £45m deficit. In second place Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust has reported an estimated £34m deficit. Health experts have warned it could get worse still. They have warned that many NHS Trusts across London are already reducing costs by cutting frontline posts, including nursing jobs.



*It was really only a matter of time before Trusts began to be squeezed by rising health demands on the one hand and the public finance squeeze on the other. Despite the NHS budget being protected somewhat, we are now seeing real pain on the frontline – and London tends to feel this more acutely as it has some of the most intractable healthcare problems of anywhere in the UK. Abolishing the financial managers who can sort all this out doesn't perhaps seem such a good idea after all.*  
**LCA Director Luke Blair**

In more upbeat London news, **QPR** fans were celebrating as their club won promotion to the Premier League after a 15-year absence, a feat which could see them bank around £90m. The club had double cause for celebration as it could have had points deducted for breaching transfer rules. Still, the £875,000 penalty fine will still smart. The local community are hopeful that they will reap from the benefits of the club’s success and local businesses have called it a positive move for Shepherd’s Bush. Hammersmith & Fulham Council leader Stephen Greenhalgh has somewhat spoil the atmosphere by claiming that QPR’s 18,000 seat stadium on Loftus Road is no longer big enough to accommodate fans and has predicted that overcrowding will lead to a quick demotion.

## Section Three: London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games

There was major disappointment on the last day of the month for thousands of people after an estimated 250,000 applicants missed out on the first round of **Olympic tickets**. Approximately 20m requests were made for the 6m tickets available for the Games, meaning that the vast majority of events were oversubscribed, forcing organisers to revert to a ballot. A typical applicant was therefore left with about 10-20% of the tickets they had actually requested. Unsuccessful bidders were offered some consolation after being told that they will be given priority during a second round of ticket allocations for less popular sports. Meanwhile, amid fears that some recipients may not actually have sufficient funds to pay for them, LOCOG has given assurances that unwanted tickets will be able to be sold back – once payment has been made in full.

Amid more adverse publicity for 2012, a new report has argued that despite **legacy promises**, the Games will not improve the lives of the country's most deprived children. Research from the Conservative think tank, the Centre for Social Justice, has concluded that Britain has failed to capitalise on the power of sport and that the legacy pledge would come to be seen as a "highly effective sales pitch that was never fully realised". The report entitled 'More than a Game: Harnessing the power of sport to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people' draws comparisons with the 2000 Sydney Olympics, pointing out that the Australian event failed to raise the level of sports participation and there was no evidence of a link between sporting success at the Australian Games and increased participation. The report went on to warn that the £135m worth of National Lottery funding that has been ploughed into 'taster' sessions of sports at leisure centres across the country will benefit those who already use the facilities, rather than attracting disadvantaged youngsters. Full information is [here](#).

*The participation target was intrinsically flawed from the outset, not just because it was more convincing as a sales pitch than a policy objective, but also because engaging any number of additional people in some unspecified sporting activity is not the same thing as serious, targeted work aimed at transforming the lives of Britain's neediest people.*  
*Centre for Social Justice report.*

Politicians have been left facing the prospect of an angry backlash over the length of their holidays following reports that in 2012 they will be take their earliest **MPs' summer break** in 30 years. Next year's summer recess will begin on 13 July, with MPs citing the tight road restrictions in place ahead of the Olympic Games as the reason. However, the idea was criticised by the TaxPayers' Alliance and by veteran Labour MP David Winnick, who has called for a Commons vote on the proposals. It is yet to be confirmed whether MPs will be given an extended break or be asked to return to Parliament early. The final decision over the proposals rests with House of Commons Leader Sir George Young who only two years ago abolished the 12-week long summer break.

*There is no perfect system. There is no ticket process on a scale like this, this is extraordinary.*  
*Lord Sebastian Coe*

The dispute over the **Olympic Stadium** continues to rumble on after Tottenham Hotspur FC confirmed that they have sought a judicial review of the OPLC's decision to award the Olympic Stadium to a consortium of West Ham United FC and Newham Council. The move follows a similar approach to the High Court against Newham Council's decision to grant West Ham a £40m loan to fund the project with Spurs arguing that this would constitute illegal state aid as well as questioning the process which led to the decision.

Following West Ham's relegation from the Premier League the East London Club has been forced to reiterate its commitment to moving into the Olympic Stadium.

*As far as our plans for the Olympic Stadium are concerned, we are continuing at a pace. All things are connected but the club will obviously set about rebuilding so that we are in a position to challenge at the highest level in the Championship and get back into the Premier League as soon as possible.*  
*A West Ham spokesperson*

It has been revealed that the **Aquatics Centre** will not be completed until the end of July 2011, putting it more than two months behind schedule. The latest delay is the result of complications around maintaining the ambient temperature inside the venue which should be one or two degrees higher than the water temperature. News of the delay comes amid ongoing concerns over the rising cost of the 17,500 capacity venue. The final budget is now nearing the £270m mark, rather more than the original estimate of £72m. With final dates for venue handovers to LOCOG approaching, the two Athletes Village towers also remain behind schedule, with their completion date approximately 10 weeks behind target.

The Olympic news hasn't all been bad this month though. The latest quarterly **economic report** from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport has revealed that £35m will be shaved off building costs for the 2012 Games. The reduction means that the Olympic construction bill now stands at approximately £7.3m, with 83% of Olympic venues and infrastructure in place following the recent completion of the 7,000 capacity handball arena. To read the full report click [here](#).

Olympic organisers have also announced that 90% of the 8,000 people carrying the **Olympic torch** will simply be members of the public. The torch is set to arrive in the UK on 18 May 2012 and will then be on the move for the 70 days leading up to the beginning of the Games, passing within an hour's travel of 95% of the population. LOCOG chief executive Lord Coe has urged residents across the capital to nominate local heroes as potential torch bearers to play a part in the 8,000-mile journey across Britain, with a particular emphasis on young people.

After touring the country, the torch will arrive in Tower Hamlets on 20 July as part of the concessions agreed following the dispute over the altered Olympic Marathon route. It will then travel to all Olympic host boroughs, before continuing its journey to every other London borough. The torch will finally arrive at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July to light the cauldron at the **opening ceremony**. Meanwhile, the capital's overnight destinations for the Olympic torch have been announced, with the flame set to spend the night in Waltham Forest, Bexley, Wandsworth, Ealing, Haringey and Westminster.

With 2012 edging ever closer, Olympics chiefs have announced that the **first test events** for next year Games will be basketball and BMX. Tickets are now available for the year long '*London Prepares*' series starting this summer. Overall, LOCOG will hold 42 test events with international athletes receiving invitations to try out venues a full year before the Games begin. Ticket prices range from £5 to £35 and more information on the full programme can be found [here](#).

Samsung has unveiled **David Beckham** as its new '*global brand ambassador*' in a bid to increase awareness of the firm's sponsorship of London 2012 and its status as an Olympic Partner. Beckham is expected to appear in a number of multi platform adverts to help drive Samsung's 2012 marketing push onward. He will fulfil the role until December 2012.

## Section Four: Planning

While the Inspectorate's Examination Public Report into the **draft London Plan** found the document to be 'sound', the independent panel review has recommended that the Mayor's proposed space standards are made 'aspirational' rather than prescriptive. The review has said that the standards – a response to what the Mayor describes as 'hobbit homes' – are too strict and may hinder development as well as access to affordable homes. It also goes one step further and suggests that rather than limit studio flats to a minimum of 50 sq m, the London Plan should allow for flats of just 37 sq m. While the Mayor has yet to respond to these recommendations, the review has made clear that the Mayor technically does not actually have the power to direct space standards set by boroughs except in the case of 'large, strategic applications.'

Meanwhile, Whitehall has been grappling with changes to its new proposed planning policy following a campaign by the British Chambers of Commerce and British Property Federation to make the **Localism Bill** more business-friendly. The South Bank looks set to be guinea-pig for legislation that would allow local businesses to draw up 'neighbourhood plans' that would then provide the planning framework for the area. The Localism Bill originally only described a system whereby community groups would lead this process. However, this was amended after the Coalition Government faced pressure from lobby groups.

As LCA Monthly went to press, Decentralisation Minister Greg Clark announced an additional 40 communities that will trial '**neighbourhood planning**' on top of the 50 that are already working on it. Those selected will receive £20,000 to fund the process which will be led by local authorities working with community groups to prepare draft plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders, a mechanism by which planning applications can be given automatic permission if they comply with standards set by the community. Of the 40 selected, only two of these will be in London – Edmonton Green in Enfield, and Markham Square in Kensington & Chelsea.

Funding for a floating pontoon in the Thames from Blackfriars to the Tower of London has been secured. Asset managers Venus Group of Singapore will finance the £60m project which will link eight themed pavilions along a 12m wide walkway. If it goes ahead, the **Thames River Park** will be the first continuous pedestrian route along the north bank of the river and will connect Tower Bridge to St Paul's Cathedral. The concept for the Park was created by architecture firm Gensler and won best conceptual project at the Mayor's London Planning Awards earlier this year.

The City of London Corporation has taken steps to shield the so-called **Walkie Talkie tower** from any potential right of light injunction. The Corporation's planning committee has voted in favour of acquiring an interest in the Fenchurch Street development, enabling it to utilise extraordinary planning powers under the Town and Country Planning Act. The decision is subject to a final decision by the Court of Common Council on 9 June and was taken after a court ordered the removal of the top two storeys of another tower block following a right of light injunction by a neighbour. The City of London Corporation has said that the Land Securities and Canary Wharf Group Development is important in order to maintain the supply of high quality office space in the Square Mile.

Land Securities has also been busy on the other side of London as plans for a new development on **Victoria Street** have been submitted to Westminster City Council. The mixed-use development comprising more than 22,000 sq m of office space and 102 luxury flats has been designed by Lynch Architects, a firm whose next largest commission to date has been a single-family home in Hackney. The plans include a suggestion for a new public space as well as restaurant and retail.

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*It was the engineers rather than architects that built Victoria Street and they had no regard for public space. Everything was relentlessly capitalistic.*

*Patrick Lynch, the architect behind Land Securities' proposed new Victoria Street scheme.*

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**Royal Mail** has submitted plans for a 600,000 sq ft mixed use scheme on the site of its sorting office on Rathbone Place, Fitzrovia. Dubbed Newman Place, the proposals include a new street, public square, offices and homes. It is rumoured that the site has attracted interest from Land Securities, Derwent London, and Great Portland Estates, all of whom are well represented in the area already. Westminster City Council is expected to make a decision in the Autumn.

The **London Development Agency** (LDA) has started to promote sites at Silvertown Quays and Royal Albert Dock to international developers. Both sites are within the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone and the LDA is hoping to have secured an agreement with development partners next year.

It could be the most secure development in the country; Ballymore has submitted proposals for 2,000 homes on the site next door to the future US Embassy in Nine Elms. **'Embassy Gardens'** would sit on 15 acres of former industrial land and include 500,000 sq ft of office space as well as shops, bars and restaurants to serve the new neighbourhood, as well as the 1,800 people who work at the embassy. The masterplan has been designed by Sir Terry Farrell and the plans will go before Wandsworth Council's planning committee later this year.

Nearby, the headquarters of home-shopping channel QVC could be turned into flats, shops and offices if the proposals submitted by residential investor Marcus Cooper are granted consent. Marco Polo House sits just next door to Battersea Power Station on a 3.1 acre site linked to the **Nine Elms Opportunity Area**.

Quintain Estates and Development PLC's transformation of **Wembley City** took a major step forward this month after Brent Council granted consent for the next phase of its large-scale development. The plans are for a 160,000m<sup>2</sup> mixed-use scheme around the Council's new Civic Centre – set to open in 2013 – and up to 1,300 homes centred around a one-acre public square. Sports fans will also be pleased to learn of a major upgrade to the famous Olympic Way pedestrian route that leads to the entrance of Wembley Stadium.

Plans for a 'six-star' hotel in the controversial new **Chelsea Barracks** development have been left out of the outline planning application put to Westminster City Council. The much debated Qatari Diar scheme has been the subject of intense scrutiny over the last few years, not least from Prince Charles who did not approve of its earlier, more modernist incarnation. However, according to local groups, the developer has been much more eager to engage this time around and the loss of the hotel from the masterplan was a result of concern from residents that it would lead to traffic and late-night drinking in the area. The masterplan for around 450 homes, supermarket and leisure centre will now go before Westminster City Council's planning committee.

“ “ *They have been very careful – they've almost gone overboard. I can't think of another project in London with this level of [community] involvement. Had the earlier scheme had this kind of consultation, there might have been a different result. However, what concerns me is whether their attitude will remain the same once they have planning permission.*  
*Belgravia Residents' Association member Randa Hanna on Qatari Diar's engagement for its Chelsea Barracks scheme* ” ”

Meanwhile, King Street Developments, the firm in charge of the regeneration of the land around **Hammersmith Town Hall** has been under increasing pressure from local groups about its plans for two 15-storey buildings. The Sheppard Robson designed scheme has been the subject of an opposition campaign by local residents' group Save Our Skyline. Hammersmith and Fulham councillor Lucy Ivimy has resigned as Cabinet Member for Housing in order to allow her to speak more freely about her opposition to the proposals as a member of the planning committee. The developers have agreed to look again at the height of the buildings proposed.

“ “ *Almost embarrassingly twee.*  
*Kensington and Chelsea councillor Daniel Moylan describes the new loggia (ornate entrance) to Kensington Palace, suggested by Prince Charles and granted permission by the Planning Inspector after the council turned it down.* ” ”

Sutton Council has given the green light to a £150m project to create a 'sustainable suburb'. The outline planning permission is for the transformation of a trading estate in **Hackbridge** into more than 700 new homes, bus station, supermarket and retail and office space. The plans were submitted by Shroder Property Investment Management with development managers Savills, who hope to begin work on phase one – the 4,000 sq m supermarket – next year.

## Section Five: Transport

The biggest transport story in May was an announcement by Transport Secretary Philip Hammond that **armed teams** of British Transport Police are set to patrol the Tube and major transport networks. The decision, which was agreed in conjunction with Home Secretary Teresa May, comes amid fears that the London transport system could be subject to a terrorist attack, particularly in the run up to the 2012 Olympics. Armed officers are to be deployed at stations and could occasionally travel on the Tube network as well; the first time this has ever happened and ushering in a sinister new era for London's travelling public.

“*Circumstances in the Tube are much more complex than the street. Training must be much more vigorous. In the run-up to the Olympics this shows they are taking the threat very seriously.*  
*Security analyst Paul Beaver on the news that armed police will routinely patrol on the Underground.*”

Relief and anger meanwhile were the two main reactions to the news that **industrial action by transport workers** during London 2012 will be avoided. Rail unions have agreed what they call a “groundbreaking” deal with Network Rail (NR), which secured pay rises and other conditions during the Games. Some 10,000 workers will get a pay rise of around 10% over two years and some will get extra shift payments during the games, in the joint deal with the unions RMT and TSSA. No NR staff can be dismissed during the Games and disputes will be fast-tracked or suspended until September 2012. But the deal has met with severe criticism from several MPs who have accused NR of giving in to blackmail and allowing high pay increases in the midst of public sector pay freezes.



Bob Crow tells London Assembly RMT seeking from LU “same, if not better” no-strike Olympic deal as Network Rail. @londontonight  
[@simonharrisito](#) Simon Harris

Meanwhile, the **tube strikes** planned for 16-29 May and 13-17 June have also been averted after London Underground agreed to re-employ sacked driver Eamonn Lynch and hold further discussions over the dismissal of the other sacked driver Arwyn Thomas in advance of his Employment Tribunal. However, this did not prevent the Mayor from becoming embroiled in a war of words with certain members of the Coalition over his handling of the unions.

Employment Relations Minister **Ed Davey** demanded that the Mayor “get off his backside” and open negotiations with rail union leaders. Business Secretary Vince Cable also entered the fray and called on the Mayor to reach out to Bob Crow. Not to be outdone, the Mayor retaliated by branding ministers “adolescents” and demanding that they “pull their fingers out” and support his proposals for new laws that would increase the level of support needed to justify strike action. This would be particularly welcome as new figures have shown that Tube passenger numbers have reached the 1.1bn mark (over a 12 month period) for the first time in the history of the service.

More than 300 RMT members working at the **Heathrow Express** however are still set to strike after voting overwhelmingly for action in a dispute over pay. Workers at Heathrow Airport and Eastbourne Terrace have agreed to strike for 48 hours from 03:40 hours on Friday 27 May and for 24 hours from 03:40 hours on Friday 24 June. Further action will also be scheduled in July. The RMT has also raised ‘serious safety fears’ over a strike-breaking operation that Heathrow Express are attempting to put in place. The union says that managers are driving trains and taking on other safety critical roles without proper training. The union has confirmed that their concerns have been raised with the Office of Rail Regulation.

Transport for London (TfL) and developer Treasury Holdings have launched a public consultation on the proposed **extension of the Northern Line in Battersea**. If approved, the private sector-funded 3km extension would link Kennington to Battersea and create two new Tube stations. It would serve Battersea, Vauxhall and Nine Elms where significant development is underway. The consultation is set to end on 17 June. More information can be found [here](#).

Mystery surrounds an intriguing new map that appeared on the TfL website showing details of “potential extensions” to the **Docklands Light Railway**. According to the new plans, the westbound Bank branch of the service would split in two with one arm reaching Euston and St Pancras, the other travelling to Victoria. With any clear details yet to be given, the capital's transport community are keeping a close eye on the emerging proposals.

Andrew Wolstenholme has been named as the **new chief executive of Crossrail**. He is most well-known for his work at Heathrow Terminal 5 and his role overseeing the completion of the Heathrow Express rail service. The Balfour Beatty executive saw off competition from a number of strong contenders including former LCR finance chief Mark Bayley. Wolstenholme will replace outgoing chief executive Rob Holden who is becoming chairman of High Speed 1 in July.

Meanwhile, manufacturer Herrenknecht has won a contract to provide six massive **tunnelling machines** for Crossrail. The earth pressure balance machines (EPB) will be required to bore the project's 21km long tunnels and are expected to be delivered some time in early 2012.

Commuters could soon be given more breathing space after the Government announced plans to fine rail train operators who fail to provide enough carriages. The proposals will be included in a White Paper which is due to be published later this year. The charges were the idea of Sir Roy McNulty who recently conducted an independent review to get better value for money from our railways. There is currently no incentive for firms to provide extra space as **overcrowded services** mean lower running costs.

## > Section Six: The GLA Family

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Maverick Tory councillor Brian Coleman is fighting his own party over **Saracens Rugby Club's** plans for a £14m stadium in Barnet. The London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden is opposing a move by the club to Barnet's Cophall Stadium, despite his council backing the plans and agreeing a peppercorn rent of £1-per-annum for 99 years – which would allow the club access to the stadium to do some work before any planning consent was given. Concerns have been raised by residents over an increase in pollution because of thousands of extra cars that would visit the Mill Hill venue. Coleman has asked those residents who share his lack of enthusiasm for the scheme to “lobby hard”. The plans will go before a planning committee next month and the club hope to make the move in January 2012.

The **London Fire Brigade** (LFB) has announced that it is recruiting 150 new trainee firefighters and that there will be a strong focus on hiring more women into the force although unions have immediately said the new recruits will only cover existing staff shortages rather than improving frontline services. Concerns have also been raised over the authority's ability to find its planned savings of £2m over the next five years once the recruitment drive is underway.



*The old stereotype of firefighting being a man's job is a cliché.*

*Brian Coleman, leader of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority*



A London Assembly Report has found that the Met Police could make millions of pounds of **police force efficiency** savings a year without compromising public safety or effectiveness. The report insists that too much is being spent on “*risk management*” and calls for a reduction in the size of specialist units. It also claims that savings could be made if back office functions became more efficient and civilian staff took over more duties from uniformed officers. Government funding for the police will be cut by 20% by 2014/15, which has led to a £163m reduction to the Met's budget this year with some senior officers and politicians warning that the cuts could lead to an increase in crime levels. To read the full report click [here](#).

The London Assembly's Planning and Housing Committee has launched an investigation into the condition of the capital's **private rented housing** – a sector that is continuing to grow rapidly. The sector also provides temporary homes for people awaiting social rented housing or those claiming housing benefit, which results in around £400m of public subsidy going to private landlords. Although improving, property conditions in the sector are still worse than those in either social housing or owner occupation, and the Mayor has vowed to improve standards.

A lively **London Assembly Transport Committee** saw members bemoan ongoing delays across the network and a lack of information available from TfL about the Tube network. A large portion of the session was devoted to the London Underground strikes and whether or not there would be a “*no-strike deal*” in place on the underground during the 2012 Games, as has been agreed for the rail network nationally. Bob Crow, general secretary of the RMT, said that he is hopeful that there will be. The next session looking at the London Underground will take place on 14 June before a report is published later this year.

## Section Seven: People

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Throughout May more of London's **local authorities** held annual meetings to swear-in a new mayor and review committee memberships. The latest changes in leadership are as follows:

- Barnet Council – Lynne Hillan has resigned as leader due to terminal cancer. Deputy Leader Andrew Harper will take the role on an interim basis and a leadership election will take place in due course
- Bexley Council – Colin Campbell has replaced Simon Windle as deputy leader
- Bromley Council – Colin Smith has replaced Graham Arthur as deputy leader
- Camden Council – Sue Vincent has replaced Angela Mason as deputy leader
- Kensington & Chelsea Council – Nicholas Paget-Brown has replaced Daniel Moylan as deputy leader
- Wandsworth Council – Ravi Govindia has replaced Eddie Lister as leader. Jonathan Cook has replaced Maurice Heaster as deputy leader

For more details on changes to London's local authorities please contact our intelligence team led by Chris Madel on [cm@londoncommunications.co.uk](mailto:cm@londoncommunications.co.uk)

The GLA has appointed **David Lunts** as its interim director of housing and regeneration. Lunts is being seconded from his role as executive director of the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) to help the transition of HCA and the London Development Agency (LDA) activities into the GLA under the leadership of the Mayor. Before working at the HCA, Lunts managed planning and regeneration while working for previous mayor Ken Livingstone.

**Ian Lindsay** will be leaving Network Rail at the end of June to take on a new role as Director of Land & Property at Crossrail.

As previously noted, **Andrew Wolstenholme**, currently director of innovation and strategic capability with Balfour Beatty, has been named as the new chief executive of Crossrail. He will succeed Rob Holden, who is stepping down in July.

British Waterways has appointed new trustees. They are:

- **Tony Hales**, British Waterways chairman, who has been appointed chair
- **Lynne Berry**, chief executive of charity WRVS
- **John Bridgeman**, British Waterways vice chairman
- **Jane Cotton**, deputy chief executive at Oxfam
- **John Dodwell**, former chair of the Commercial Boat Operators Association
- **Tom Franklin**, chief executive of the Ramblers
- **Simon Thurley**, chief executive of English Heritage

**Andy Anson**, the former chief executive of England's bid for the 2018 World Cup, has been announced as a non-executive director of the British Olympic Association.

Construction industry giant **Malcolm McAlpine**, chief executive of Sir Robert McAlpine – the company that helped deliver the Olympic Stadium, has died at the age of 93.

**Gordon Innes** has been appointed as the chief executive of London & Partners, the newly-created agency representing tourism, foreign direct investment and higher education in the capital. He was formerly a civil servant at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

## Section Eight: The Month Ahead

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- 2 June:** The event previously known as the **State of London debate** – now known as Talk London – takes place at the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster
- 2-3 June:** An **annual conference on the Olympic Games** will be hosted by the University of Greenwich with the Olympic legacy amongst the topics
- 3-7 June:** Lord's Cricket Ground hosts the **England v Sri Lanka** test match
- 4 June:** **England take on Switzerland** in a 2012 football European Championship qualifier at Wembley Stadium
- 5 June:** The **London to Brighton classic car run** takes place
- 5 June:** A free festival on Regent Street, **A Taste of Spain** commences
- 6 June:** Members of the **House of Lords return to Parliament** following the Whitsun recess
- 6-12 June:** The **AEGON International tennis tournament** takes place at Queen's Club
- 7 June:** At City Hall, the London Assembly Planning and Housing Committee meets to discuss the **condition of London's private rented housing**
- 7 June:** Members of the **House of Commons return to Parliament** following the Whitsun recess
- 7 June:** The selection for the **Children's Laureate** is announced
- 8 June:** The London Assembly Plenary convenes at City Hall where questions will be asked of **Kit Malthouse and Tim Godwin with regard to policing and Eddie Lister on planning**
- 8 June:** The ceremony for the **Orange Prize for Fiction** award takes place at the Royal Albert Hall
- 9 June:** London Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee holds a session on the **SportAccord 2011 by questioning Dan Ritterband** at City Hall
- 9 June:** London Councils holds its annual **London Congress** event
- 9 June:** **Future of London and GVA Grimley Event** on [engaging the private sector to deliver development in London](#)
- 10 June:** **Building magazine** hosts a [conference on supermarkets](#)
- 10 June:** **New London Architecture** hosts the second part of its [New London meets New York breakfast talks](#)
- 10 June:** The last day that **London 2012 ticket money** can be taken from accounts
- 11 June:** **Trooping the Colour** takes place to celebrate the Queen's official birthday
- 11 June:** **The Greyhound Derby** takes place in Wimbledon
- 12 June:** London Councils hosts their **Borough Leaders Committee**
- 13 June:** The **Grants Committee** takes place at London Councils
- 13-15 June:** The **Planning Convention** looks at [Planning in the Big Society](#)
- 14 June:** A London Assembly Transport Committee meeting takes place to look at the **state of London Underground**
- 14 June:** London Councils hosts their annual **Leaders Committee** meeting
- 15 June:** The Mayor of London will attend **Mayor's Question Time** at City Hall
- 16 June – 14 July:** A **New London Architecture and Joseph Rowntree** exhibition called [Communities Under Pressure](#) is on show
- 16 June:** A **London Assembly Standards Committee** meeting convenes at City Hall
- 17 June:** Applications for a **Liberal Democrat 2012 Mayoral candidate** must be submitted
- 17 June:** Consultation ends on Transport for London's investigation into the **extension of the Northern Line to Nine Elms and Battersea**
- 20-3 July:** **Wimbledon** hosts the annual tennis Grand Slam

**21 June:** The newly named London Assembly Economy, Culture and Sport Committee looks at the **Mayor's role in economic development** at City Hall

**22 June:** A **New London Architecture** half-day conference looks at how [London's workplaces can remain competitive](#)

**22 June:** The London Assembly Health and Public Services Committee continues to **investigate the London Ambulance Service** at City Hall

**22 June:** Another London Assembly meeting takes place at City Hall – the **Business, Management and Administration Committee**

**23 June:** A London Assembly Environment Committee meeting will be held at City Hall regarding the **Olympic Park environmental legacy**

**23 June:** The Office of National Statistics will publish its **latest population trends**

**24 June:** A London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (**LFEP**A) meeting takes place

**24 June:** **Property Week** magazine will host a [conference on hotels](#)

**26 June – 17 July:** The **Women's football World Cup** (or Weltmeisterschaft) will take place in Germany

**27 June:** The London Councils **Executive Committee** will take place

**27 June – 8 July:** The **Lee Valley White Water Centre** Schools' Festival takes place, welcoming school groups from every London borough to the brand new Olympic venue for free

**28 June:** Fresh from being investigated by the London Assembly, the **London Ambulance Trust** holds its board meeting

**28 June:** The **Confederation of British Industry and Management Today business summit** will discuss the opportunities for [UK economic growth in Westminster](#)

**28-30 June:** The annual summer conference of the **Local Government Association** will be hosted by the ICC in Birmingham

**28 June:** Sri Lanka's summer cricket tour of the UK continues with the **first one-day match** to be held at the Oval

**29 June:** Passenger Focus' **National Passenger Survey** is published

**29 June -3 July:** The **Henley Royal Regatta** will occur

**30 June:** A **Metropolitan Police Authority** meeting takes place

**30 June -12 July:** The **London Indian film festival** takes place

If you know anyone else within your organisation who would like to receive these briefings please do let us know. Alternatively, if you would rather not be sent this document then please also let us know. We would welcome your views on the content, if you have any comments please contact Sarah Bishell on 020 7612 8493.

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**London Communications Agency**

Middlesex House | 34-42 Cleveland St | London | W1T 4JE  
t: 020 7612 8480 | f: 020 7612 8481  
lca@londoncommunications.co.uk

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