



Murad Qureshi

London Wide Assembly Member
News and Views from City Hall

Stay warm in London this winter

As the cold weather approaches I am concerned that many people in ethnic minority communities face difficulties in keeping their homes warm in winter. Many also have problems in trying to access the range of energy efficiency information and assistance available.

REECH (Realising Energy Efficient Communities and Homes) is a programme that aims to break down barriers faced by members of ethnic minority communities that can prevent them from heating their homes affordably. Many members of ethnic minorities not only experience these problems, but face circumstances such as language barriers that prevent them from getting the help they need.



Murad at the REECHing out to Communities Conference

A message from Murad...



Welcome to my newsletter. I want to keep in touch with you and hope that you find these updates useful about my work as your Labour London Wide Assembly Member. Please tell any family and friends who may be interested to sign up too, by calling me on 020 7983 4400 or emailing me murad.qureshi@london.gov.uk

When I spoke at the REECH conference I argued that the need for energy efficiency advice specifically tailored for ethnic minority communities is greater in London than anywhere else.

of key contacts in local authorities, a newsletter with promotions, news and ideas for action.

REECH is already well established in London, where it has helped around 100 community organisations reduce fuel bills for their members and help them to stay warm and healthy at home.

To date 20,000 London households have been reached by the project. For further information about REECH's work please call 020 7713 7396.

They do this in a number of ways including energy-awareness training for community workers, bilingual advice workers, updated and translated energy efficiency promotional material, establishment

I want to remind all of London's senior citizens not to miss out on collecting their **winter fuel allowance**. The payments of £200 & £ 300 will ensure that you will be able to keep warm this winter. Please call **08459 151515** or visit www.thepensionerservice.gov.uk/winterfuel to find out if you are entitled to receive the government's winter fuel allowance.

Diwali celebrations light up Trafalgar Square

Diwali is one of the most popular cultural celebrations for London's Indian and other Asian communities and has religious significance for Hindus, Sikhs and Jains.



This is one of the biggest festivals outside India and I was delighted to represent the Mayor of London at this year's Diwali celebrations in Trafalgar square.

Crowds were entertained by live music performances including

Hunterz, chart topping pop star Raghav, and classical musicians Kalakaar.

In the evening there were a variety of performances by Asian community dance groups. Modern traditional & Bollywood themed drama & dance performers in vibrant costumes also filled the stage in the Square.



Murad on stage in Trafalgar Square



Murad at the London Fire Brigade Stall

Cross River Tram - Have your say



Murad joins his colleague Val Shawcross Assembly Member for Lambeth & Southwark & Robert Evans MEP on board a mock up Cross River Tram carriage

Transport for London have launched a consultation asking people for their views on potential routes for the proposed Cross River Tram.

The Cross River Tram (CRT) will be a world class tram service running on-street between Euston and Waterloo, with branches to Camden Town and King's Cross in the north, and Brixton and Peckham in the south.

The tram will carry 60 million passengers per year offering an attractive alternative for people traveling on some of the most crowded stretches of the Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria lines.

TfL now wants your views on the route options for Cross River Tram. Responses to this consultation will help us decide on the best route for the tram.

The consultation runs from Tuesday 21 November 2006 until Tuesday 30 January 2007. Full details of the route options and the chance to respond can be found online at www.tfl.gov.uk/crt.

Responses can also be made by emailing crt@tfl.gov.uk, sending a letter to TfL FREEPOST NAT 22450, London SW1 0BR or by calling freephone 0800 234 6004.

World's first hybrid double decker bus in London

The Mayor of London has announced plans for a hybrid bus fleet for London, as the first hybrid double-decker bus in the world was unveiled outside City Hall.

Hybrid buses, which use a combination of diesel and electric power, are central to Transport for London's plans for a cleaner, greener fleet, and will contribute to cutting the capital's Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions.

These hybrid buses are an important step towards the Mayor's long-term goal of a low carbon hydrogen based transport system.

Creating a low-carbon bus fleet is an important part of our work to cut the emissions which are causing climate change. It is an important step towards London becoming one of the world's most sustainable cities.



With Peter Hendy Commissioner, Transport for London



Get in touch

London's Assembly scrutinises the work of the Mayor and investigates issues of concern to Londoners. If you would like to raise an issue about life in London with Murad or invite him to your local group or campaign then please do get in touch

Write to Murad at:
London Assembly
Labour Office
City Hall
Queens Walk
LONDON
SE1 2AA

Phone Murad on
020 7983 4400

Save Our Waterways

As Chair of the London Waterways Commission I was happy to join the blockade against cuts to British Waterways by DEFRA this weekend.

Even though they are on the back of major increases since 1997, these cuts will result in the decline of facilities both in London and the rest of the country.

These public protests will show DEFRA the enormous depth of feeling against this threat to the historic waterway network of the UK



As someone who grew up in Little Venice in London, Murad says he will never take for granted the unique environment that the canals of London give us for our leisure and recreational pursuits.

and the love for our rivers and canals felt by a vast number of users. Well-maintained and accessible waterways have improved lives of millions of local people who live close by them or who use them for leisure.

British Waterways, which is responsible for London's canals, faces a cut of £15m from the total budget of £73m it gets from DEFRA. I want the government to give urgent attention to a long-term solution to



Murad at the protest funding our waterways and the immediate restoration of the DEFRA grant.