

**Our Age-friendly City:
Older Londoners' priorities for action for the Mayor and Assembly
Endorsed at a virtual meeting of older people on 9 March 2021**

We ask for a commitment that

The Mayor and GLA commit to actively involve older people in their plans for London and to use the expertise of older Londoners through joint research, panels and listening forums to take account of their concerns, priorities and recommendations.

To 'age proof' ongoing plans and strategies and to demonstrate this by undertaking age impact assessments as part of your commitment to equality, inclusion and diversity.

To use your role in the London Recovery Board to ensure that older people's concerns are addressed and that the London Recovery Plan is age friendly and adequately resourced

These are our priorities:

Transport

1. Continue to make transport in London affordable for older Londoners by committing to protect the 60+ Oyster photo card, working with Boroughs to safeguard the Older Persons Freedom Pass and lifting the suspension of concessionary travel for Londoners over the age of 60 before 9am on weekdays.
2. Improve the information available to help older Londoners, including older disabled Londoners and those without access to the internet, plan and undertake journeys.
3. Take steps to ensure that the needs and experiences of older bus passengers are included in effective training for bus drivers and other staff on an ongoing basis.
4. Work with Boroughs to ensure changes to London's streets make them more accessible for older Londoners by ensuring that the views of local older people are listened to before changes are made and that Equality Impact Assessments are implemented in full.
5. Take action alongside Boroughs and other partners to ensure pavements are safe for all journeys by tackling pavement clutter and obstructions that block access or present hazards.

Built Environment, Public Spaces & Street Audits

1. Commit to support local seniors to be trained and carry out age friendly audits that contribute to proposals on the built environment, open spaces and accessible streets.
2. Commit to enable older Londoners to collaborate in London wide and local transport planning.
3. Commit to working with older Londoners and other statutory partners to maintain and improve the number, quality and accessibility of public transport access points.

4. Commit to enable older Londoners to be trained and deliver age equality impact assessments in their local area with a focus on what is available within 15 minutes travelling distance.
5. Commit to involving older Londoners and generally pedestrians especially those with accessibility requirements when planning new, green and accessible layouts and transport planning to those areas.

Health & Social Care

1. Increase public toilet provision: Work with Boroughs, local businesses and others to improve public access to toilet facilities including accessible toilets in accordance with London Plan policy and in support of the Toilet Manifesto for London.
2. Plant a million trees to improve air quality, capture carbon and improve mental wellbeing
3. Reduce pensioner poverty by promoting the uptake of pension credit
4. Maintain a social care workforce by promoting social care as rewarding work, provide training opportunities and promote the London Living Wage for the sector.
5. Facilitate more food growing by increasing the availability of allotments and courses in food cultivation.

Communication & Digital Inclusion

1. Commit to a communication plan that encourages older Londoners to access the internet. .
2. Develop cost effective or subsidised access to the internet to those who need support..
3. Commit to offering one to one support and training classes to enable older Londoners to become confident online.
4. Commit to an awareness campaign promoting safety on line for older Londoners
5. Commit to training older Londoners as trainers, who can train their peers in how to confidently access the internet

Housing

1. In light of the Covid19 pandemic, identify and address the existing and exacerbated housing inequalities and needs amongst older Londoners.
2. Support older Londoners to live well and safely in their existing homes with better access to aids and adaptations; impartial housing information and advice; and home improvement support services.

3. Reduce the number of older Londoners living in non-decent homes and in conditions of disrepair.
4. Ensure the views of older residents are heard in housing decision making
5. Increased access to truly affordable, decent, safe, secure, and accessible housing across all tenures.

Employment & Training

1. Undertake an assessment of the current employment landscape for older Londoners including the needs of the over 50s workforce, the impact of unemployment and involuntary worklessness, and the benefits of employing older Londoners
2. Provide support and retraining for over 50s who are unemployed
3. Undertake a promotional campaign targeted at employers and the recruitment industry to promote the economic and social benefits of having an age diverse workforce and employing older workers.
4. Sponsor a London wide education and promotion scheme to combat ageism in employment
5. Commit to providing more adult education provision for older people

Respect & Social Inclusion

This topic encompasses and is impacted by all other domains. It also draws upon notions of equality and diversity, an understanding of the communities we serve, and the ways in which we value their input.

1. Commit to make London a place that thrives because: it is acknowledged that each community has its own distinct culture and beliefs, which may differ from those of the larger society it exists within, but which that larger society can learn from, and become more dynamic through approaching with understanding. Every older Londoner from every community must feel they have agency and are included.
2. Design ways and means to engage people who are “hard to reach” or “unreachable” (labels usually attached to isolated older people) and ensure they can be included
3. Remove the barriers to participation and collaboration between older people of all backgrounds and ethnicities.

Community

1. Commit to develop regular opportunities for older Londoners to engage with politicians and officers on a formal and structured basis.

2. Promote anti ageist policies and support an active campaign against “ageism” in attitudes and language.
3. Promote a policy that requires a commitment by all London Statutory bodies to have a designated “Older Persons” officer, co-ordinating strategy, arranging meetings and acting as a two-way conduit.
4. Commit to a championing a London-wide change of narrative that takes a proactive to ensure later life is celebrated. Older people contribute significantly to London’s economy – and disproportionately to volunteering. Older Londoners’ contributions are essential to establishing a balanced, inclusive community. There already exist organisations that represent older Londoners putting forward their views and requirements to public service partnerships.