

MINUTES

Meeting: **London Assembly –
Mayor’s Question Time**
Date: **Wednesday 18 July 2007**
Time: **10.00am**
Place: **Chamber, City Hall,
The Queen’s Walk, London SE1 2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/meetings_names.jsp

Present:

Sally Hamwee (Chair)	Darren Johnson
Tony Arbour	Jenny Jones
Jennette Arnold	Joanne McCartney
Bob Blackman	Bob Neill
Angie Bray	Andrew Pelling
Roger Evans	Geoff Pope
Nicky Gavron	Murad Qureshi
Damian Hockney	Valerie Shawcross
Elizabeth Howlett	Graham Tope
Peter Hulme Cross	Mike Tuffrey

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcements (Item 1)

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Deputy Chairman, Brian Coleman AM; Richard Barnes AM; John Biggs AM; Dee Doocey AM and Len Duvall AM.

2. Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

- 2.1 The table at item 2 of the agenda set out Assembly Members’ memberships of the GLA Functional Bodies and London Borough Council, for noting as personal interests.

2.2 Resolved:

That the relevant Assembly Members’ membership of Functional Bodies and London Borough Councils, as set out in Item 2 on the agenda, be noted and recorded as personal interests.

3. Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the 20 June 2007 meeting of the London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time) be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

4. Mayor’s Report (Item 4)

4.1 Resolved:

That the Mayor’s Report for the period 7 June – 4 July 2007 be noted.

5. Questions to the Mayor (Item 5)

- 5.1 The Chair had requested, in advance of the meeting, that the Mayor provide an oral update in relation to Metronet. The Chair had also agreed that Peter Hendy (Commissioner, TfL), Tim O’Toole (Managing Director, London Underground) and Steve Allen (Managing Director of Finance, TfL) would accompany the Mayor.
- 5.2 The record of the update provided, together with the supplementary questions put to the Mayor, Peter Hendy, Tim O’Toole and Steve Allen and the answers provided, is set out at **Appendix 1**.
- 5.3 The record of the discussion on the questions submitted on the published Priority Order Paper for the meeting, including oral answers given by the Mayor to Members’ questions, is attached as **Appendix 2**.

- 5.4 The written answers to those questions not asked or answered during the meeting are attached as **Appendix 3**.
- 5.5 At 12.30pm, the Chair proposed and it was agreed that Standing Order 2.9 B be suspended to allow the extension of the meeting in order to consider the remaining business on the agenda.

6. Petition (Item 6)

- 6.1 It was

Resolved:

That it be agreed to suspend the Standing Order relating to the receipt of petitions at Mayor’s Question Time for the duration of the meeting to allow the petition listed at paragraph 3 of the report to be received.

- 6.2 Valerie Shawcross AM then presented a petition with the following prayer:

“We, the undersigned, call upon Lambeth Council and Transport for London to ensure that buses cease the use of North Street in Clapham as per the restriction that has been put in place.

Despite a ban on buses being in place, off duty buses have continued to use North Street as a cut through. The ban was put in place because it was recognised that North Street is unsuitable for large vehicles with the noise and vibration from these large vehicles disturbing those living in the street, homes which are often situated very close to the road.”

- 6.3 **Resolved:**

That the petition be referred to Transport for London for response.

7. Changes to Committee Memberships (Item 7)

- 7.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

- 7.2 **Resolved:**

(a) That, further to the London Assembly Conservative Group’s nomination, Roger Evans AM be appointed as a member of the Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee, to replace Angie Bray AM;

(b) That Angie Bray AM be appointed as a substitute member of the Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee, to replace Roger Evans AM;

(c) That, further to the London Assembly Labour Group’s nomination, Len Duvall AM be appointed as a member of the London Resilience Committee (known as the 7 July Review Committee), to replace Joanne McCartney AM; and

(d) That Joanne McCartney AM be appointed as a substitute member of the London Resilience Committee, to replace Len Duvall AM.

8. Proposed Delegation of Authority to the Chair of the Assembly

8.1 The Assembly received a report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

8.2 The Chair explained that, as it was now proposed to cancel the 5 September Plenary Assembly meeting, the recommendation set out in the report had been amended to delete reference to the next meeting of the Assembly being on that date.

8.3 **Resolved:**

That, in relation to urgent matters only, a general delegation of authority in respect of the Assembly’s powers and functions (apart from those that cannot under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 be delegated) be given to the Chair of the Assembly, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Leaders and relevant Committee Chair(s), from the close of this meeting until the next meeting of the Assembly.

9. Mayor and Members’ Salaries (Item 9)

9.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat and of the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

9.2 **Resolved:**

(a) That the section of Standing Order 11.3 A (1) which states that the determination of salaries for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chair of the Assembly and Assembly Members shall be “subject to independent review by an appropriate organisation appointed for that purpose” be suspended, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 1.1(H);

(b) That, further to a proposal from the Mayor, it be agreed that the 2007/08 uprating for elected GLA members’ pay be the same as that applied to GLA staff, and that a revised joint pay determination be agreed accordingly, to take effect from 1 April 2007, noting that the Mayor’s formal approval is also required;

(c) That, until the next review of salaries, the future annual uprating to GLA members’ salaries be linked to the pay award applied to GLA staff; and

(d) That, in order to give effect to the decisions taken under resolutions (b) and (c) above, the Chair be authorised to sign a revised joint determination on the Assembly’s behalf.

(12 votes cast in favour, 6 votes cast against.)

10. Motion (Item 10)

10.1 Jenny Jones AM moved and Jennette Arnold AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes the decline in both the total number of traffic police over the last two decades and the proportion of police resources devoted to the Traffic Operational Command Unit since 2000. We place on record our concern over the growth in the proportion of London road injuries arising from road collisions involving a "failure to stop", and the large number of uninsured drivers in London, which has a serious adverse impact on legitimate drivers and other road users. We consider that denying criminals the use of the road is one of the most cost effective forms of policing in London.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to allocate more of the Metropolitan Police's resources to traffic policing and make the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition machines in London a priority.”

10.2 Andrew Pelling AM proposed and Tony Arbour AM seconded the following amendment to the motion:

After, “This Assembly therefore calls on”, remove all and replace with:

“central government to recognise London’s special policing needs as the nation’s capital and to put in all necessary resources to meet its policing requirements in full.”

10.3 Geoff Pope AM then proposed and Jennette Arnold AM seconded the following amendment to the motion:

After “traffic policing” in second paragraph, add:

“including enforcement against vehicles entering cycle lanes and cycle stop areas at junctions to improve safety”

10.4 In accordance with Standing Order 3.6, Jenny Jones AM, as mover of the motion, agreed to alter the motion to include the amendment proposed by Geoff Pope AM. The Assembly also gave its consent to this alteration.

10.5 Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Andrew Pelling AM was lost (6 votes cast in favour, 11 votes cast against).

10.6 Upon a further vote, the motion in the name of Jenny Jones AM, as altered, namely:

“This Assembly notes the decline in both the total number of traffic police over the last two decades and the proportion of police resources devoted to the Traffic Operational Command Unit since 2000. We place on record our concern over the growth in the proportion of London road injuries arising from road collisions involving a "failure to stop", and the large number of uninsured drivers in London, which has a serious adverse impact on legitimate drivers and other road users. We consider that denying criminals the use of the road is one of the most cost effective forms of policing in London.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to allocate more of the Metropolitan Police's resources to traffic policing including enforcement against vehicles entering cycle lanes and cycle stop areas at junctions to improve safety and make the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition machines in London a priority.”

was carried (11 votes cast in favour and no votes cast against).

10.7 The Chair informed the Assembly that, in accordance with Section 100(b)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), she had agreed to admit to the agenda an urgent motion regarding the Public Private Partnership in respect of the Metronet, BCV and SSL contracts.

10.8 In accordance with Standing Order 3(12), the Assembly also agreed to permit the consideration of the urgent motion.

10.9 Geoff Pope AM then moved and Jennette Arnold AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly regrets the failure of the PPP with respect to the Metronet, BCV and SSL contracts due to their poor delivery performance and the consequent inability of LU to manage the contracts on time and to budget.

This Assembly calls on the Mayor to ensure that sustainable business and financial arrangements are put in place so that Londoners do not pay any further price for the PPP failures, and that capacity upgrades for the tube network and essential modernisation and passenger facilities including step free facilities are introduced at least as early as the original timetable.

Furthermore lessons learnt from issues identified by the arbiter should be acted upon.”

10.10 Roger Evans AM proposed and Angie Bray AM seconded the following amendment to the motion:

After “This Assembly regrets the failure of the PPP” insert the words “initiated by Gordon Brown”.

10.11 Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Roger Evans AM was carried (11 votes cast in favour, 6 votes cast against).

10.12 Upon a further vote, the motion as amended, namely,

“This Assembly regrets the failure of the PPP initiated by Gordon Brown with respect to the Metronet, BCV and SSL contracts due to their poor delivery performance and the consequent inability of LU to manage the contracts on time and to budget.

This Assembly calls on the Mayor to ensure that sustainable business and financial arrangements are put in place so that Londoners do not pay any further price for the PPP failures, and that capacity upgrades for the tube network and essential

modernisation and passenger facilities including step free facilities are introduced at least as early as the original timetable.

Furthermore lessons learnt from issues identified by the arbiter should be acted upon.”

was carried (11 votes cast in favour, 6 votes cast against).

- 10.13 The Chair informed the Assembly that, in accordance with Section 100(b)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), she had also agreed to admit to the agenda an urgent motion regarding the First Great Western rail franchise.
- 10.14 In accordance with Standing Order 3(12), the Assembly agreed to permit the consideration of this urgent motion.
- 10.15 The following motion was then moved by Murad Qureshi AM and seconded by Geoff Pope AM:

“This Assembly notes the significant rise in complaints received by London TravelWatch and the national rail watchdog, Passenger Focus, about the performance and standard of service of First Great Western especially on its London and Thames Valley Network.

We place on record our concern over the fact that FGW has done little to improve its services and is continuously listed as one of the worst performing rail operators in the country. In 2006 only 73% of FGW services ran on time, in June this year its services declined even further with only 68% of peak trains arriving within five minutes of their scheduled time where the target is 92%. Overcrowding on FGW trains remains in excess of passenger capacity, with their morning peak results for overcrowding at a staggering 10.9% in autumn 2006, compared with an L&SE average of 4.8%.

As it is clear that FGW services are declining and the company seems to be unable to achieve its franchising commitment, this Assembly joins London TravelWatch in its call for the Department for Transport to investigate whether FGW has breached its franchise agreement.”

- 10.16 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

“This Assembly notes the significant rise in complaints received by London TravelWatch and the national rail watchdog, Passenger Focus, about the performance and standard of service of First Great Western especially on its London and Thames Valley Network.

We place on record our concern over the fact that FGW has done little to improve its services and is continuously listed as one of the worst performing rail operators in the country. In 2006 only 73% of FGW services ran on time, in June this year its services declined even further with only 68% of peak trains arriving within five minutes of their scheduled time where the target is 92%. Overcrowding on FGW trains remains in excess of passenger capacity, with their morning peak results for overcrowding at a staggering 10.9% in autumn 2006, compared with an L&SE average of 4.8%.

As it is clear that FGW services are declining and the company seems to be unable to achieve its franchising commitment, this Assembly joins London TravelWatch in its call for the Department for Transport to investigate whether FGW has breached its franchise agreement.”

was carried unanimously.

11. Future Meetings of the Assembly (Item 11)

A. Assembly Plenary – 5 September 2007

11.2 The Chair reminded the Assembly that it had been proposed that the 5 September Plenary meeting be used to discuss Housing in London. However, as the publication of the Mayor’s draft Housing Strategy had now been delayed, it was proposed that this meeting be cancelled and the session rescheduled to an alternative date (to be confirmed).

11.3 **Resolved:**

That the 5 September Plenary Assembly meeting be cancelled.

B. Assembly Plenary – 10 October 2007

11.4 **Resolved:**

(a) That it be agreed that the 10 October 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting be used to hold:

(i) A Functional Body Question Time with the London Development Agency; and

(ii) A question and answer session with the Olympic Delivery Authority, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited, and the London Development Agency for the purposes of discussing the preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games;

(b) That, under section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, the attendance of Manny Lewis (Chief Executive, London Development Agency) Mary Reilly (Chair, London Development Agency) be required at the 10 October 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting, for which notice will be given in accordance with section 62 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 in due course, to answer questions in relation to the policies and work of the London Development Agency and the preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games;

(c) That it be agreed to invite Lord Coe (Chair, London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited) and Paul Deighton (Chief Executive Officer, London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited) to attend the 10 October 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting; and

(d) That, under section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, the attendance of David Higgins (Chief Executive, Olympic Delivery Authority) and John Armitt (in his capacity as Chair, Olympic Delivery Authority) be required at the 10 October 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting, for which notice will be given in accordance with section 62 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 in due course, to answer questions in relation to preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, noting that the notice in respect of John Armitt will not be issued until he has taken up the post of Chair in September 2007.

C. Assembly Plenary – 7 November 2007

11.5 Resolved:

(a) That it be agreed that the 7 November 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting be used to hold:

(i) A Functional Body Question Time with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority; and

(ii) A question and answer session with the Metropolitan Police Authority and Metropolitan Police Service.

(b) That, under section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, the attendance of Valerie Shawcross (Chair, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority) be required at the 7 November 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting, for which notice will be given in accordance with section 62 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 in due course, to answer questions on the polices and work of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority;

(c) That, under section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, the attendance of Len Duvall (Chair, Metropolitan Police Authority) be required at the 7 November 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting, for which notice will be given in accordance with section 62 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 in due course, to answer questions in relation to the policies and work of the Metropolitan Police Authority;

(d) That it be agreed to invite Sir Ian Blair (Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis) to attend the 7 November 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting to answer questions in relation to the Metropolitan Police Service.

D. Assembly Plenary – 5 December 2007

11.6 Resolved:

That, under section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, the attendance of Peter Hendy (Commissioner, Transport for London) be required at the 5 December 2007 Plenary Assembly meeting, for which notice will be given in accordance with section 62 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 in due course, to answer questions in relation to the policies and work of Transport for London.

12. Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 12)

12.1 It was noted that there was no other urgent business.

13. Date of Next Meeting (Item 13)

13.1 The next scheduled meeting of the Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time) would be held on Wednesday 12 September 2007 at 10.00am in the Chamber, City Hall.

14. Close of Meeting

14.1 The meeting ended at 1.36 pm.

Chair

Date

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