

**Age UK London media contact:** Aurelie Leroy

**Email:** aleroy@ageuklondon.org.uk

**Telephone:** 020 7820 6778

**Out-of-hours:** 07484127209

### **Age UK London urges next Mayor of London to make the capital an age-friendly city**

Yesterday (Tuesday 30 March) Age UK London hosted its Older Londoners' Election Hustings 2021. The event was an opportunity for mayoral candidates to answer questions from older Londoners about what they would do to make the capital a better place for older people now and for future generations of older citizens.

The speakers at the event were Sian Berry (Green Party), Luisa Porritt (Liberal Democrat), Nickie Aiken (Conservative MP for Cities of London and Westminster representing Shaun Bailey), and Karen Buck (Labour MP for Westminster North representing Sadiq Khan).

Older Londoners are the fastest-growing demographic in the capital and contribute £47 billion to the capital's annual economy. They have also been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many have been cut off from friends and family; faced barriers to engaging with vital community services; struggled to access food and essentials; and many have seen their physical and mental health decline.

Age UK London's Chief Executive, Abigail Wood, said:

"Around a third of votes cast in the upcoming London elections will be cast by over older Londoners so it's imperative all the candidates are thinking about how to make the city more age-friendly. Older Londoners have been hit hard by the pandemic and Age UK London is calling on the next mayor to put older Londoners at the heart of the recovery".

**-Ends-**

Notes to editors:

1. Age UK London is the regional Age UK for London, which campaigns to make London an age-friendly City.

2. You can find the recording of the event on Age UK London's [Youtube page here](#):

Time stamps:

From 5:25 - Opening statements from Mayoral candidates

From 18:01 - Questions from older Londoners

From 18:07 - Outdoor spaces and public toilets

From 27:56 - Digital inclusion

From 40:30 - Housing

From 53:09 - Food poverty

From 1:06:48 - 60+ Oyster Card and the Freedom Pass

From 1:19:19 - Closing statements from Mayoral candidates

3. Age UK London has also launched their Manifesto ['An age-friendly recovery' Age UK London's Manifesto for the London Mayoral Elections 2021](#)

3. Abigail Wood, Age UK London's Chief Executive, is available for interviews. Please contact Aurelie Leroy for more information.