

Subject: Motions

Report to:	London Assembly (Plenary)
Report of:	Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat
Date:	1 December 2022
Public Access:	This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is asked to consider the motions set out which have been submitted by Assembly Members.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly considers the motions submitted by Assembly Members.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Dr Onkar Sahota AM** and will be seconded by Caroline Russell AM:

“This Assembly notes the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on Sunday 20 November 2022.

This Assembly notes the Vision Zero policy adopted by the Mayor in 2018 and ongoing actions to reduce road danger.

This Assembly further notes that Londoners sadly continue to be killed and injured in road traffic collisions in London.

This Assembly acknowledges the challenges faced by people who have sustained life changing injuries and the effect of serious and fatal crashes on so many families.

This Assembly calls on Londoners and everyone who can help achieve Vision Zero to join us today and every year in November in remembering the people who have died on London’s roads and their loved ones.”

3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Hina Bokhari AM** and will be seconded by Zack Polanski AM:

“This Assembly recognises the value to the economic and social wellbeing of Londoners of a Universal Basic Income (UBI), which would guarantee support for the poorest members of society through a redistributive mechanism.

This Assembly notes with approval that almost 300 individuals including MPs, councillors, academics, London Assembly members and the Mayor of London signed an open letter to the Prime Minister telling him basic income “could be our generation’s NHS.”

This Assembly notes the trial scheme run by the Welsh Government for care leavers. It also notes recent research by the Royal Society of Arts that indicates that such a scheme would be affordable, feasible, popular and have a significant impact on mental health, youth and social crises.

This Assembly believes that a UBI trial would be a suitable use of a limited pot of money to determine the impact on spending, saving, financial management and the local economy around the pilot area.

This Assembly calls on the Mayor to:

- **Establish a London UBI trial;**
- **Report back to this Assembly on the outcome of the scheme including:**
 - **Qualitative interviews with a selection of participants;**
 - **Data on the impact on local spending patterns, levels of savings among participants, and the impact on employment; and**
 - **An assessment of the impact of the scheme on the health, economic and social outcomes both of individual participants and of their neighbourhood as a whole; and**
- **Consider a wider roll-out of the scheme if the trial proves successful.”**

3.3 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Sem Moema AM** and will be seconded by Anne Clarke AM:

“The Assembly notes the recent report on exempt accommodation by the Select Committee for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities which detailed the poor quality of the exempt accommodation sector. We are concerned that the current system is being exploited by a growing minority of providers who are charging high rents without providing the appropriate level of support that their residents need.

The Assembly also notes the Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development’s comments at the Assembly’s Housing Committee that City Hall targets for building 1,750 – 3,500 supported accommodation units within the Mayor’s Affordable Homes programme are not keeping pace with demand.

The Assembly believes that there is a strong case for greater regulation of exempt accommodation to put safeguards in place for residents and ensure that providers are giving their residents an appropriate level of support.

The Assembly therefore supports Crisis' "Regulate the Rogues" campaign and calls on the Government to urgently regulate providers in England and end the scandal unfolding in exempt accommodation. We note that the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Bill passed its second reading in Parliament on 18 November 2022 and we call on:

- **The Government to continue its support for the Bill as it progresses through Parliament; and**
- **The Mayor and the Chair of the Assembly to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities urging him to urgently provide a regulatory framework for the exempt accommodation sector."**

3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Unmesh Desai AM** and will be seconded by Sem Moema AM:

"This Assembly condemns the use of inflammatory language such as that used by the Home Secretary on 31 October 2022 to describe migrants fleeing persecution and conflict. This Assembly considers this rhetoric is a continuation of the Home Office's Hostile Environment policy with regard to non-UK born citizens which includes millions of Londoners.

Whilst it is important that criminal gangs who profit from individuals' desperation and the fraud arising from this is legally challenged through the immigration and criminal justice system, in tackling this problem the Home Office's approach should not inflame real or perceived tensions, risk increasing hate crime and leave migrants or would-be asylum seekers in dangerous conditions.

This Assembly supports the call from the Mayor of London to the Home Office for an urgent and thorough review of its failure of duty of care towards asylum seekers. This Assembly calls on the Home Office to undertake a review of the UK's asylum system to ensure a fair and firm points-based system."

3.5 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Krupesh Hirani AM** and will be seconded by Léonie Cooper AM:

"The Assembly fully supports World AIDS Day and the objectives of the National HIV Action Plan 2021-25.

The Assembly supports the Mayor's ambition to eliminate new transmission of HIV in London by 2030. As part of this, we note the remarkable progress which has been made in our city and across the UK in reducing transmission of HIV and AIDS and improving outcomes for those with the virus.

New diagnoses are decreasing more rapidly in London than in the rest of the UK. Life expectancy for those living with HIV is now near that of the general population. Currently, 95% of people living with HIV infection are diagnosed, 98% of people diagnosed receiving treatment, and 97% of people receiving treatment being virally suppressed. This far exceeds the UN's 90:90:90 target.

However, London still has higher-than-average rates of HIV and AIDS, accounting for 41.8% of England's HIV-positive population. There are also large disparities between groups, with gay & bisexual men, and those of Black African ethnicity disproportionately represented among the HIV-positive population. Black Africans are also more likely to be diagnosed late – 47% of diagnoses among this group are made at a late stage versus 39% for white people.

Late diagnoses can result in a ten-year lower life expectancy compared with those diagnosed early.

Therefore, more progress still needs to be done to achieve London's ambitious targets and we call on the Mayor to take the following actions:

- Work with London boroughs so all Londoners can access free at-home HIV testing;
- Support opt-out HIV testing across the NHS. Many parts of London are areas of high HIV prevalence and HIV testing should be routinely offered to patients in relevant settings, such as GP surgeries, A&E departments and in all sexual health clinics; and
- Use all GLA resources to promote the importance of testing and early diagnosis, particularly among at-risk groups, and to fight HIV and AIDS stigma.”

3.6 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Len Duvall AM** and will be seconded by Marina Ahmad AM:

“This Assembly notes that the cost of living crisis is having a particularly acute impact on London which has:

- **The highest poverty rate of anywhere in the UK (27%);^[1]**
- **The second worst levels of child poverty in the country (second only to the North East), with 35% of the capital's children living in poverty and an estimated 250,000 children living with food poverty;^[2]**
- **The highest intra-regional income and wealth inequalities of any part of the UK;**
- **Average rents across Greater London of £1,924 – according to Shelter this is leaving one in five Londoners behind or struggling to keep up with their rent; and ^[3]**
- **Real wages falling for the lowest paid.^[4]**

This Assembly also notes that Londoners on the lowest income are hit harder than any other group in any other part of the country according to analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.^[5]

^[1] JRF. (2022). London, the North of England, and Scotland hit hardest by the crisis of spiralling prices. [online] Available at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/london-north-england-and-scotland-hit-hardest-crisis-spiralling-prices> [Accessed 28 Oct. 2022].

^[2] Ibid

^[3] ITV News. (2022). *Bidding wars and price increases - why renting in London is getting harder*. [online] Available at: <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2022-09-20/bidding-wars-and-price-increases-why-renting-in-london-is-getting-harder> [Accessed 28 Oct. 2022].

^[4] Trust for London. (n.d.). *The cost of living crisis and its impact on low-income Londoners*. [online] Available at: <https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/publications/cost-of-living-low-income-londoners/>.

^[5] JRF. (2022). London, the North of England, and Scotland hit hardest by the crisis of spiralling prices. [online] Available at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/london-north-england-and-scotland-hit-hardest-crisis-spiralling-prices> [Accessed 28 Oct. 2022].

This Assembly opposes any policy to remove funding from deprived urban areas in favour of affluent towns, and calls on the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister urging him to relinquish the pursuit of any such policy.”

- 3.7 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Marina Ahmad AM** and will be seconded by Sakina Sheikh AM:

“This Assembly is concerned about the BBC’s proposals to significantly cut its bespoke output in all BBC Local Radio stations including at *BBC Radio London*. This Assembly believes that these cuts will seriously diminish a service that is highly valued by listeners and underpins local democracy, in London and across the UK.

This Assembly calls on the Mayor and Chair of the Assembly to write separately to the BBC leadership which includes: The BBC Director General, Director of BBC Nations and Acting Director of BBC England, to oppose the cuts to local radio services.”

- 3.8 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Andrew Boff AM** and will be seconded by Nick Rogers AM:

“In recognising that the Mayor is responsible for bus provision in London and not the Government, this Assembly calls on the Mayor to protect inner-London bus routes, such as the D7, 11 and 53 which are so vital for residents.”

- 3.9 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Emma Best AM** and will be seconded by Zack Polanski AM:

“This Assembly is concerned that so many wet wipes and other plastic waste ends up in the tidal Thames.

This Assembly also notes that recent studies have found that depending on the species of fish, between 20% and 75% in the Thames Estuary have microplastics in their digestive systems.

This Assembly notes the work by the Port of London Authority, Thames21, Thames Water and Tideway to tackle this issue through awareness campaigns, foreshore clean ups and floating litter collectors.

This Assembly notes the Unflushables report published by the London Assembly Environment Committee in 2018, which identified actions to tackle the full range of single-use plastic products that are inappropriately flushed and are ending up in the tidal Thames.

This Assembly supports the MP for Putney’s private members’ bill, *Plastics (Wet Wipes) Bill*, which seeks to prohibit the manufacture and sale of wet wipes containing plastic.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London and the Government to urgently work together to ensure that retailers follow Tesco’s lead and ban the production and sale of plastic wet wipes.

In addition, this Assembly calls on the Mayor and Chair of Assembly to write to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs seeking urgent recommendations in response to the Commonly Littered Single Use Plastic Items consultation, alongside seeking an industry-wide commitment from the British Retailers Consortium to establish a more ambitious commitment of 2032 for eliminating avoidable plastic waste.”

- 3.10 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Zack Polanski AM** and will be seconded by Léonie Cooper AM:

“This Assembly notes that it is now seventy years since the Great Smog affected London in December 1952.

This Assembly notes that the then London County Council (LCC) recorded unprecedented concentrations of smoke between the 5th and 8th of December that year, and further that the LCC produced a report by January of 1953 detailing the tragic impact of this peak in air pollution which it was already realised had killed thousands of Londoners.

This Assembly notes that despite that report, the Government initially doubted the need for further action. Over time estimates of thousands of deaths of Londoners prompted the development of a private members bill that led to the first Clean Air Act of 1956.

This Assembly notes that now, seventy years later, a new private members bill, the Clean Air (Human Rights) Bill has been introduced in the House of Lords and is due for debate in the House of Commons.

This Assembly notes that this bill is also being called Ella’s Law in memory of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, who had air pollution acknowledged as the cause of her death after a long and successful campaign by her mother, Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah.

This Assembly commits to supporting Ella’s Law to establish the right to clean air for Londoners and therefore urges MPs and Lords at Westminster to support this bill.”

- 3.11 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Siân Berry AM** and will be seconded by Zack Polanski AM:

“This Assembly is increasingly concerned about the situation facing private renters as the cost-of-living crisis continues and winter approaches.

The following issues are making this crisis more acute:

- **Rises in rents, with estate agents reporting rapid increases since last year, particularly in central London¹;**
- **Many landlords asking for higher rents for existing tenants²; and**

¹ <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2022-10-17/average-london-rents-soar-to-553-per-week-record-high-as-renters-face-crisis>

² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities live tables on homelessness, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>

- **A rise in Section 21 notices from landlords, pushing more renters to search for new homes; Ministry of Justice figures show that there are 1,938 court claims under Section 21 in Quarter 3 2022 in London, the highest level since Quarter 2 2019.³**

We believe that, without action, London risks a wave of new homeless families and individuals this winter, and councils are already seeing more applications for support from Londoners. Data from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for Quarter 1, 2022 shows that 1,480 households are threatened with homelessness or made homeless as a result of their landlord selling or reletting. The latter is the highest Quarter 1 figure since they started collecting the data in 2019.⁴

We note that the long-promised Parliamentary Bill to support renters and improve protections has been delayed, although DLUHC have reiterated that it will come forward in this Parliament, but without giving a firm timetable.^{5,6}

We also note that the Mayor has been vocal in calling for the power to freeze rents, and this policy has now been enacted in Scotland. The Mayor has also called on the Government to end Section 21 evictions, lift the benefit cap, unfreeze Local Housing Allowance rates and take measures to stop refugees and asylum seekers being pushed into homelessness.⁷

The Assembly supports the Mayor on all this, and asks the Chair to add our voice with a letter calling for these measures and making the following additional emergency demands to relevant ministers in Government:

- **Institute an immediate suspension of Section 21 and eviction proceedings, similar to the emergency provisions during the pandemic;**
- **Urgently bring forward promised legislation to protect renters, with the most vital elements of the promised Bill needing to be in place by the end of this parliamentary session;**
- **Increase Housing Benefit to rates that allow working families on lower incomes to cover rising private rent demands;**
- **Provide urgent capital funding to councils, allowing them to buy homes from landlords who are struggling financially and provide security for existing tenants, and to purchase market-sale properties to support homeless families and individuals.**

³ Ministry of Justice Mortgage and landlord possession statistics: July to September 2022, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics-july-to-september-2022/mortgage-and-landlord-possession-statistics-july-to-september-2022>

⁴ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities live tables on homelessness, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>

⁵ <https://www.landlordzone.co.uk/news/gove-returns-to-government-and-re-commits-to-the-renters-reform-bill/>

⁶ <https://www.landlordtoday.co.uk/breaking-news/2022/11/mystery-over-when-rental-reform-laws-will-be-debated-by-mps>

⁷ <https://www.london.gov.uk/media-centre/mayors-press-releases/mayor-london-warns-rough-sleeping-crisis-cost-living-pressures-bite>

In addition, we do not believe the Mayor should wait to take action if the Government refuses to take these steps, and call on him to:

- **Make available and promote to councils further funding from existing GLA budgets to help them buy homes from landlords and from the market to keep renters in their homes and provide accommodation to avert this crisis,**
- **Work with councils to propose our own legislation in Parliament for urgent devolved powers to improve private renting in London, including the power to freeze and control rents;⁸ and**
- **Set up his planned London Rent Commission now to develop evidence for and models of regulation for our city, rather than wait for powers to be devolved before creating this body.”**

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The Assembly has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

None.

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⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/29/section/77>