

**Making
London's
Mayor
Accountable**
Manifesto
2008

Mayor Boris Johnson

Giving Londoners their say

Pledge

Communicate in plain English and listen to the results of consultations (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.4).

Hold more Public Question Times, where Londoners will be able to directly question the Mayor (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.4).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

I pledged that I would listen to Londoners and I have done just that.

You may remember that after a consultation, I scrapped the Western Extension of the Congestion Charge Zone (WEZ) in line with the wishes of residents, businesses and other organisations. The last day of charging was 24 December 2010. (Mayor of London, Press Release, *48 hours until the end of the Western Extension Zone*, 22 December 2010).

In addition, I have taken action to 'communicate in plain English' and simplify GLA Group publications. For example the London Underground house manual is being reduced from 1200 to just 400 pages (HMT, *National Infrastructure Plan 2011*, p.11).

This is in stark contrast to my predecessor who imposed the WEZ despite 63 per cent of residents and 72 per cent of businesses opposing the scheme (Daily Mail, *Ken gives go-ahead for congestion charge extension*, 30 September 2005).

Promise delivered.

I have been delighted to hold more public meetings, as well as meet thousands of Londoners whilst out and about.

Between November 2008 and November 2011 I held 7 People's Question Times (GLA Website, *People's Question Time*).

In addition, other platforms have been created to work alongside People's Question Times, such as the 3 Talk London events and the 9 Mayor's Consultation meetings on specific issues important to Londoners held so far. As Mayor therefore I have held 24 meetings inviting my constituents to question me. (Talk London Website, GLA Website, *Mayor's consultation meetings*).

This is more in 4 years than the 16 which Ken Livingstone held in his two terms in office (GLA Website).

Chair the Metropolitan Police Authority, so Londoners can hold me to account over what happens with the police (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.4).

Ensure local police chiefs hold monthly open public meetings (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.4).

Promise delivered.

I became the Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority shortly after my election in May 2008.

Once the direction of London policing had been set I stood down from this role in January 2010 and promoted my Deputy, elected Assembly member, Kit Malthouse, preserving democratic accountability (BBC News Online, *Boris Johnson steps down from police authority*, 27 January 2010).

A Revised Approach

The MPA has since been replaced by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC) which is headed by my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. This change means that as Mayor and Deputy Mayor we will be even more accountable to Londoners for police performance, setting local priorities and allocating resources (GLA Website, *About MOPC*).

When we appointed the new Met Commissioner, I made it clear that this would be someone who has a clear strategy for tackling gang violence and youth crime and restoring pride in our great city. (BBC News Online, *Bernard Hogan-Howe new Metropolitan Police commissioner*, 27 September 2011)

As a result of my personal lead, crime has fallen in London by 10.6 per cent, robberies are down 16.7 per cent and murders have decreased by 24.4 per cent (MPS statistics, Comparing 44 months of Ken Livingstone September 2004 – April 2008 with 44 months of Boris Johnson May 2008 - December 2011).

Making progress.

Although monthly public meetings with the Police Borough Commander are not held in every borough, many boroughs hold some sort of regular public meetings. These allow residents to question their local police.

My introduction of crime mapping has opened up local policing to residents, transforming the accountability of the Met (Metropolitan Police Service MPS, *Police Crime Map*).

Hold regular meetings with business leaders, so businesses large and small can have direct, personal contact with the Mayor (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.4).

Work closely and co-operate with locally-elected Councillors instead of bullying and berating them (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.4).

Promise delivered.

I pledged to hold meetings with businesses at least every six months I have far exceeded this by holding 106 meetings on business issues, including 8 meetings with the London Business Advisory Council alongside many meetings with individuals (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Report to the Assembly*, May 2008 – November 2011).

This has enabled me to listen and respond to the concerns of small businesses, leading to the creation of the £50 million Outer London Fund (GLA Website, *Outer London Fund*).

I have also therefore been able to negotiate good deals for Londoners, such as securing private sponsorship for the cycle hire scheme and cycle superhighways saving taxpayers money whilst delivering services (Mayor of London, Press Release, *Barclays saddle up to sponsor London Cycle Hire Scheme*, 28 May 2010).

Promise delivered.

I meet with the leaders of London boroughs twice a year at the London Congress (GLA Press Release, *Mayor's vision for better focused GLA with more say and more power on key London issues*, 15 June 2010, London Councils website, *Congress of Leaders*).

At the April 29th 2009 meeting at the London Congress, I agreed with London's Borough Leaders the London City Charter, a ground-breaking new agreement that sets out how the GLA, the boroughs and their delivery partners will work together to ensure that London's public services continue to improve and to be delivered as efficiently as possible. (London Councils website, *Congress of Leaders*).

I have a strong relationship with local councils, of all political colours, which has enabled me to achieve more for London, such as the redevelopment of Stratford and East London (Mayor of London, *The revised London Housing Strategy*, December 2011).

Ending the culture of cronyism at City Hall

Pledge

Create a Cabinet for London, to run London in a more business-like and efficient manner (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.10).

Strengthen the accountability of Mayoral advisers by putting a separate register of interests online, and requiring them to appear before the London Assembly on a regular basis (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.11).

Stand for only two terms (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.11).

What has been achieved so far

Promised Delivered.

I have run London in a more business-like and efficient way, which has resulted in cutting £2bn of waste, freeing up taxpayer's money (GLA, *Final Draft Consolidated Budget 2012-2013: Explaining of Proposals*, 1 February 2012, p. 117).

To ensure my governance is as open as possible, Mayoral decisions are placed online at the earliest opportunity once they are formally agreed (GLA Website, *Mayoral Decisions*).

I have also ensured transparency in decision making, all GLA expenditure over £500 and decisions relating to expenditure over £50,000 are accessible to the public (GLA Website, *GLA decision making*, August 2011; GLA Website, *Making expenditure clear*).

A Revised Approach

On reflection it became clear the Mayoralty was not best suited to a Cabinet system of government. This is what distinguishes it from other forms of local and regional government and ultimately makes it more effective. What I have done is open City Hall and my team up to the same level of scrutiny that a Cabinet would have (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 15 July 2009, 2143/2009).

Promise delivered.

For the first time, the GLA website now has a section on the appointments to my Mayoral team.

Each member also has their expenses, interests, gifts and hospitality published, (GLA Website, *Mayoral Team*).

The GLA website also contains the ways that members of the public can get involved, meet me or contact the GLA (GLA Website, *Contact us*).

Promise delivered.

I am currently standing for my second term as Mayor.

By contrast Ken Livingstone said in the past that he would only stand for one term but has served two terms and is contesting his 4th Mayoral election this year (Ken Livingstone, *Manifesto for a Mayor and London Assembly*, 1998).

Restoring trust in how City Hall spends your money

Pledge

Launch an immediate review of City Hall and its finances within the first 100 days (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.13).

Launch an immediate independent review of the London Development Agency and all grants given by that body (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.13).

Enable Londoners to view all GLA expenditure over £1,000 with a comprehensive search engine on the Mayor's website (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.13).

Review the process of making appointments to all the functional bodies to ensure maximum transparency (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.13).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

In the first week after I was elected as Mayor of London I announced the formation of the Forensic Audit Panel which reported in July 2008 (Legacy London Website, *Report of the Mayor's Forensic Audit Panel*).

The report concluded that Ken Livingstone's LDA 'misspent' money 'on a massive scale, say tens of millions' (GLA, *Report of the Mayor's Forensic Audit Panel*, 15 July 2008).

Promise delivered.

The review of the LDA was conducted by the Forensic Audit Panel which reported in July 2008.

The report concluded that Ken Livingstone's LDA 'misspent' money 'on a massive scale, say tens of millions.'

It also found that there were failings in the LDA's leadership, governance and basic controls which led to the conclusion that the former LDA board was ineffective (GLA, *Report of the Mayor's Forensic Audit Panel*, 15 July 2008).

Promise delivered.

I have been determined to make my City Hall as transparent as possible. Now for the first time we published all significant GLA expenditure.

Since 2008 all GLA expenditure over £1,000 has been published online. In 2010 the reporting threshold was reduced to £500. I have also enabled detailed scrutiny of all GLA expenditure via the London Datastore (GLA Website, *Expenditure*, London Datastore Website).

I believe that Londoners now have the transparent City Hall they deserve, and that they can see my commitment to streamlining City Hall finances.

This never happened under Ken Livingstone.

Promise delivered.

The GLA Act was amended by the Government in 2011, to include confirmation hearings for chairs of functional bodies (GLA Website, *Proposed amendments to the GLA's Standing Orders Appendix 1*, 2011).

I have been determined to be as transparent as possible, such as when one of the Mayor's two direct appointments to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority became vacant and an open and transparent recruitment process was established to fill the place (GLA Website, *Mayoral Decisions - MD914*).

Ensure Londoners pay no more than 38p per week for the Olympics (Boris Johnson, *Making London's Mayor Accountable*, 2008, p.13).

Promise delivered.

I have frozen Council Tax for three consecutive years and cut it this year. This includes the £20 precept for a band D property that is levied for the Olympic Games. This equates to 38 pence a week for the average London home (GLA, *Consolidated Budget and Component Budget 2011-12*, February 2011, p.15).

This is a contrast to the approach under Ken Livingstone which saw the GLA precept of council tax increase by 152 per cent in just eight years, costing the average household £964 (Annual Figures can be found at GLA Website, *Budget archive*).