

Appreciating Our Seniors

Manifesto
2008

Mayor Boris Johnson

Making London safer

Pledge

Chair the Metropolitan Police Authority to make our streets safer (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 4).

Stand up against excessive police form-filling and support the scrapping of the stop and account form, lobbying the Government hard for its removal (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 4).

What has been achieved so far

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The MPA has since been replaced by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC) which is headed by my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.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).

Promise delivered.

I have been focused on getting police officers out from behind their desks onto the street. In the two years from May 2008 to May 2010 the Met took 209 forms out of use (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 19 May 2010).

In March 2011 the Government gave police forces the option to scrap the stop and account form (Home Office Website, *'Stop and search'*). The Met has however decided to continue using the stop and account form after an MPA consultation found robust support for recording "stop and account" to make sure the process was both transparent and accountable (The Guardian, *Met police will retain recording of "stop and account" street encounters*, 23 September 2011).

From January 2009 a shorter revised stop and search was launched, with the time it takes to complete reduced from 8-10 minutes to 3-5 minutes. (MPA, *A Practical Guide to stop and search community monitoring groups*, August 2009.)

Expect Police Community Support Officers to take some of the administrative burden from police officers, so they can spend more time out on the streets (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 4).

Crack down on binge-drinking and 'name and shame' councils that fail to use their powers to tackle the problem (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 4).

Promised delivered.

In 2009 I introduced Operation Herald, a scheme focused on cutting administrative tasks and paperwork for London's police officers (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 July 2010).

A revised approach.

The scheme found that many of the administrative tasks could be cut altogether or done by civilian staff, rather than PCSOs, thus enabling more police presence on the streets.

Operation Herald moved clerical duties away from trained police officers to general staff, put more police on the front line and achieved efficiencies of 451 positions (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 July 2010).

We continue to work to get more officers out on the streets. There will be 1,000 more police officers than in 2008 by May 2012 (GLA, *The Mayors Consultation Budget*, 22 December 2011, p 1).

There are now 630 Safer Neighbourhood Teams, 1 for each of London's 624 neighbourhood wards, plus 5 more for the city of Westminster and 1 more for Crystal Palace where three boroughs meet. These are made up of at least 2 Police Constables and 3 PCSOs. There are over 4,100 police officers dedicated to neighbourhood policing (MPS Website, *Safer Neighbourhoods*).

Making progress.

As Mayor of London, I immediately delivered a ban on the alcohol on Tube, bus, Docklands Light Railway, and tram services and stations across the capital (Mayor of London Press Release, *Mayor unveils plans to ban alcohol on the transport network*, May 2008).

The London Health Inequalities Strategy 2009 commits to enable Londoners to take action to reduce alcohol related harm. City Hall has been working with London Councils and other partners to improve the management of the night time economy and to reduce under-age sales. I also supported the work of the Greater London Alcohol and Drug Alliance (GLADA). I hosted the first health leadership summit on 1 November 2010 (GLA, *Health Inequalities Strategy one year on report*, June 2011).

Alcohol abuse was one of the early priorities of the London Health Improvement Board, which was set up in 2011. Proposals include more support for alcohol abusers, working with licensing authorities to ensure alcohol is supplied responsibly and developing an awards scheme to highlight best practice in town centre management and bars and off-licences which sell alcohol responsibly (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 15 June 2010, GLA, Press Release, *Health priorities for London set by new board*, 16 January 2012).

In addition, in February 2012 I announced that criminals convicted of serious drink-related offences will be fitted with 'sobriety bracelets' under a new pilot scheme in London. Anyone continuing to drink will be arrested and brought before a judge who has the option of sending them back to prison (Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor welcomes new approach to alcohol related crime in London but says more is needed*, 10 Feb 2012, PA News, *Bracelet scheme for drink offenders*, 11 February 2012).

Helping older people get around safely

Pledge

Protect and extend the Freedom Pass by working with the local councils (who fund it) to make it valid 24 hours a day (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 8).

Increase safety on buses by doubling the amount of police officers on patrol, adding 440 extra officers; and fund 50 extra fully-warranted British Transport Police Officers to patrol the worst railway stations in outer London (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 8).

Crack down on the young people who create trouble on the buses through the Payback London scheme, which will withdraw their right to free bus travel and allow them to earn it back by undertaking community service (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 8).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

I moved quickly to ensure the Freedom Pass is now valid 24 hours a day. The pre 9.00am validity is paid for in full from the Mayor's Budget (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 17 December 2008, Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 9 November 2011).

Promise delivered.

I prioritised safety on London's public transport. An extra 440 uniformed officers were recruited to the Safer Transport Teams (GLA Website, Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 16 July 2008).

There are now an extra 50 Transport Police on the Overground and particularly outer London stations (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 21 May 2009).

In 2008, I also banned alcohol on the Tube (TfL, Press Release, *Alcohol ban comes into force on the Tube, trams and buses from this Sunday*, 1 June 30 May 2008).

Bus crime has decreased by 30 per cent during my term (MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012. Comparing 45 months of Ken Livingstone (August 2004 – April 2008) with 45 months of Boris Johnson (May 2008 – January 2012).

Promise delivered.

Launched in August 2009, Payback London scheme requires under 18s who have their free bus travel withdrawn to earn it back through community work (TfL Press Release, *Under 18s free travel rules begin*, 1 June 2008).

I am pleased that we have used this scheme to show to young people the importance of caring for their city – clearing graffiti, picking up litter, and helping community schemes.

10,068 individuals have had their passes withdrawn since 2009 (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011).

Work with the Government and train operators to make more Overground stations step-free (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 8).

Promise delivered.

Despite tough financial times 15 Tube stations have been made step-free during my term in office, including Green Park, now a key step-free gateway to the West End, and Hainault Station in Redbridge (TFL Press Release, *Hainault Tube Station is now step-free with three new lift*, 3 March 2010).

At one of London's busiest Overground stations, Clapham Junction, I opened a new entrance and nine new lifts in 2011 (South West Trains, *Station upgrade gives Clapham Junction a big lift*, 20 May 2011).

A further two interchange stations (Blackfriars and Farringdon) will be made step-free in early 2012. Another five major Tube stations will be made step-free within the current Business Plan period, to 2014/18. At my instruction, TfL is also continuing to look at opportunities for developer-funded schemes at stations like South Kensington.

The Department for Transport announced last year that six London Overground stations will be made step-free, more than anticipated, and accessibility improvements will be made at Stratford DLR (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011).

Making London age friendly

Pledge

Encourage developers to design safer walkways, better paving, and greener spaces in new developments, including in the Thames Gateway (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 11).

Preserve the existence of small, independent shops through better protection in planning legislation (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 11).

Improve open spaces in London, and work with local councils to improve street cleanliness (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 11).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

The New London Plan includes a commitment to ensure that the design of all new housing developments and social infrastructure should be accessible to and take particular account of the needs of older people (GLA, *The London Plan*, July 2011).

Promise delivered.

My London Plan sets out a new policy to provide and support affordable shop units (GLA, *The London Plan*, July 2011).

I vocally supported the Evening Standard 'Save our Shops' campaign, a new £4 million High Street Fund to offer supports to small business (London Evening Standard 'Big business boosts £3m fund to get London's high street working again'. 24 August 2011; Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 September 2011).

My Outer London Fund is a £50million three-year initiative launched in 2011, which will strengthen the vibrancy and growth of London's high streets and local areas. (London Assembly, *Mayor's Question Time*, 9 February 2012).

Promise delivered.

Under the Help a London Park scheme, 11 parks have been awarded £6 million (GLA Website, Help a London Park).

The 'Love Clean London' application was launched in March 2011 to engage citizens and reduce litter and associated costs. (Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor launches assault on 'grime-crime' ahead of Olympic year*, March 2011).

I have been a vocal supporter of the Capital Clean-Up campaign, to make London cleaner and greener for the Olympics 2012 by co-ordinating events from litter-picks to litter enforcement and education activities across the capital. Around 1,700 volunteers took part in nearly 150 events across 22 boroughs during the summer 2011 campaign (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 September 2011).

Safeguard domestic gardens by preventing developments on them (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 11).

Improve respect for older people by encouraging organisations to recruit older people as volunteers, including for the Olympics (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 11).

Promise delivered.

In 2010 the Government changed the definition of brownfield sites so that domestic gardens are not included and no local authority is obliged to build on gardens if it does not want to (DCLG, Press Release, *Clark - new powers to prevent unwanted 'garden grabbing'*, 9 June 2010).

These changes were reflected in my new 2011 London Plan, under which private residential gardens are no longer classed as previously developed land and boroughs are allowed to introduce a presumption against development on back gardens or other private residential gardens in their Local Development Frameworks (GLA, *The London Plan*, July 2011).

As part of the Capital Growth project to encourage volunteering in London, 1032 food gardens have been unveiled with a target of 2000 spaces by the end of 2012. Grants from City Hall for the gardens range from £200 to £1000 (GLA, *Mayor announces 1000 + community food gardens tended by 35,000 Londoners*, June 2011).

Promise delivered.

My team and I are working across all policy areas to improve respect for older Londoners. The GLA now encourages older people to volunteer (GLA Website, *Helping yourself and helping the community by volunteering*).

As part of a drive to improve respect for older people, through Team London, my £4m volunteering programme, young people will teach older people IT. Additionally to help vulnerable and elderly Londoners, eighty 'Contact the Elderly' groups have established across capital supported by 1,200 volunteers. (GLA Press Release, *Mayor of London supports London's isolated and older residents through Team London*, 15 December 2011).

Fighting for essential services

Pledge

Support local health services by campaigning against closures and fighting to save local GP services (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 17).

Campaign to protect Post Offices (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 17).

Encourage awareness and take-up of entitlements by older people, especially Council Tax, through a 'Your Rights' information campaign (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 17).

What has been achieved so far

Making progress.

I have persistently and vocally stood up to Government of London's local health services, including meeting with Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health, to discuss health service in London and the Health and Inequality Strategy.

Two important facilities I have joined you in campaigning to save include the children's heart surgery unit at the Royal Brompton Hospital and the Urgent Care Centre at Queen Mary's Hospital in Bexley. (Evening Standard, *Boris joins fight to save children's heart centre*, 15 September 2011, Bexley Times, *Campaigners furious that the A&E and maternity closure at Sidcup are going ahead before review*, September 2010)

Promise delivered.

As soon as I took office I began lobbying the Government to protect London's post offices from closure (Mayor of London, Press Release, *Boris Johnson calls on Government to save London's Post Offices*, 28 June 2008).

However the then Labour Government failed to take action to reform the Post Office network. Currently there are no plans for a closure programme for the network of 11,500 branches and the Government has announced that the Post Office will receive 1.3 billion over the next four years to reform the network (BBC Online, *Post office to offer new services*, 9 November 2010).

Promise delivered.

I launched the 'Know your rights campaign' in partnership with Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureau and benefit and debt advice agencies in October 2011. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the support available to vulnerable Londoners to help them heat their homes and pay their energy bills this winter (London older people strategies group, *Mayor know your rights campaign*, 2011, Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011).

Introduce an automatic one-off Council Tax rebate to encourage home insulation, making homes warmer and more environmentally friendly (Boris Johnson, *Appreciating our Seniors*, 2008, p. 17).

Not met - a revised approach

Instead of introducing a council tax rebate scheme, more effective initiatives have been introduced to increase the energy efficiency of London's homes:

I have committed £7.8 million to RE:NEW – an area-based homes energy efficiency programme which is installing free 'easy' energy efficiency and water efficiency measures such as showerheads and radiator panels in 55,000 London homes by March 2012, as well as referring homes for further insulation and heating measures. This means that every household in a RE:NEW area can receive free energy efficiency measures, no matter what type of home they live in or their income. This is particularly helpful for the nearly 60 per cent of homes in London with solid walls. (LDA website, *RE:NEW – Homes Energy Efficiency for Tomorrow*, accessed on 8 March 2012)

I have also frozen my council tax precept for the last three years to ensure that Londoners are protected from tax rises while maintaining London's public services and investing for the future (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 15 June 2011).