

# Monitoring report: 15 February 2019

## Overview

- The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announces £24m funding boost to accelerate the greening of London's black cabs
- Plans to future-proof the Oxford Street District are set to get the go-ahead following a recent public consultation
- Final preparations are underway for the switch to two-way traffic flow at Baker Street and Gloucester Place
- WCC are given new powers to block phone boxes being built

## Monitoring

Overview	Detail	Action
The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announces £24m funding boost to accelerate the greening of London's black cabs (15 Feb <a href="#">Article</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the plans, grants will be restructured to provide more payments at higher levels – with 1,000 more drivers set to benefit from the maximum £10,000 payment from trading in their older, dirtier vehicles earlier</li> <li>• The additional funding, included in the Mayor's draft budget for 2019/20, is expected to help around 2,000 additional drivers go green, with more than 5,000 drivers now set to benefit from the fund overall. The enhanced scheme – on its own - could reduce NOx taxi emissions by as much as 20 per cent</li> </ul>	None.
Plans to future-proof Oxford Street District are set to get the go-ahead following a recent public consultation (14 Feb <a href="#">Article</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westminster City Council's Cabinet is expected to decide at its meeting on 25th February to approve changes to the draft Place Strategy and give the green light for proposals that will deliver much needed work to improve the district</li> <li>• The recent consultation showed strong support for the council's fresh approach with design and modelling work planned to start in Spring and physical works getting underway in Autumn 2019, subject to relevant approvals</li> <li>• WCC has already set aside £150m of funds from its capital budget to kick-start world class improvements throughout the area</li> </ul>	None.
Final preparations are underway for the switch to two-way traffic flow at Baker Street and Gloucester Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The switch to two-way working on Baker Street and Gloucester Place will take place from 21-24 February 2019, subject to suitable weather conditions. Both roads will need to be closed in phases during this period as new road markings and temporary central islands are installed</li> <li>• The changes will help transform Baker Street and Gloucester</li> </ul>	None.

(14 Feb <a href="#">Article</a> )	Place into welcoming streets where people can get about easily and safely, relax and spend time whilst also restoring the unique Marylebone character of the area	
WCC given new powers to block phone boxes being built (12 Feb <a href="#">Article</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WCC was granted new powers to stop its pavements becoming swamped with hundreds of phone boxes, which it claims are being used for "nefarious purposes" like drug dealing and prostitution</li> <li>Until now, installing phone boxes has not required planning permission. However, this change now gives council bosses the ability to stop them being built</li> <li>Judges agreed that the primary function of phone boxes is now not for people making phone calls, but companies beaming out adverts day and night</li> </ul>	None.

## Consultations

Body	Consultation	Deadline	Action
MHCLG	<a href="#">Business Rates retention reform.</a>	21 February 2019	Westminster BIDs response to be provided
WCC	<a href="#">World class scheme proposed for Strand Aldwych</a>	13 March 2019	Response to be agreed

## Events forward planner

Date	Organisation	Event	Tickets
Wednesday 28 February 2019	WPA	<p><a href="#">WPA Culture &amp; Cities reception with Deirdra Armsby</a></p> <p>This evening reception will bring together leading property industry professionals and policymakers to discuss the role of arts and culture in the economic and social vibrancy of the UK's great cities.</p> <p>Members will hear from a panel of local government and property industry leaders about the cultural assets that help create successful places.</p>	Free for members