

MINUTES

Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)

Date: Tuesday 8 September 2015

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/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/whole-assembly>

Present:

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair)

Darren Johnson AM

Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)

Jenny Jones AM

Gareth Bacon AM

Stephen Knight AM

Mayor John Biggs AM

Kit Malthouse AM MP

Andrew Boff AM

Joanne McCartney AM

Victoria Borwick AM MP

Steve O'Connell AM

James Cleverly AM MP

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Tom Copley AM

Murad Qureshi AM

Andrew Dismore AM

Navin Shah AM

Len Duvall AM

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM

Roger Evans AM

Richard Tracey AM

Nicky Gavron AM

Fiona Twycross AM

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

- 1.1 An apology for absence was received from Dr Onkar Sahota AM.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

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

2.2 **Resolved:**

That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the 1 July 2015 (Plenary) and 15 July 2015 (Mayor's Question Time) meetings be signed by the Chair as correct records.

4 Question and Answer Session (Item 4)

Part A:

- 4.1 The Assembly put questions to Sir Howard Davies, former Chair of the Airports Commission, and Mr Philip Graham, Head of Secretariat for the Airports Commission, on the Commission's final report.
- 4.2 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Part B:

- 4.3 Following the question and answer session, at 12.13pm, the Chair adjourned the meeting for ten minutes in order to allow for the circulation and consideration of proposed amendments to the motion set out on the agenda in the name of the Chair. The meeting resumed at 12.23pm.
- 4.4 The Chair formally moved the motion in the agenda, namely:
- "That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked."

4.5 During the course of the debate which followed, at 12.30pm, the Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to extend the meeting in order to allow the remaining items of business on the agenda to be considered.

4.6 Richard Tracey AM moved, and Darren Johnson AM seconded, the following amendment to the motion:

The addition of the words:

“...and reiterates its belief that there is no circumstance under which Heathrow expansion would be acceptable.”

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM proposed, and Len Duvall AM seconded, the following amendment to the motion:

The addition of the words:

“However, while accepting the need for expansion of airport capacity in the South East, this Assembly believes that the case for the expansion of Heathrow has not yet been proven.

This Assembly notes the longstanding position of this body against Heathrow expansion and that the 3 year and £13.4m¹ review carried out by Sir Howard Davies has provided vast amounts of new information and analysis which has now been passed to Government to scrutinise, and examine fully.

This Assembly notes that airport expansion is a matter of great importance to the future economic growth of the capital and the wider UK and that any decisions and positions should be reached as a result of evidence based analysis.

The Assembly notes that airport expansion remains an incredibly emotive subject and that many legitimate concerns have been raised with regards to Davies’ conclusions, both by those in favour and opposing the expansion of Heathrow. In light of these concerns we call on Government to be diligent, evidence based and even handed in its scrutiny of the Davies review.

This Assembly is concerned that the Department for Transport makes clear that the traffic model used by the Airports Commission should not be used as a basis for capacity decisions

This Assembly is concerned that the Airports Commission’s economic forecasting methodology has been described by its own peer review as “unique or at least very unusual”.

¹ *Hansard*, 7 Sep 2015: Column 1216

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This Assembly is concerned that Heathrow will not be able to achieve its 50% commitment to public transport access, given the Airports Commission's own report says "it is not clear whether this is deliverable.

This Assembly is concerned that the Airports Commission has recommended that the number of people affected by noise if Heathrow has an additional runway will remain at around 750,000, rather than looking to reduce this number

This Assembly is concerned that the Airports Commission's interpretation of the Air Quality Directive is not supported by a number of stakeholders and that an alternative interpretation would leave Heathrow unable to expand.

This Assembly is concerned that the Airports Commission's Air Quality Local Assessment concludes that a number of air quality mitigations proposed by Heathrow do not actually work.

This Assembly is concerned that the Airports Commission's estimates of carbon emissions are at great variance with the Government's own projections.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Government to address each of these issues with the Airport Commission report before it makes its decision on how to proceed with Airport Expansion in the UK."

4.7 Following debate the amendment in the name of Richard Tracey AM was put to the vote.

4.8 In accordance with Standing Order 2.7, Richard Tracey AM requested that a recorded vote be taken.

4.9 The votes were cast as follows:

For the amendment: Tony Arbour AM, Gareth Bacon AM, Andrew Boff AM, Victoria Borwick AM MP, James Cleverly AM MP, Roger Evans AM, Darren Johnson AM, Jenny Jones AM, Stephen Knight AM, Kit Malthouse AM MP, Steve O'Connell AM, Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM and Richard Tracey AM.

Abstentions: Jennette Arnold OBE AM, Mayor John Biggs AM, Tom Copley AM, Andrew Dismore AM, Len Duvall AM, Nicky Gavron AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Murad Qureshi AM, Navin Shah AM, Valerie Shawcross CBE AM and Fiona Twycross AM.

4.10 With 13 votes being cast in favour and no votes being cast against the amendment was carried.

4.11 Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Valerie Shawcross CBE AM was not carried (with 11 votes cast in favour and 13 votes cast against).

4.12 Upon being put to the vote, the motion as amended, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked and reiterates its belief that there is no circumstance under which Heathrow expansion would be acceptable.”

was agreed (with 13 votes cast in favour).

5 Action Taken Under Delegated Authority (Item 5)

5.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

5.2 **Resolved:**

That the action taken by the Chair under delegated authority, namely to agree, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Leaders, the subject matter and detailed arrangements for the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting held on 1 July 2015, be noted.

6 Petition (Item 6)

6.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

6.2 The Deputy Chairman, Tony Arbour AM, assumed the Chair in order that the Chair, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, could present a petition with the following prayer:

“We, the residents of Lordship Park N16 and the surrounding area ask that more funding be made available to Hackney police to enable them to plan and pursue a long-term strategy for ridding the area of prostitution, kerb-crawling and associated anti-social behaviour.

Increasingly, kerb crawlers are accosting local residents, and such incidents have involved victims between the ages of 14 and 60. These activities are highly inappropriate in a family residential area, particularly one with an exceptionally high proportion of young people.

It’s time for a safer neighbourhood!”

6.3 The petition had 446 signatories and an associated e-petition hosted by Change.org which set out a further 106 signatures.

6.4 **Resolved:**

That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, as the occupant of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, for a response.

6.5 The Chair resumed the Chair.

6.6 Murad Qureshi AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

"We call upon Westminster City Council, the Mayor of London and Transport for London to reject all proposals for the Baker Street/Gloucester Place Two-Way Traffic Scheme.

- 1) The proposed scheme is not needed and has not been demanded by local residents, businesses or road users.*
- 2) It would damage the quality of life for residents by diverting traffic into the residential streets of the Dorset Square Conservation Area and other residential streets on the south side of Marylebone Rd where air pollution and the risk of accidents would increase.*
- 3) It would increase journey times on Baker St, Gloucester Pl and Marylebone Rd for buses, coaches, taxis, delivery vehicles and emergency services.*
- 4) It would push up rents for shops and restaurants on Baker St, many of which may be forced out of business by higher rents and the loss of parking/unloading spaces.*

The existing one-way system is very successful in maintaining traffic flows, providing spaces for parking/unloading and keeping traffic out of residential side streets. The two-way scheme is being promoted by landowners and property developers who would gain enormously from this unjustifiable waste of taxpayers' money."

6.7 The petition had 1,535 signatories and an associated e-petition hosted by Westminster City Council which set out a further 392 signatures.

6.8 **Resolved:**

That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, as Chairman of Transport for London, for a response

7 Petitions Update (Item 7)

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

7.2 **Resolved:**

That the response to the petition presented at a recent Assembly (Plenary) meeting be noted.

8 Motions (Item 8)

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8.1 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM moved, and Len Duvall AM seconded, the following motion:

“This Assembly notes that the Government plans to bring forward the full implementation of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) by one year from 1st December 2016 to 1st December 2015, resulting in the deletion of hundreds of thousands of names from the London Electoral Register ahead of the Mayor and Assembly elections next May.

The Assembly recalls that under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, people who were only on the electoral register as a result of the previous household registration system would remain on the list of voters until December 2016. While Ministers have the power to bring the date forward, the independent Electoral Commission has given clear advice that doing so would be wrong. The effect would be to delete nearly two million names from UK Electoral Registers of which an estimated quarter of a million are in London.

The Assembly is concerned that according to their June 2015 report on IER, the Electoral Commission identified that six of the eight boroughs where more than 10% of voters' names will be deleted from the electoral register are in London. These six are Brent, Hackney, Haringey, Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea, Redbridge and the worst in the country is Hackney which is set to see 23% of electors lose their right to vote.

This Assembly accepts the conclusions of the Electoral Commission that:

- a) “ The number of London boroughs with high proportions of retained entries further underlines the importance of considering the transition end date in relation to the polls scheduled for May 2016 – which includes elections to the London Assembly and for London Mayor.”

and

- b) “Ministers should not make an order to bring forward the end of the transition to Individual Electoral Registration.”

While recognising that the primary role of maximising electoral registration within the Greater London Authority rests with the Greater London Returning Officer, this Assembly notes the distinctive role and influence that the Mayor can use in opposing these changes and therefore urges the Mayor to protect the right to vote of all Londoners and to back moves in the House of Commons and House of Lords to block the deletion of names from the Electoral Register. “

8.2 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, namely:

“This Assembly notes that the Government plans to bring forward the full implementation of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) by one year from 1st December 2016 to 1st December 2015, resulting in the deletion of hundreds of

thousands of names from the London Electoral Register ahead of the Mayor and Assembly elections next May.

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was agreed (with 15 votes cast in favour and 8 votes cast against).

- 8.3 The motion set out on the agenda in the name of Richard Tracey AM, in relation to the expansion of Heathrow Airport, was withdrawn with the consent of the meeting.
- 8.4 Stephen Knight AM moved and Jenny Jones AM seconded the following motion altered in accordance with Standing Order 3.6A (1), with the consent of the meeting:

“This Assembly notes that the current Permitted Development rights for office to residential conversions are due to expire in May 2016. The Assembly believes that this deadline should remain and that no attempt should be made to extend these rights or make them permanent.

Objections to the rights have been raised on a number of occasions not only by the Assembly, but additionally by organisations such as the Federation of Small Businesses, given the serious threat they pose to the availability of premises for small businesses in London.

The Assembly believes extension could further deplete the number of commercial sites, driving up the cost of property, reducing opportunities for new businesses and jobs, and ultimately hindering London’s economic development.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to make representations regarding any possible extension to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, highlighting the negative impact that any extension could have on London’s economic recovery specifically.”

8.5 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Stephen Knight AM, namely:

“This Assembly notes that the current Permitted Development rights for office to residential conversions are due to expire in May 2016. The Assembly believes that this deadline should remain and that no attempt should be made to extend these rights or make them permanent.

Objections to the rights have been raised on a number of occasions not only by the Assembly, but additionally by organisations such as the Federation of Small Businesses, given the serious threat they pose to the availability of premises for small businesses in London.

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This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to make representations regarding any possible extension to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, highlighting the negative impact that any extension could have on London’s economic recovery specifically.”

was agreed unanimously.

8.6 Victoria Borwick AM MP moved and Andrew Boff AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly would not support any proposal for female only train carriages on TfL trains. The idea amounts to nothing more than gender segregation and does nothing to address any

of the issues of sexual harassment. Everyone should feel safe on TfL trains - isolating women and treating them as the problem is not the answer.”

- 8.7 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Victoria Borwick AM MP, namely:

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was agreed unanimously.

- 8.8 Murad Qureshi AM moved and Nicky Gavron AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly calls on the Mayor to seek an urgent meeting with Government Ministers to discuss ways of mitigating the worst effects of the Government’s summer budget and to lobby for stronger national policies that will facilitate a cleaner, greener London. Looking ahead to the Paris Conference in a few months’ time, this Assembly believes the budget was a historic missed opportunity to set out an agenda for a change and show real leadership amongst the world’s leading economies.

It is increasingly cities around the world that are leading the charge against the biggest environmental challenges of our age. However, London, like other global cities, can only act in the parameters of the policies set down by national governments. This budget is the latest in a long list of retrograde steps since reports appeared in the press of the Prime Minister calling for an end to “all this green crap”.²

The decision to abandon the commitment to zero carbon homes, which was due to come in next year, will severely limit the ability of the Mayor to meet his carbon reduction targets and deliver sustainable homes in the capital. London already has an uphill battle in making its existing housing stock energy efficient, following this announcement it is likely that many new homes being built today will require retro-fits in the near future.

This Assembly also notes with concern the changes to Vehicle Excise Duty, which will disincentivise consumers buying low emission vehicles. These changes will create policy uncertainty at the very time when London needs to up its game in tackling poor air quality. Given that it is low emission vehicles that is driving growth in the UK new car market, this policy change will damage business and consumer confidence.³

The attacks on renewables outlined in the Budget, such as the changes to the Climate Change Levy, will result in renewable electricity effectively paying a carbon tax, a measure described as

² [The Guardian Online](#) 21.11.13 (Accessed 21.8.15)

³ Information from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) via [Autocar.co.uk](#) (Accessed 21.8.15)

“totally bizarre” by Friends of the Earth.⁴ It is deeply disappointing that London’s domestic solar power generating capacity is the lowest of any region in the country and these changes will do sustained damage to industry confidence.”

8.9 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Murad Qureshi AM, namely:

“This Assembly calls on the Mayor to seek an urgent meeting with Government Ministers to discuss ways of mitigating the worst effects of the Government’s summer budget and to lobby for stronger national policies that will facilitate a cleaner, greener London. Looking ahead to the Paris Conference in a few months’ time, this Assembly believes the budget was a historic missed opportunity to set out an agenda for a change and show real leadership amongst the world’s leading economies.

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The attacks on renewables outlined in the Budget, such as the changes to the Climate Change Levy, will result in renewable electricity effectively paying a carbon tax, a measure described as “totally bizarre” by Friends of the Earth.⁷ It is deeply disappointing that London’s domestic solar power generating capacity is the lowest

⁴ Spokesperson for Friends of the Earth, as quoted in BusinessGreen.com (Accessed 21.8.15)

⁵ [The Guardian Online](http://TheGuardianOnline) 21.11.13 (Accessed 21.8.15)

⁶ Information from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) via Autocar.co.uk (Accessed 21.8.15)

⁷ Spokesperson for Friends of the Earth, as quoted in BusinessGreen.com (Accessed 21.8.15)

of any region in the country and these changes will do sustained damage to industry confidence.”

was agreed (with 15 votes cast in favour and 7 votes cast against).

9 Future Meetings of the Assembly (Item 9)

9.1 Resolved:

That the Assembly agrees to use the 4 November 2015 meeting principally to hold a question and answer session with Sir Edward Lister, Chairman of London & Partners, and Gordon Innes, Chief Executive Officer of London & Partners, on the work of London & Partners.

10 Date of Next Meeting (Item 10)

- 10.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly would be the Mayor's Question Time meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 16 September 2015 in the Chamber, City Hall.

11 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 11)

- 11.1 The Chair explained that she had received a request to debate an urgent motion and that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), she had agreed to admit that motion to the agenda for the meeting as an item of urgent business in order to allow its consideration at the earliest opportunity.
- 11.2 In accordance with Standing Order 3.12, and by general consensus, the Assembly unanimously agreed to consider the urgent motion.
- 11.3 Fiona Twycross AM moved and Andrew Boff AM seconded the urgent motion, namely:

“This Assembly wishes to continue London's proud history of providing a safe haven for refugees of war and conflict.

This Assembly agrees that, while the root cause of the conflict in Syria and current refugee crisis in Europe needs to be resolved, we cannot abdicate our moral responsibility to help those affected now.

We welcome London Councils' statements that they stand ready to help with the Syrian refugee crisis, and urge the Mayor and the Government to ensure refugees are welcomed to London as part of the UK playing a full role in the international humanitarian response to the current crisis.”

- 11.4 Upon being put to the vote, the urgent motion in the name of Fiona Twycross AM, namely:

“This Assembly wishes to continue London's proud history of providing a safe haven for refugees of war and conflict.

This Assembly agrees that, while the root cause of the conflict in Syria and current refugee crisis in Europe needs to be resolved, we cannot abdicate our moral responsibility to help those affected now.

We welcome London Councils’ statements that they stand ready to help with the Syrian refugee crisis, and urge the Mayor and the Government to ensure refugees are welcomed to London as part of the UK playing a full role in the international humanitarian response to the current crisis.”

was agreed unanimously.

12 Close of Meeting

12.1 The meeting finished at 1.57pm.

Chair

Date

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