

MINUTES

Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee
Date: Thursday 16 October 2014
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Committee Room 4, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

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

Present:

Len Duvall AM (Chair)
Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)
Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Gareth Bacon AM
Roger Evans AM
Joanne McCartney AM
Valerie Shawcross CBE AM

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Darren Johnson AM and Andrew Boff AM, for whom Gareth Bacon AM attended as a substitute.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 **Resolved:**

That the list of Assembly Members' appointments, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee held on 11 September 2014 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)

4.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

4.2 Resolved:

That the completed and outstanding actions arising from previous meetings of the GLA Oversight Committee be noted.

5 Action Taken Under Delegated Authority (Item 5)

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat setting out recent correspondence issued by the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee and other actions taken under delegated authority.

5.2 In relation to the response from the Head of Paid Service to the letter of Jennette Arnold OBE AM, Valerie Shawcross CBE AM welcomed the progress being made and the commitment to include additional data in future workforce reports to the Committee, but further requested:

- A breakdown of the GLA internship programme in relation to how black and minority ethnic (BAME) interns had been appointed across departments;
- Details of how recruitment advertising had been targeted at BAME communities;
- Further information on the recent recruitment process checks, including how the sampling trial had been conducted and over what period of time; and
- An update on the Coaching Squared positive action pilot programme.

5.3 The Head of Paid Service added that, as part of the ongoing focus on improving diversity in the Authority, the senior management executive team had recently undertaken training to consider diversity issues in terms of day-to-day activities of the workforce rather than in relation to recruitment processes.

5.4 **Resolved:**

That, subject to the comments made in discussion and recorded above, the recent actions taken by the Chair of the Committee under delegated authority be noted.

6 Head of Paid Service Oral Update (Item 6)

6.1 The Head of Paid Service updated the Committee on the ongoing activity in relation to devolution proposals, in particularly the lobbying work undertaken by the Authority at recent political party conferences, and informed Members that the City Growth Commission's report on devolution was scheduled for publication on 22 October 2014.

6.2 The Committee was also advised that the Head of Paid Service had received the Unison union staff pay claim, on which the Assembly would be consulted in due course; that the London Health Commission had published its report, on which the Assembly had already drafted proposals for its scrutiny work; and that, following the Assembly's recent motion on dementia-awareness training, a session for staff had been arranged for 5 November 2014 (to complement a previous staff session held in January 2014 and an Assembly Members' session arranged by Jennette Arnold OBE AM in March 2014). Additionally, dementia awareness information would be included in a future edition of the internal GLA staff bulletin.

6.3 It was suggested by Roger Evans AM that, given Assembly Members' support for the issue of dementia-awareness, the Assembly should also be invited to attend the training session in November.

7 Resilience - Policy Proposal (Item 7)

7.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Service. In attendance for this item were the Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, Sir Edward Lister, and the Head of Governance and Resilience, Tom Middleton.

7.2 The Committee was informed that the proposal to transfer the London Resilience Team from the GLA to the London Fire Brigade (LFB) had been conceived as part of the Authority's Shared Services programme and that, whilst future cost savings might be possible, the intention was to make best use of existing resources and to strengthen management arrangements by locating the team within the same building as the resilience teams of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) and the London boroughs. It was emphasised that the co-location would in no way diminish the Mayor's resilience responsibilities nor lead to any dilution in monitoring or control of the Resilience Team.

7.3 The Head of Governance and Resilience advised that the proposals had been widely

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discussed with staff and with partner bodies, including the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), LFEPA, London Boroughs and the London Resilience Forum (LRF); as a result, it had been concluded that LFEPA, given its increased role in resilience, would be the most suitable host body.

- 7.4 The Chair noted that the Committee had not previously been made aware of the proposals in its usual Shared Services update information but had received confirmation from the Head of Governance and Resilience that staff meetings had taken place to discuss the proposals and that the LRF had given due consideration to the matter at a formal meeting.
- 7.5 Joanne McCartney AM queried what the governance arrangements for the Resilience Team would be in future and the extent to which Members of LFEPA would be involved. The Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning clarified that the management oversight function would remain with the GLA, and that LFEPA Members would have an executive role through LFEPA's resilience responsibilities with Assembly Members being able to undertake their scrutiny role also.
- 7.6 Joanne McCartney AM asked whether there had been sufficient consultation on the proposals in light of the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, being unaware of the proposals when questioned on this matter recently by the Assembly's Police and Crime Committee. The Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning confirmed that proper consideration had been given to other options but as the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) was not a Category One Responder organisation, unlike LFEPA, it had not been considered an appropriate host body.
- 7.7 The Committee queried the relationship between the Mayoral Advisory Group on resilience issues and the work of the Resilience Team in relation to the Mayor's accountability and statutory responsibilities. Jennette Arnold OBE AM questioned whether there had been a review of the suitability for LFEPA to host the various resilience teams and asked for clarity on the engagement and the regularity of the Mayor's involvement and leadership in resilience matters.
- 7.8 The Head of Paid Service clarified that the Assembly had been consulted in 2011 about the change in the Authority's resilience arrangements that had resulted in the replacement of the GLA Gold body with the Mayor's Advisory Group.
- 7.9 Valerie Shawcross CBE AM reminded the Committee that LFEPA had been created with a restricted remit in relation to emergency planning in London and that the MPS had previously been the lead co-ordinator on inter-agency resilience bodies. Moreover, she emphasised the need to ensure that the new proposals did not lead to any ambiguity in the management of incidents and that it was paramount that London maintained its readiness to deal with such incidents, whatever the Government's national arrangements at that time.

- 7.10 The Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning stressed that the Mayor retained his leadership and regularly discussed resilience matters with the MPS, LFEPA and Transport for London, and that the proposed arrangements would enhance his involvement with resilience.
- 7.11 Roger Evans AM suggested that the Assembly Plenary sessions might be the appropriate vehicle for questioning the Mayor on his resilience powers. It was also proposed that the Mayor should issue an annual statement on resilience matters, based on an annual report from the resilience co-ordinating officer. The Chair reminded the Committee that it would be considering resilience at its meeting in February 2015, at which time the Committee could discuss the options for Assembly scrutiny of the subject.
- 7.12 The Committee also requested a briefing for Assembly Members on how the new arrangements would work and, more broadly, on how the Mayor leads on significant resilience issues, such as the potential spread of the ebola virus in London.

7.13 **Resolved:**

That, subject to the comments made in discussion and recorded above, the Mayor's proposal to transfer the London Resilience Team from the Greater London Authority to the London Fire Brigade be noted.

8 Resilience - Staffing Proposal (Item 8)

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Services.

8.2 **Resolved:**

That, subject to the comments made in discussion and recorded in the minutes in relation to Item 7 of the agenda, the proposed deletion of four resilience posts at the GLA arising from the Mayor's proposal to transfer the London Resilience Team to the London Fire Brigade be noted.

9 Police and Crime Committee - Proposal for Online Crime Victimization Survey (Item 9)

- 9.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

9.2 **Resolved:**

(a) That the Police and Crime Committee's proposals as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted; and

- (b) That the proposal for expenditure of up to a maximum of £15,000 (which would include £4,000 for the initial scoping research) from the 2014/15 Scrutiny Team's External Service Budget be approved, subject to the evaluation of the results of the initial scoping research by the Chair of the Police and Crime Committee, in consultation with the Deputy Chairs and lead party Group Members.

10 Education Panel (Item 10)

- 10.1 The Committee received the report of Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 10.2 In presenting the report to the Committee, Jennette Arnold OBE AM expressed the Education Panel's gratitude for the assistance of London Councils and expert witnesses consulted in the course of its work.
- 10.3 **Resolved:**
- That the Education Panel's report, *London Learners, London Lives*, be agreed.**

11 Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee 2014/15 (Item 11)

- 11.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 11.2 **Resolved:**
- (a) That the work programme for 2014/15, as set out in the report, be noted; and
- (b) That the GLA Oversight Committee meeting of 13 November 2014 be rescheduled to 20 November 2014 in order to accommodate the attendance of guests.

12 Date of Next Meeting (Item 12)

- 12.1 The next meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee was scheduled for Thursday 20 November 2014 at 1pm in Committee Room 5, City Hall.

13 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 13)

13.1 There was no urgent business.

14 Close of Meeting

14.1 The meeting ended at 11.12am.

Chair

Date

Contact Officer: John Barry, Principal Committee Manager; Telephone: 020 7983 4425; Email: john.barry@london.gov.uk; Minicom: 020 7983 4458