



# London Transport Museum needs **YOUR HELP**

## A BRIEFING FOR SUPPORTERS

**ALREADY, HUNDREDS** of members of the public have backed our campaign to support London Transport Museum, in the face of devastating funding cuts by both Transport for London and the Arts Council. It has meant a lot to the Museum staff to know that there is so much public goodwill for them and the future of the Museum.

It is now more than six months since the campaign began, and we would like to take this opportunity to brief you on the latest developments and our plans for the future of Save London Transport Museum.



### THE BACKGROUND

We launched our campaign in response to Transport for London's decision to slash 25% of its grant to the Museum over the next four years. Combined with the loss of an Arts Council grant of £1 million per year, this amounts to a substantial cut to the Museum's revenue and it was clear that a robust defence of the Museum needed to be mounted. The Museum management have now made clear the scale of the crisis, predicting a £705,000 deficit in 2015/16. For a relatively small Museum, such a deficit is unsustainable and jeopardises the ability of the Museum to continue the remarkable success and growth it has seen since it was completely refurbished in 2007.

### OUR CAMPAIGN

From the start our campaign has had two goals:

- To call for the funding that has been cut to be reinstated, preserving the Museum and allowing it to build on its positive recent history.

- To ensure that Museum management do not take decisions that will unnecessarily damage the Museum's visitor experience, or its ability to attract the dedicated, quality staff that contribute to its success.

As a result of the solidarity action by our supporters we were able to demonstrate a strong show of support for our campaign to the Museum's trustees prior to their last meeting in September. In fact, in the three days before the Museum's Board meeting over 300 members of the public emailed the trustees. These emails asked the trustees to use their position on the Board to make decisions that don't jeopardise the Museum's standing, and don't penalise the hard working staff of the Museum. On the day of the meeting we assembled a welcoming committee to hand deliver letters to the trustees as they arrived, and later that day over forty people helped to hand out over a thousand leaflets outside the entrance to the Museum, helping to raise public awareness about its plight.

We would like to thank all of you that took part in these activities.



## THE WRONG DIRECTION

Museum management finally responded to our campaign, but indicated that they are considering implementation of a number of proposals that would lead the Museum into decline:

- An increase in the Museum entrance fee to £15. Hiking the entrance fee, for the second time in as many years, means that the cost has almost doubled since 2008. This will make the Museum less accessible for some and, particularly in a time of austerity, could lead to a drop in numbers and in revenue;
- Withdrawal from the Transport for London bargaining machinery, which negotiates pay and terms and conditions of service for staff. Removal from the TfL scheme would put Museum staff in a far weaker position to bargain for fair pay and conditions;
- A cut in pay of approximately £5,000 for front of house staff roles in the Museum. How can it be fair to slash the salaries of the lowest paid staff? The money saved will in no way make up for the projected funding deficit;
- A reorganisation next Autumn with up to 15 posts (more than 25% of permanent posts) under threat; yet front of house staff are already under pressure because posts have been left vacant.

We believe that these proposals would hugely damage the Museum and its staff.

**As the Museum prepares to mark 150 years of the London Underground, it's more obvious than ever that we need to preserve London's rich transport heritage for future generations.**

## SO WHERE NEXT?

It is now time for us to take our campaign up a gear. We've proven our resolve to the Museum's management, but it is simply not within their power to reinstate the cut funding.

**To do that, we must take our campaign to the door of those who made the decision to slash the Museum budget: the Transport for London board and its chair, Mayor of London Boris Johnson.**

Whilst the loss of funding will have catastrophic consequences for the Museum, it is a very small amount for TfL and amounts to only a tiny fraction (less than 0.5%) of the money it paid to its subsidiaries in the financial year 2011-12.

Meanwhile, Boris Johnson has committed TfL to paying out £180 million for 600 new Routemaster buses; vehicles that the bus companies have refused to buy because they consider them to be too costly (more than twice the cost of an ordinary bus) and unnecessary.

This clearly demonstrates that where there's a will there's a way, and that Boris can find the funds when he chooses to do so. It's time we showed the Mayor that he made the wrong decision to cut Museum funding, and that we want him to find the means to reinstate them.

**If we have the will, he can find the way!**

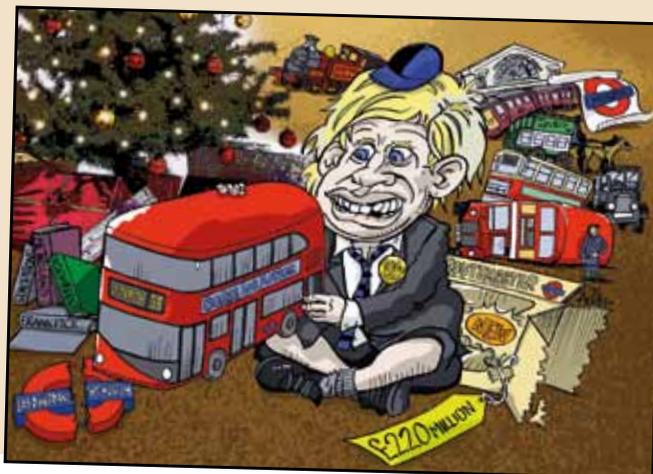
# TAKE ACTION

## All We Want For Christmas...

The TfL board meets on 12 December and we'd like to send them a festive message so they can't ignore how much we love and treasure London Transport Museum.

### All we want for Christmas is for the board to save London Transport Museum

We'll be outside City Hall at 9am on 12 December with a giant Christmas tree, covered in baubles featuring messages of support from the Museum's fans! Please take two minutes out to decorate a bauble with your thoughts for the TfL Board – they could be funny or sad, a poem or a story of the last time you visited the Museum – go to [www.tssa.org.uk/LTMxmas](http://www.tssa.org.uk/LTMxmas)



## Support our Early Day Motion 713

John Cryer MP has tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM 713) in support of the campaign. EDMs are put forward by MPs to publicise particular causes and to gather the support of fellow MPs.

We want your MP to demonstrate their support for London Transport Museum by signing up to the EDM. But they'll only do this if you write and ask them!

**To write to your MP visit [www.tssa.org.uk/LondonTransportMuseum](http://www.tssa.org.uk/LondonTransportMuseum)**



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'SAVE LONDON  
TRANSPORT MUSEUM'**

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