

Mayoral responses to Susan Hall's Questions – MQT, 27th May 2021

London recovery for older Londoners

[Susan Hall](#)

What work do you plan to do with the London Recovery Board, London boroughs & pan-London bodies to ensure London's recovery programme meaningfully improves the lives of older Londoners and also focuses on those who have been hardest hit by the pandemic, e.g. those from BAME communities?

London recovery for older Londoners

[The Mayor](#)

The London Recovery Board has put in place several mechanisms to ensure the recovery programme identifies and addresses structural inequalities experienced by Londoners.

There are board members who act as champions for different communities. For instance, Councillor Ruth Dombey champions the interests of older Londoners and Sir Simon Woolley is a champion for people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

The Board also has a number of members appointed for their expertise on issues of structural inequality, who are also members of my Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group. This connection is part of an enhanced role that the group is playing to monitor and advise on the extent to which the recovery programme is addressing inequality, with support from my Equality and Fairness team.

The Board will give further information on how the cross-cutting principle of addressing structural inequalities will deliver for a number of different groups – including older and BAME Londoners – later in the year.

Age-friendly London policy programme

[Susan Hall](#)

What work will you do to monitor your recovery actions for their age-friendliness and how will your actions ensure that these actions can play a major part in the development of an age-friendly London policy programme?

Age-friendly London policy programme

[The Mayor](#)

I will continue to work with older Londoners and the organisations that represent them – in particular with the London Age-friendly Forum umbrella organisation – and members of my Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group, to co-produce how I can make London more age-friendly.

The actions necessary to deliver on my commitment to make London an age-friendly city will be taken forward through my strategies, policies and programmes – and I will push for them to be embedded in the recovery programme wherever relevant. These actions will be informed by the engagement described above – as well as the extensive engagement with

older Londoners and their representative organisations that took place before and during the pandemic. I will draw on the results of that engagement, along with intelligence from the London Community Response – which played such a vital role in helping support the frontline organisations that responded to the pandemic – and the Rapid Evidence Review commissioned from Manchester University.

Digital exclusion

[Susan Hall](#)

How will you ensure that digital exclusion is tackled in London, including raising awareness among adult education colleges, libraries & other training providers?

Digital exclusion

[The Mayor](#)

As part of London's Recovery Programme, I am working to ensure that every Londoner has fast and reliable internet access, basic digital skills and the device/support they need to be online by 2025. From this academic year, any Londoner without basic digital skills can access free training through the Essential Digital Skills Entitlement. I will launch an awareness raising campaign for adult education, including promotion of the entitlements to ensure Londoners can access the training/resources they need to overcome barriers to digital exclusion.

The Adult Education Roadmap consultation will also give employers the opportunity to help make adult education in London more accessible, impactful and locally relevant.

As part of the London Recovery Programme's Digital Access mission, the London Office of Technology & Innovation (LOTI) and GLA are also joining up data from public, private and civil society sources to enhance the effectiveness of local and London-wide digital inclusion programmes.

Accessible toilets

[Susan Hall](#)

How will you support improved access to accessible toilets in London during your mayoral term?

Accessible toilets

[The Mayor](#)

Public toilets are a vital facility, helping to create an inclusive city where people have the confidence to move around with comfort and dignity.

To help more Londoners to be able to use accessible toilets, my London Plan Policy 'S6 Public Toilets' requires proposals for large-scale commercial developments open to the public to provide and secure the future management of free publicly accessible toilets suitable for a range of users. My Good Growth investment is creating or refurbishing more than 250 toilet units, including more than 180 which are fully accessible in key locations

across London. Furthermore, the Public London Charter includes publicly accessible toilets, including Changing Places toilets, as amenities desired under the 'Public Welcome' principle.

I will continue to promote provision of free, publicly accessible toilets in our city.