

MINUTES

**Meeting: London Assembly
(Mayor's Question Time)**
Date: Wednesday 25 January 2012
Time: 10.00 am
**Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's
Walk, London, SE1 2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/whole-assembly>

Present:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jennette Arnold OBE (Chair) | Nicky Gavron |
| Dee Doocey (Deputy Chair) | Darren Johnson |
| Tony Arbour | Jenny Jones |
| Gareth Bacon | Kit Malthouse |
| Richard Barnbrook | Joanne McCartney |
| Richard Barnes | Steve O'Connell |
| John Biggs | Caroline Pidgeon |
| Andrew Boff | Murad Qureshi |
| Victoria Borwick | Navin Shah |
| James Cleverly | Valerie Shawcross CBE |
| Brian Coleman | Richard Tracey |
| Len Duvall | Mike Tuffrey |
| Roger Evans | |

1. Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)

- 1.1 There were no apologies for absence.
- 1.2 The Chair placed on record the Assembly's congratulations to those who had received Honours in the Queen's New Year's Honours list, and in particular those Londoners and Functional Body colleagues who had received Honours.
- 1.3 During the course of the meeting, the Chair welcomed to the public gallery students from Oxford Green Primary School in Kensington and Chelsea.

2. Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

- 2.1 Kit Malthouse AM informed the Assembly that he had received legal advice which advised that he was obliged to consider whether it was appropriate and reasonable for him to participate in the consideration of the element of the budget proposals which related to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC), noting his recent appointment as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. He explained that he did not intend to put any questions to the Mayor on the section of the budget relating to the MOPC.
- 2.2 Members from all Groups confirmed that they were content for Kit Malthouse AM to otherwise participate in the debate on and consideration of the Draft Budget. It was noted also that further legal advice was awaited in relation to possible provisions in relation to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime within a revised Code of Conduct for elected Members.
- 2.3 The Chair explained that the legal advice provided to Kit Malthouse AM had not been received until the previous day and apologised that it had not been possible to provide that advice to him any earlier. She confirmed that the intention and effect of the advice was not to inhibit Assembly Members from carrying out their core scrutiny role, but to ensure that they were mindful of any potential or perceived conflict that could arise where the Assembly was considering any of the executive functions which the Member(s) undertook on behalf of the Mayor.
- 2.4 **Resolved:**
 - (a) **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;**
 - (b) **That Steve O'Connell AM's declaration of a personal interest in Item 4 (Draft Consolidated Budget 2012-13), arising from the fact that his son was a special police officer, be additionally noted; and**
 - (c) **That gifts and hospitality received by Members, as set out in the Authority's gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

3. Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the London Assembly meetings held on 7 December 2011 (Plenary) and 14 December 2011 (Mayor's Question Time) be agreed as correct records, for signature by the Chair.

4. Final Draft Consolidated Budget 2012-13 (Item 4)

Report of the Mayor (Item 4a)

4.1 The Assembly received an oral statement from the Mayor on his Draft 2012-13 Consolidated Budget for the GLA Group proposals and received the Mayor's Draft 2012/13 Consolidated Budget document.

4.2 The Mayor made an oral statement in support of his budget proposals. A copy of the Mayor's statement is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Response by the London Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee to the Mayor of London's GLA Group Budget Proposals and Precepts 2012-13 Consultation Document (Item 4b)

4.3 The Chairman of the Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee, John Biggs AM, presented that Committee's response to the Mayor of London's GLA Group Budget Proposals and Precepts 2012-13 Consultation Document.

4.4 A copy of the Chairman of the Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee's statement is attached as **Appendix 2**.

4.5 Resolved:

That the response by the London Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee to the Mayor of London's 'GLA Group Budget Proposals and Precepts 2012-13 Consultation' document be noted.

Questions to the Mayor on his Draft 2012-13 Consolidated Budget Proposals (Item 4c)

4.6 Assembly Members put questions to the Mayor on each of the component budgets contained within his Draft Consolidated Budget proposals.

4.7 The record of the questions put by Members, together with the Mayor's answers, is attached as **Appendix 3**.

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- 4.8 Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, and Martin Clarke, Executive Director of Resources, were also in attendance for the duration of the question and answer session.

Consideration by the London Assembly of the Mayor of London's Draft Consolidated Budget proposals 2012-13 (Item 4d)

- 4.9 At 12.42pm, the Chair adjourned the meeting until 1.30pm. The meeting reconvened at 1.30pm.

[Note: Richard Barnbrook AM was not in attendance for the remainder of the meeting following the adjournment.]

- 4.10 The substantive motion before the Assembly was: "To approve the Draft Consolidated Budget for 2012-11, together with the draft component budgets comprised within it, with or without amendment."
- 4.11 A formal budget amendment, presented on behalf of the London Assembly's Liberal Democrat Group, was moved by Mike Tuffrey AM and seconded by Caroline Pidgeon AM (and is attached as **Appendix 4**).
- 4.12 A formal budget amendment, presented on behalf of the London Assembly's Conservative Group, was moved by Gareth Bacon AM and seconded by James Cleverly AM (and is attached as **Appendix 5**).
- 4.13 A formal budget amendment, presented on behalf of the London Assembly's Green Group, was moved by Darren Johnson AM and seconded by Jenny Jones AM (and is attached as **Appendix 6**).
- 4.14 A formal budget amendment, presented on behalf of the London Assembly's Labour Group, was moved by John Biggs AM and seconded by Valerie Shawcross AM (and is attached as **Appendix 7**).
- 4.15 The Assembly then turned to debate of the Mayor's Draft Consolidated Budget 2012-13 and the four formal budget amendments.
- 4.16 Following the debate and upon being put to the vote:

The formal budget amendment proposed by Mike Tuffrey AM was declared lost (with 3 votes being cast in favour and 21 votes being cast against).

The formal budget amendment proposed by Gareth Bacon AM was declared lost (with 11 votes being cast in favour and 13 votes being cast against).

The formal budget amendment proposed by Darren Johnson AM was declared lost (with 2 votes being cast in favour and 22 votes being cast against).

The formal budget amendment proposed by John Biggs AM was declared lost (with 8 votes being cast in favour and 16 votes being cast against).

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4.17 John Biggs AM moved and Darren Johnson AM seconded the following budget related motion:

“This Assembly believes that the Mayor has failed in his draft budget for 2012/13 to respond to Londoners’ concerns to protect frontline policing, failed to deliver sustained investment to tackle London’s deep-seated environmental problems, failed to keep London’s public transport affordable, and failed to do enough to address London’s jobs and housing shortages.

The Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to bring back a revised budget that:

- Puts more money and police numbers into borough and safer neighbourhood policing and saves money in setting up the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime;
- Provides a higher level of continuous sustained investment for measures to address London’s environmental challenges, including air pollution and energy efficiency and be clear about where funding is coming from to meet the Mayor's stated targets;
- Reduces the impact of his fares package; and
- Sets out how the new combined housing and regeneration function at City Hall will effectively tackle rising unemployment and continued housing shortages.”

4.18 Kit Malthouse AM moved, in accordance with Standing Order 4.5, and Richard Barnes AM seconded a proposal that the meeting be adjourned for 2 hours in order to consider the budget related motion. Upon being put to the vote, this was not agreed (11 votes cast in favour and 13 votes cast against).

4.19 Richard Barnes AM moved, in accordance with Standing Order 4.5, “that the question be now put”. This procedural motion was agreed by general consensus.

4.20 Upon being put to the vote, the budget related motion in the name of John Biggs AM, namely:

“This Assembly believes that the Mayor has failed in his draft budget for 2012/13 to respond to Londoners’ concerns to protect frontline policing, failed to deliver sustained investment to tackle London’s deep-seated environmental problems, failed to keep London’s public transport affordable, and failed to do enough to address London’s jobs and housing shortages.

The Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to bring back a revised budget that:

- **Puts more money and police numbers into borough and safer neighbourhood policing and saves money in setting up the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime;**
- **Provides a higher level of continuous sustained investment for measures to address London’s environmental challenges, including air pollution and energy efficiency and be clear about where funding is coming from to meet the Mayor's stated targets;**
- **Reduces the impact of his fares package; and**

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- **Sets out how the new combined housing and regeneration function at City Hall will effectively tackle rising unemployment and continued housing shortages.”**

was agreed (with 13 votes in favour and 11 votes against).

- 4.21 There being no other formal budget amendments or budget-related motions, the substantive motion, namely:

“To approve the Draft Consolidated Budget for 2012-13, together with the draft component budgets comprised within it, without amendment.”

was put to the vote. James Cleverly AM moved, in accordance with Standing Order 2.7, that there be a recorded, named vote. The votes in respect of the substantive motion were cast as follows:

For the motion: Tony Arbour AM, Gareth Bacon AM, Richard Barnes AM, Andrew Boff AM, Victoria Borwick AM, James Cleverly AM, Brian Coleman AM, Roger Evans AM, Kit Malthouse AM, Steve O’Connell AM and Richard Tracey AM.

Against the motion: John Biggs AM, Len Duvall AM, Nicky Gavron AM, Darren Johnson AM, Jenny Jones AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Caroline Pidgeon AM, Murad Qureshi AM, Navin Shah AM, Valerie Shawcross AM, Mike Tuffrey AM, Dee Doocey AM (Deputy Chair) and Jennette Arnold AM (Chair).

- 4.22 There being 11 votes in favour and 13 votes against, the substantive motion was not carried.
- 4.23 However, it was noted that, as no amendment to the Draft Consolidated Budget had attracted a simple majority of votes cast in its favour, in accordance with Paragraph 5(5) of Schedule 6 to the GLA Act 1999 (as amended) the Assembly was deemed to have approved, without amendment, the Draft Consolidated Budget for 2012-13.
- 4.24 The Chair announced that this concluded the Assembly’s consideration of the Draft Consolidated Budget and that the Assembly would consider the Final Draft Consolidated Budget at its meeting on 9 February 2012.

5. Mayor's Report (Item 5)

5.1 Resolved:

That the Mayor’s Report covering the period from 1 December 2011 to 11 January 2012 be noted.

6. Questions to the Mayor (Item 6)

6.1 Resolved:

That it be noted that written answers will be provided by Monday 30 January 2012 to all questions submitted to this meeting under the Mayor's Question Time procedure.

7. Date of Next Meeting (Item 7)

7.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Assembly would be the Plenary meeting which would be held on Thursday 9 February 2012 at 10.00 am in the Chamber, City Hall. This meeting would principally be used to consider the Final Draft Consolidated Budget 2012-13.

8. Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 8)

8.1 There was no urgent business requiring consideration.

9. Close of Meeting

9.1 The meeting closed at 4.10pm.

Chair

Date

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