

Weekly policy update from London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

A round-up of key policy changes from the past seven days – 22 April 2024

Khan and Hall set out manifesto pledges

- The two leading candidates for London Mayor – incumbent Sadiq Khan (Labour) and Susan Hall (Conservatives) – have released their manifestos, ahead of the Mayoral elections on Thursday 2 May 2024. Below is a summary of the key pledges from each that matter for London businesses:
- Susan Hall, Conservatives – full manifesto [here](#):
 - Crime – investing £200 million to
 - Recruit 1,500 additional police officers
 - Prevent further closures of police stations in London while open / acquiring two police ‘bases’ in each borough
 - Establish specialist units to focus on burglaries, robberies and thefts
 - Appoint a Women’s Commissioner to implement a strategy for making London safer for women
 - Transport
 - Scrap the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone
 - Remove low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) in areas where there is no support
 - Expand the Night Tube to the Hammersmith and City line, while exploring options for the District and Circle lines
 - ‘Prioritise’ funding for Transport for London (TfL) infrastructure, including the

Central Line

- Establish new express bus routes with neighbouring councils to connect outer London to commuter towns
- Commission an independent review into TfL
- Increase the number of electric vehicle charging points in London, and request TfL to speed up the transition to electric buses
- Net zero
 - Establish a £50 million 'High Pollution Hotspots' fund, which councils will bid into to support schemes that target poor air quality
 - Support tree planting initiatives
 - Expand car clubs
- Housing
 - Commit to 'protecting' the Green Belt from development
 - Accelerate planning applications and second City Hall officials to councils
 - Review planning policies that restrict development on 'surplus' industrial land, particularly in areas near to transport hubs
 - Increase rate of housebuilding
- Sadiq Khan, Labour – full manifesto [here](#):
 - Housing
 - Build 40,000 new council homes by the end of the decade
 - Create new Land Assembly Zones and additional Mayoral Development Corporations to increase overall housing supply, and work with a Labour government to reform planning
 - Build new 'rent control homes' where rents are capped and linked to the incomes of key workers
 - Transport
 - Transition London's entire bus fleet to electric vehicles by 2030
 - Work with partners to establish 40,000 electric vehicle chargers by 2030
 - Freeze TfL fares until 2025, and working with TfL to review current fare system
 - Explore greater devolution of rail services
 - Push to deliver major projects, including Bakerloo Line Extension, West London Orbital, and DLR to Thamesmead
 - Crime
 - Recruit up to 1,300 additional police officers, PCSOs and Special Constables

- Work with the Met's Business Crime team to reduce crimes including shoplifting, while directing the Met to continue engaging with small businesses on ways to protect premises and staff
 - Introduce several measures focussed on reducing violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Net zero
 - Work with councils and housing associations to address retrofitting of buildings
 - Support continued growth of sustainable industries, including green finance, in London
 - Continue to oppose expansion of airports in London
- Business
 - Deliver a new 'London Growth Plan' that sets out how to boost jobs and economic growth in London's leading sectors, such as finance and hospitality, while also looking at the fast-growing industries
- You can also find the following manifestos from [Rob Blackie](#) (Liberal Democrats) and [Zoë Garbett](#) (Green Party).
- A reminder that you can view LCCI's asks of the next Mayor [here](#).

Analysing London's borough economies

- On **15 May 2024**, LCCI will be launching our analysis of London's borough economies.
- This report will consider the individual characteristics of each local authority in London (excluding the City of London), and how they perform across a range of indicators including the labour market, housing affordability, transport connectivity, and job creation.
- The event will be hosted at LCCI's offices in our Members' Lounge, from 9:30-11:00am. You can sign up [here](#).

Labour announces plans for building in Green Belt

- The Labour Party has announced that it will allow limited development within the Green Belt if it is elected at the next general election.
- Forming part of its plans for boosting housebuilding, Labour has said that brownfield land within the Green Belt would be prioritised. Labour would also allow for releasing 'grey belt' land – defined by Labour as “neglected areas such as poor quality wastelands and disused car parks that are in the greenbelt”.

- Any plans submitted to develop on brownfield or grey belt land in the Green Belt would need to deliver at least 50% in affordable housing, while also boosting public services infrastructure (such as schools and health centres).
- Labour says it would not permit building on genuine nature spots and requires plans to include improvements to existing green spaces, with new woodland, parks and playing fields. Plans should meet “high” environmental standards.
- More details on the announcement can be found [here](#). LCCI has previously shown its support for development in the Green Belt, through its landmark report [Brown for Blue](#).

If you have any queries, please contact the LCCI Policy Team at policy@londonchamber.co.uk.