

What are the Mayor's powers?

Keeping London safe and secure

The Mayor's powers:

- The Mayor of London is responsible for setting the strategic direction and budget of the Met Police and the London Fire Brigade.
- The Mayor can use their powers to divert funding to the Met Police and Fire Service from other sources, but scope for this is limited as there are constraints on what the Mayor can and can't spend the budget on.
- The Mayor is responsible for working with Central Government and other agencies to engage in emergency planning and ensure London is prepared to deal with and respond to a range of threats, including terror, extreme weather and the recent global pandemic.

Where the Mayor doesn't have powers:

- The Mayor does not oversee the day to day operational affairs of the Met Police or the London Fire Brigade.
- In the past, 80% of the funding for the Met Police has come from central Government, but this funding has been slashed by £1bn under 10 years of successive Conservative Governments. The Mayor cannot undo these cuts from City Hall.
- The Mayor does not control the criminal justice system (e.g. courts, prisons, probation, parole, youth justice) in London.

Housing and development

The Mayor's powers:

- Through the London Plan and Housing Strategy, the Mayor sets out where homes should be built and what level of affordable housing is required.
- The Mayor can ask the Government for funding for affordable housing and then allocate it to housing associations and local councils who build homes.
- The Mayor is able to deliver and coordinate programmes to find and offer help to rough sleepers across the city. These City Hall services operate alongside those run

by local councils, who typically take a lead locally in areas where there are a lot of rough sleepers.

Where the Mayor doesn't have powers:

- The Mayor cannot raise funding to build affordable and council homes and instead is reliant on securing money through agreements with the national Government.
- The Mayor has no powers to force the private sector, who currently build most new homes in London, to build homes.
- The Mayor has no legal powers over the private rented sector, including no powers to control rents or tenancies.
- The Mayor relies on working voluntarily with local councils, for instance by building a London-wide Rogue Landlord Checker that 'names and shames' landlords who have broken the law.
- The Mayor does not decide the overwhelming majority of planning decisions in London. These are decided by local councils.

Environment and climate change

The Mayor's powers:

- The Mayor has some powers to set certain air quality and waste standards that the Boroughs should follow.
- Transport has a big impact on London's environment. The Mayor has power over some of London's transport system (with some high-profile exceptions like the River Thames and all council-controlled roads including Oxford Street), which has allowed Sadiq to take world-leading action on the city's air quality.
- The planning system is also an important route to protecting nature and addressing the challenges from climate change. The Mayor of London has some control over the way that London develops and builds, and councils must comply with the Mayor's London Plan when approving planning applications.

Where the Mayor doesn't have powers:

- Frustratingly, on climate change more generally the Mayor's powers are restricted and meeting London's ambitious climate targets is dependent on central Government taking more responsibility for de-carbonising the economy. For example, the Mayor can design schemes to incentivise businesses to scrap old and inefficient boilers but cannot set rules to ban those boilers.

- The Mayor has powers over air pollution that is emitted by road transport but not from other sources including buildings and river traffic.

Transport

The Mayor's powers:

- The Mayor, via Transport for London, is responsible for a transport budget of £10billion. As Chair of Transport for London, he is in charge of the following:
 - Single fares on the tube, bus, tram, DLR and rail services for which he is responsible
 - London Underground, London's red buses, Overground rail services and TfL Rail
 - Docklands Light Railway
 - Creation of a new network of cycle routes
 - The red route road network
 - The Santander bike hire scheme
 - Some river services
 - Tramlink
 - Emirates Air Line cable car
 - Victoria Coach Station
 - Dial-a-Ride
 - Taxi and private hire regulation
- TfL has had to seek two six-month emergency funding deals due to a 90 per cent fall in fares income at the height of the pandemic. To get the funding to keep London's transport running, the Mayor was forced to agree to a series of measures which has changed how transport in London is run. This is in contrast to private rail companies that received large bailouts with no strings attached. The Mayor is in discussion with the Government regarding a third bout of funding that will be agreed in the spring.

Where the Mayor doesn't have powers:

- London's airports
- The majority of commuter rail services (e.g. South West Railway, Southern Trains, South Eastern) and mainline stations (e.g. Kings Cross, Victoria, Waterloo and London Bridge)

- All other roads that are not red routes
- Coach services
- Single fares on the majority of London's rail services
- The cost of Travelcards, daily and weekly caps on contactless and Oyster, which are set jointly with the private rail companies
- Taxi and private hire regulations, which are set by Parliament

Social integration and equality

The Mayor's powers:

- Directing City Hall investment towards community and social integration projects.
- Campaigning for fair pay and high employment standards.
- Promoting London's values of tolerance and inclusion.
- Leading by example – the Mayor directly or indirectly employs over 80,000 people.

Where the Mayor doesn't have powers:

- Beyond the influence and investment roles set out above, the Mayor has no formal powers or devolved funding to increase fairness, inclusion and equality.
- The Mayor does not control the following:
 - Laws or regulations guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for minority or discriminated-against groups.
 - Welfare and benefits policy.
 - Setting the London Living Wage rate.
 - Employment rights.

Culture and the creative industries

The Mayor's powers:

- The Mayor publishes a statutory Culture Strategy outlining his vision and action plan to enable London to flourish as a cultural capital.
- The Mayor appoints a statutory leadership group to advise him on his strategy, known as the Mayor's Cultural Ambassadors.
- The Mayor appoints the Chair of the Arts Council in London and is the co-sponsor of the Museum of London, appointing half of its board. He also has some powers over Trafalgar and Parliament Squares.

Where the Mayor doesn't have powers:

- Beyond the powers set out above there are no other formal powers or funding for the Mayor to boost culture or the creative industries in London.

Health and education

The Mayor's powers:

- The Mayor has statutory duties to reduce health inequalities in London but without any real corresponding powers or resources from central government.
- The Mayor chairs the London Health Board to provide direction for, and encourage collaboration within, the health sector in London.
- The Mayor has no statutory responsibilities in relation to education but voluntarily has established a programme of work to raise educational standards in the city.

Where the Mayor doesn't have powers:

- The Mayor has no formal powers to commission or oversee the delivery of education, NHS services, social care or public health services in London.
- The Mayor has no formal powers over schools in London.
- The Mayor has no power to set national, or regional policy on education, health or social care.

Economic fairness, skills and prosperity

The Mayor's powers:

- Control of over £300 million devolved Adult education spending (for people aged 19 and over) from September 2019
- Promoting London for investment and tourism, through promotional agency London and Partners.
- Chairing LEAP, London's Local Enterprise Partnership, through which funds are provided to support economic growth and job creation.

Where the Mayor doesn't have powers:

- The Mayor does not control the following:
 - The setting or collection of Business Rates

- Regulation of London's financial, business or legal services
- Schools, Further Education or Higher Education policy
- Setting the London Living Wage rate
- International Trade
- Visas and immigration