

Subject: Motions

Report Number: 6

Report to: London Assembly

Date: 3 December 2008

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Assembly considers the motions set out below.

2. The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Jenny Jones AM** and will be seconded by **Jennette Arnold AM**:

"This Assembly congratulates the Metropolitan Police's human trafficking unit on its work since being set up in March 2007, including the recent successful prosecution of a six-man gang for trafficking girls and women into the UK, where they were forced into prostitution.

This Assembly condemns the Home Office's decision to cut £2.3m of funding to tackle human trafficking, which has led to the closure of the unit.

Recognising the unit's important role as the only specialist operational anti-trafficking team in the country, and London's position as a major gateway for human trafficking into the UK, this Assembly urges the Mayor to commit himself to keeping this unit open as part of his budget discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service. We call on the Home Office to work with the Metropolitan Police to develop a long term funding strategy which will ensure the unit's current and future existence."

3. The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Pidgeon AM** and will be seconded by **Darren Johnson AM**:

"This Assembly deplores the standard of service delivered to elderly and vulnerable Londoners by Transport for London's Dial-A-Ride operation; notes a continuing volume of complaints about: long delays in getting through to their call centre; difficulty in booking trips for pairs or groups in the same household; being offered timings involving waits of more than an hour for return trips; vulnerable passengers left stranded in unsafe locations in bad weather; and notes reports of Dial-A-Ride drivers exasperated by management failures, feeling they were letting passengers down.

The Assembly further deplores the decision of the Mayor and Transport for London to 'cap' at £12.7 million their contribution to the London Boroughs in respect of Taxicard, increasing the burden on council taxpayers rather than using Government grant to support this important service.

The Assembly calls on the Mayor to review urgently both the unsatisfactory services provided to vulnerable passengers by Dial-A-Ride and to withdraw his 'cap' on TfL's contribution to the Taxicard scheme."

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