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Going Out: Half-term activities in London for children

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## ESWEATHER

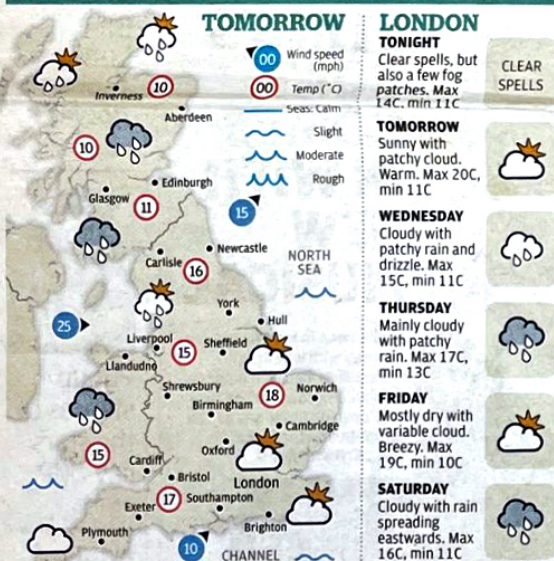


Table with 2 columns: City, Temperature. Includes cities like London, Manchester, Birmingham, etc.

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# 'Manifesto' says London must have more powers

Joseph Watts Political Correspondent

A WATERSHED report today goes further than ever before in demanding that the capital be allowed to control its own destiny. The Manifesto for London calls for the city to be handed sweeping powers over tax revenue, education, housing and welfare. It warns that unless London is freed from central control it will fall behind New York and Paris.

The document also demands radical changes to borough elections, in an attempt to break single-party strangleholds over councils. And it says that areas around London should have a chance to join the capital as new boroughs.

Boris Johnson called for devolution negotiations to follow the report's publication, while Dame Tessa Jowell said it should be "looked at seriously by all political parties".

The manifesto comes before a major conference on London's future. Author and director of the Centre for London think tank Ben Rogers said: "London government is more than capable of sorting out London's problems. It's time it got the powers that cities like New York take for granted."

The report says the capital should take control of stamp duty and council tax revenue, and be given greater control over social services, the criminal justice system, childcare and benefits.

It also argues that London government should take ownership of all the capital's public sector land to allow to help develop more low-cost housing. And city chiefs should be able to set up new schools and determine a statutory minimum wage for the capital.

The report calls for councils to be elected by proportional representation. Areas around the capital should then be given the option of becoming "part of England's most powerful and dynamic city region".

The Centre for London's annual conference, starting on November 4 at the Royal Festival Hall, will be attended by Mr Johnson, Dame Tessa and former BBC broadcaster Stephanie Flanders.

A spokesman for Mr Johnson said: "Now is the time for negotiations on the practical details of the transfer of powers from Whitehall to begin."

Dame Tessa said: "London is in danger of being left behind in devolution



Panellists: clockwise from top left, Sadiq Khan, Iain Martin, Polly Toynbee, Tony Travers, Gerard Lyons, and the debate will be chaired by Sky News political editor Faisal Islam

## Evening Standard to host debate on this vital issue for our city

AFTER Scotland's landmark referendum, Westminster is under pressure to hand back power to the English regions too. But what about London?

The capital is Europe's largest city and the motor of the UK economy. Yet our City Hall enjoys limited powers compared to those of Paris or New York. With a general election little more than six months away, the Mayor is calling for London to be given greater control over its taxes and its destiny. But others fear the fragmentation of the UK. And there are some who resent London's power - and demands for more of it. Join us for a public debate on this vital issue, hosted at the Guildhall by the Evening Standard, Centre for London and the City of London: "Give us the power: does London need a new deal from Westminster?" Leading public figures taking part as panellists are: Arts

## GIVE US THE POWER Does London need a new deal from Westminster? Evening Standard Debate

- Monday, 17 November at 6.30pm in Guildhall, Gresham Street, EC2. Admission is free but strictly by ticket: visit standard.co.uk/powerdebate The event is sponsored by GVA

Council chair Sir Peter Bazalgette; Sadiq Khan MP, shadow minister for London; the Mayor's economic adviser, Gerard Lyons; Daily Telegraph columnist Iain Martin; Guardian columnist Polly Toynbee; and the LSE's Professor Tony Travers. The debate will be chaired by Sky News political editor Faisal Islam.

talks because of the absence of strong leadership in our city." Since the referendum on Scottish independence calls for greater devolution to London have grown. The Mayor has backed a report by the London Finance Commission which called for

the capital to control property taxes. Treasury Secretary Danny Alexander has said he will use his position on a new government devolution committee to press for more powers for London.

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## Free vote on bill to 'sack' bad MPs

Joe Murphy Political Editor

ZAC GOLDSMITH'S campaign to give voters the right to "sack" bad MPs was on a knife-edge today as party leaders gave MPs a free vote on the issue.

The news that all three major parties will let backbenchers follow their consciences was a boost to Mr Goldsmith, who today urged voters to lobby their local MP. But the expectation at Westminster was that many in the Commons would vote down his plan.

Mr Goldsmith told the Standard: "This decision as to whether or not we are willing to trust voters to hold us to account will be down to individual MPs,

not parties. It's a good time for last-minute lobbying by constituents."

Labour's Margaret Hodge backed the Richmond MP, saying: "Our politics is broken. I urge colleagues to join those of us who are voting for proper recall in the hope that we can start to fix it."

Enfield North MP Nick de Bois is another backer, who will help move a string of amendments to the Government's Recall Bill for debate today.

The Government Bill would allow voters to petition against an errant MP only if a court or a committee of MPs decided he or she was guilty of "serious wrongdoing". Goldsmith's plan would let voters start the process themselves.

## Pedestrian dies in 60mph hit-and-run

A PEDESTRIAN was killed after being sent "spinning more than 10ft in the air" as a BMW sped through a red light at around 60mph in a hit-and-run, eye-witnesses told today.

The dark-coloured BMW 5 Series overtook another car in Wickham Road, Croydon, and then hit a 43-year-old man, believed to be Sri Lankan. The other driver, a doctor, leapt out to help the dying man after the accident at 8.50pm last night. Anyone with information can call police on 0208 285 1574.



# Leading London figures call for sweeping new powers to stop city falling behind

**'LONDON SHOULD HAVE MORE POWER'**  
Evening Standard Debate

Anna Dubuis and Joseph Watts

LONDON risks being "left behind" if ministers fail to hand the city sweeping new powers, politicians have warned.

Key figures in Tory Mayor Boris Johnson's team and Ed Miliband's Labour opposition united to demand greater autonomy.

Shadow justice secretary and London minister Sadiq Khan said inequality would increase and London's housing crisis worsen if nothing changed.

Meanwhile, Mr Johnson's chief economic adviser Gerard Lyons claimed London needed more control to face down unprecedented international competition.

They spoke out at an Evening Standard debate on whether Westminster should hand London more power.

Mr Khan, the MP for Tooting, said: "Unless our mayor and councils have more power I'm really worried we will get left behind."

"Without us having more control inequality will get bigger, the housing crisis will be compounded and we will not be in a position to address population growth."

Calls for devolution to English cities have grown since Scotland's independence referendum. Last month Manchester took control of cash previously spent from Westminster.

Mr Lyons warned at the debate that London was at risk of being outperformed by emerging cities in the developing world.

He said: "We are seeing cities across the world become smarter, greener,



The big debate: from left, Tony Travers, Gerard Lyons, Sadiq Khan, Faisal Islam, Polly Toynbee, Iain Martin and Sir Peter Bazalgette discuss the future of the capital

investing in housing, investing in transport.

"London needs to compete in a way that it has never had to before, that's why it is important to devolve more powers to London and to more UK cities."

Supporters of devolution in the capital have rallied behind a report from the London Finance Commission,

which said the city should control more of its property tax revenue.

Director of LSE London Tony Travers, who helped write the document, also backed devolution at the Standard debate.

The professor argued City Hall should keep a "slither" of taxes collected so city chiefs could act for "the needs of

the people". The debate at Guildhall, chaired by Sky News political editor Faisal Islam, also saw Guardian journalist Polly Toynbee and political commentator Iain Martin argue against further powers.

They were joined by Arts Council England chairman Sir Peter Bazalgette, who said: "The problem in this country

is not that London is too dominant – London is the great jewel – the problem is the second rung of cities.

"They are emaciated. It is those cities that need a greater amount of devolution now to bring them level with London."

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## FOR AND AGAINST DEVOLUTION: WHAT THE PANELLISTS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE CAPITAL

### PROFESSOR TONY TRAVERS

Director of LSE London

I'm not proposing home rule for London, just a little bit of extra rule. London is a self-governing area with 8.5 million people and yet it has the tax-raising powers of a parish. All the overseas cities which London is compared have more tax-raising capacity than us. We live in a democracy where 100 taxes are set by national government and then redistributed from Whitehall. We need more accountability for the large amounts of tax paid in London.

The Mayor and the London boroughs have control over just 5 per cent – let's move it to 10 or 15 per cent so London can make decisions matched to the needs of its people.

We will need more money spent on trains and Tubes, on schools, on housing. The choice is a London wholly run by Whitehall or a chance for London voters to take a little more control.



### POLLY TOYNBEE

Guardian columnist

LONDON is a wonderful and glorious place and I would not live anywhere else. But I do travel the country a lot and hear how deeply and dangerously London is resented. It is seen as a blood-sucking vampire and people are not wrong. It is the obscene wealth of London that is resented most of all. There is a sense that everything gathers here. I see cities around the country that are bled dry, cities that should be thriving.

We should be thinking about London divesting itself, sending things outwards. Our housing crisis is beyond anybody's ability to solve unless we move things out of London. This is not a city state. This is a capital of a great nation and it owes much to others too. London has plenty of power. If we are going to have devolution, leave London last. The whole debate is a displacement activity from the real problems we have.



### GERARD LYONS

Chief economic adviser, Greater London Authority

SIX HUNDRED cities in the world account for half of global growth, and currently 157 of them are in the so-called Western world. But in 20 years' time only 20 will be in the West. We need to ensure that London continues to compete and get more UK cities in that top 600. We are seeing cities across the world become smarter and greener, investing in housing and infrastructure.

London needs to compete in a way that it has never had to before – that's why it is important to devolve more powers to London and to more UK cities.

It is about getting the balance right. This should not be a debate about London versus the rest of the country. London does dominate the UK economy, so it is important that changes in London have benefit not just in London but across the wider UK.



### SADIQ KHAN

Labour MP for Tooting

A LONDON run by Londoners is good for London and good for Britain. The fact that the corridors of power are in London does not mean it has sufficient power from Westminster. Who could argue against more openness and accountability by getting a new deal from Westminster? This is a great city, with the best culture, arts, sports, media and theatre in the world, but it is a city not all Londoners get to enjoy. A third of them live in poverty. We have a growing population, but Whitehall, 10 Downing Street and Parliament can't address the problems London faces.

Devolution has worked for London. Giving it more power is not bad news for the rest of the UK. Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield, Glasgow and other cities see that if London does well, so does the rest of the country. Let's give Londoners the power to run London.



### SIR PETER BAZALGETTE

Chairman, Arts Council England

BRITAIN has many local authorities with greater problems than London, and they have less power than London does. London has already had a lot of devolution, it is the turn of the rest of the country. The problem is not that London is too dominant – London is the great jewel – the problem is the second rung of cities. They are emaciated and need greater devolution now to bring them level with London.

If you think we have problems in London you should see the infrastructure problems and cuts they are dealing with. London is our leading city and with leadership comes responsibility. What are the Tate and the British Museum doing for the rest of the country? They need to do more... this is more about what London will do for the whole country than London giving more power to itself.



### IAIN MARTIN

Political commentator

IT is easy to think of devolution and more powers in technocratic and academic terms, but when you step away from all the graphs it is about identity and common feeling. More devolution for London sounds fantastic in theory. But the lesson from Scotland and Wales is that just a little more devolution every time leads to division and demands for more powers.

Don't think more powers magically mean improvements in public services. The problem with more power to London is if we are not careful very quickly you don't have a country, all you are left with is a perpetual dispute, a row about money and geographic redistribution. If London needs reorganisation, why has it been booming for 25 years? It is doing brilliantly. The idea that it needs a lot more political power I find incredible.





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