

MINUTES

Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)

Date: Wednesday 2 March 2016

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)	Stephen Knight AM
Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)	Joanne McCartney AM
Gareth Bacon AM	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Andrew Boff AM	Murad Qureshi AM
James Cleverly AM MP	Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Tom Copley AM	Navin Shah AM
Andrew Dismore AM	Valerie Shawcross CBE AM
Len Duvall AM	Richard Tracey AM
Darren Johnson AM	Fiona Twycross AM
Jenny Jones AM	

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kemi Badenoch AM, Mayor John Biggs AM, Roger Evans AM, Nicky Gavron AM, Kit Malthouse AM MP and Steve O'Connell AM.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

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

2.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 3, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests;**
- (b) That Len Duvall AM's declaration of a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 4, arising from his holding a season ticket at West Ham United Football Club, be noted; and**
- (c) That Navin Shah AM's declaration of a non-pecuniary interest in the motion set out at paragraph 3.1 of Agenda Item 6, arising from his role as an Ambassador of Harrow United Deaf Club, be noted.**

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting held on 10 February 2016 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Question and Answer Session - London Legacy Development Corporation (Item 4)

4.1 The Assembly put question David Goldstone CBE, Chief Executive of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), and David Edmonds CBE, Chairman of the LLDC, on the policies and work of the LLDC.

4.2 During the course of the discussion, the Chief Executive of the LLDC undertook to provide details of:

- the interest accrued on the loan from Arcelor-Mittal Orbit Europe since it had been initially agreed and the rate of interest currently charged;
- the number of contracts the LLDC had with commercial provisions; and
- which roads in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park would be adopted for motorised traffic.

- 4.3 The Chief Executive of the LLDC also undertook to give consideration to the feasibility study of improvements for cycling provision in the Olympic Park that had been commissioned by the London Borough of Newham and to the 2012 report of Andrew Boff AM entitled *Radically Normal*, in relation to housing provision.
- 4.4 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached as **Appendix 1**, and the written answers provided following the meeting are attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 4.5 The Chair formally moved the motion in the agenda, namely:
- “That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.”
- 4.6 **Resolved:**
- That the answers to the questions asked be noted.**

[Note: See also Minute 2 – Declarations of Interest.]

5 Petitions (Item 5)

- 5.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 5.2 Jennette Arnold OBE AM presented a petition with the following prayer:
- “We, the undersigned, ask Transport for London to re-consider their proposal to:
1. Move six bus routes from Vorley Road Stand to new stands on Archway Road.
 2. Allow buses to turn across the A1.
 3. Prevent traffic in St John’s Way from turning into Archway Road.”
- 5.3 **Resolved:**
- That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor of London, as Chairman of Transport for London, for a response.**
- 5.4 Jennette Arnold OBE AM also presented a petition with the following prayer:
- “As part of the Archway Gyratory proposal, Transport for London (TfL) plans to close a right turn from St John's Way which will re-route two bus services and hospital-/north-bound A1 traffic into local roads serving the Archway Children's Centre, Girdlestone Estate and Whitehall Park Conservation Area. The above have several residential areas, playgrounds and a nursery/children's centre well-loved and well-used by many pregnant women and under-5s.

We, the undersigned, petition the Mayor of London, TfL and Islington Council to commence a pre-construction air quality survey in summer 2015, so that a better-informed decision can be made - not just based on journey minutes alone, but also the number of young lives saved from worsening pollution - year after year.

In particular, we call upon the Mayor and Islington Council to:

- 1) Allow volunteers to append diffusion tubes to lamp-posts at Vorley Road, Macdonald Road, St John's Way, Highgate Hill (lower part) and within Whitehall Park Conservation Area. This will be similar to what was achieved at the upper part of Highgate Hill (website: www.camden.greenparty.org.uk/campaigns/air-pollution.html);
- 2) Convince TfL that the air quality survey results are a material concern in pre-construction reviews of the Archway Gyratory details (e.g. amending the current proposal so that no new bus routes are diverted into Vorley Road);
- 3) Urge TfL to meet the Archway Children's Centre Parents/Carers Group and other community groups from July 2015 and progressively beyond, to clarify and discuss improvements to the current gyratory proposal; and
- 4) Retain a right-turning route from St John's Way in the first year of the new road layout as part of the planned post-construction review, rather than ban it from the outset (based on traffic simulations alone). This will be a more accurate assessment and reduce abortive work, disruptions and costs in re-opening the right turn in future, when traffic and pollution spillover proves to be unsafe and unacceptable."

5.5 **Resolved:**

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

5.6 Jennette Arnold OBE AM also presented a petition with the following prayer:

"We call on TFL to:

- Immediately halt its gyratory enlargement plans in order to give due consideration to alternative road layouts that keep traffic on major roads, not residential streets, including incorporating a right turn at St Johns Way.
- Commit to reducing pollution on Vorley Road and other residential roads affected by the gyratory by revising its redevelopment plan and demonstrate to the local community how it will do this before work on the gyratory starts."

5.7 Resolved:

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

6 Motions (Item 6)

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

6.2 During the course of the discussion, 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.

6.3 Navin Shah AM proposed and Andrew Boff AM seconded the following motion, altered in accordance with Standing Order 3.6A (1):

“d/Deaf people face many barriers when trying to access information or services; either through lack of awareness or language barriers. As a consequence, the British Deaf Association has established the following principles to tackle these issues:

- Ensure better access to information and services;
- Promote learning and teaching of British Sign Language (BSL);
- Support d/Deaf children and families;
- Ensuring staff can communicate effectively in BSL; and
- Consult with local d/Deaf community regularly.

Harrow has recently become the second London Borough Council to sign up the BSL Charter with Harrow United Deaf Club. The London Assembly acknowledges that this is a good start but requires much greater take up of the BSL Charter across London by local authorities, stakeholder and voluntary groups.

The London Assembly support and promote the British Sign Language Charter created by the British Deaf Association with the aim of improving life for d/Deaf people by removing direct and indirect discrimination. It also aims to empower d/Deaf people as well as increasing awareness of British Sign Language and d/Deaf issues.

The Assembly also notes the extensive work of Andrew Boff’s rapporteur report on access to health services for d/Deaf people, including the key recommendation to develop a universal standard for British Sign Language interpreting, which should be provided in GP surgeries and hospitals.

The London Assembly calls on the Mayor to sign up to the Charter on behalf of the GLA, to improve access and rights for d/Deaf BSL users across the functional bodies. The London

Assembly further urges the Mayor of London to embody Charter of BSL in his Londonwide equalities strategies, including actively promoting it to Local Authorities across London.”

6.4 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

“d/Deaf people face many barriers when trying to access information or services; either through lack of awareness or language barriers. As a consequence, the British Deaf Association has established the following principles to tackle these issues:

- **Ensure better access to information and services;**
- **Promote learning and teaching of British Sign Language (BSL);**
- **Support d/Deaf children and families;**
- **Ensuring staff can communicate effectively in BSL; and**
- **Consult with local d/Deaf community regularly.**

Harrow has recently become the second London Borough Council to sign up the BSL Charter with Harrow United Deaf Club. The London Assembly acknowledges that this is a good start but requires much greater take up of the BSL Charter across London by local authorities, stakeholder and voluntary groups.

The London Assembly support and promote the British Sign Language Charter created by the British Deaf Association with the aim of improving life for d/Deaf people by removing direct and indirect discrimination. It also aims to empower d/Deaf people as well as increasing awareness of British Sign Language and d/Deaf issues.

The Assembly also notes the extensive work of Andrew Boff’s rapporteur report on access to health services for d/Deaf people, including the key recommendation to develop a universal standard for British Sign Language interpreting, which should be provided in GP surgeries and hospitals.

The London Assembly calls on the Mayor to sign up to the Charter on behalf of the GLA, to improve access and rights for d/Deaf BSL users across the functional bodies. The London Assembly further urges the Mayor of London to embody Charter of BSL in his Londonwide equalities strategies, including actively promoting it to Local Authorities across London.”

was agreed unanimously.

[Note: See also Minute 2 – Declarations of Interest.]

- 6.5 Murad Qureshi AM proposed and Fiona Twycross AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly is concerned that the rising cost of tickets¹ for Premiership football matches will make them unaffordable for supporters in London earning an average income².

Previous motions³ by this Assembly have noted the importance of football clubs to communities and the support the Mayor has given to stadium-led regeneration to create job opportunities and improve facilities for local people. With several Premier League clubs benefiting from the Mayor’s support in building new, or expanding existing, stadiums, we now call on the Mayor to use these negotiations to make the case for clubs to ensure that tickets are affordable for all, especially those communities where the clubs are located.”

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

“This Assembly is concerned that the rising cost of tickets⁴ for Premiership football matches will make them unaffordable for supporters in London earning an average income⁵.

Previous motions⁶ by this Assembly have noted the importance of football clubs to communities and the support the Mayor has given to stadium-led regeneration to create job opportunities and improve facilities for local people. With several Premier League clubs benefiting from the Mayor’s support in building new, or expanding existing, stadiums, we now call on the Mayor to use these negotiations to make the case for clubs to ensure that tickets are affordable for all, especially those communities where the clubs are located.”

was agreed (13 votes in favour and 3 votes against).

- 6.7 Andrew Dismore AM proposed and Murad Qureshi AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes with concern the growing proliferation of tall buildings in outer London.

¹ [Sky Sports News: Premier League ticket prices revealed](#) 08.10.15 (Accessed 17.01.2015). The most recent rise in ticket prices means that the average season ticket holder spends £32.50 per game. London has some of the highest ticket prices; the cost of the cheapest season ticket at Tottenham Hotspur is £745, this rises to £1014 at Arsenal.

² [GLA Household Income Estimates for Small Areas 2012/13](#) (Accessed 17.01.2015). For many people living in the areas where the clubs are located this is unaffordable; the most recent GLA estimates of household income in Enfield, where Tottenham Hotspur is located, is £33,110 – the cost of a single cheapest season ticket represents over 2 per cent of that income.

³ [London Assembly Motion “London Living Wage at Football Clubs”](#) 08.07.15 (Accessed 17.01.2015)

⁴ [Sky Sports News: Premier League ticket prices revealed](#) 08.10.15 (Accessed 17.01.2015). The most recent rise in ticket prices means that the average season ticket holder spends £32.50 per game. London has some of the highest ticket prices; the cost of the cheapest season ticket at Tottenham Hotspur is £745, this rises to £1014 at Arsenal.

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⁶ [London Assembly Motion “London Living Wage at Football Clubs”](#) 08.07.15 (Accessed 17.01.2015)

These buildings threaten the cherished suburban character of outer London boroughs. In Barnet for example, New London Architecture has identified 21 tall building projects in the development process. Many of these have no place in the suburbs, such as the 31-storey tower, one of three planned, being built in otherwise low-rise West Hendon and threatening the Welsh Harp SSSA.

Tall buildings can make a positive contribution to city life and the skyline, but only if they are in the right places, meet the right needs, and respect the character and identity of the surrounding area. Most of those proposed for suburban London fail to meet these criteria.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to rethink his approach to tall buildings in outer London and to:

- establish a 'Skyline Commission' of experts from a range of fields ;
- develop more detailed and rigorous masterplanning processes, including engagement with local residents and stakeholders, especially within Opportunity Areas;
- implement a clusters policy; and
- require all developers with proposals for tall buildings in outer London to consider other building configurations.

The GLA should also support the development of a fully interactive 3D computer model of London's emerging skyline in order to allow development proposals to be visualised within the context of their impact on the London skyline."

6.8 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

"This Assembly notes with concern the growing proliferation of tall buildings in outer London.

These buildings threaten the cherished suburban character of outer London boroughs. In Barnet for example, New London Architecture has identified 21 tall building projects in the development process. Many of these have no place in the suburbs, such as the 31-storey tower, one of three planned, being built in otherwise low-rise West Hendon and threatening the Welsh Harp SSSA.

Tall buildings can make a positive contribution to city life and the skyline, but only if they are in the right places, meet the right needs, and respect the character and identity of the surrounding area. Most of those proposed for suburban London fail to meet these criteria.

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- **establish a ‘Skyline Commission’ of experts from a range of fields ;**
- **develop more detailed and rigorous masterplanning processes, including engagement with local residents and stakeholders, especially within Opportunity Areas;**
- **implement a clusters policy; and**
- **require all developers with proposals for tall buildings in outer London to consider other building configurations.**

The GLA should also support the development of a fully interactive 3D computer model of London’s emerging skyline in order to allow development proposals to be visualised within the context of their impact on the London skyline.”

was agreed (11 votes in favour and 3 votes against).

6.9 Andrew Dismore AM proposed and Tom Copley AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly recognises that students studying in London are especially vulnerable when renting privately.

For many, this will be the first time they are away from home and the first time they have entered the private rental market, and at time when they are unlikely to be aware of their rights.

Students are also likely to experience excessive rents and unfair estate agent charges.

The Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to pay particular attention to the needs of students in his housing policies, with particular reference to ensuring that they are protected from bad landlords, including a campaign working with universities and college authorities and student unions, to ensure students are aware of their rights as tenants and how to enforce them.”

6.10 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

“This Assembly recognises that students studying in London are especially vulnerable when renting privately.

For many, this will be the first time they are away from home and the first time they have entered the private rental market, and at time when they are unlikely to be aware of their rights.

Students are also likely to experience excessive rents and unfair estate agent charges.

The Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to pay particular attention to the needs of students in his housing policies, with particular reference to ensuring that they

are protected from bad landlords, including a campaign working with universities and college authorities and student unions, to ensure students are aware of their rights as tenants and how to enforce them.”

was agreed unanimously.

6.11 Stephen Knight AM proposed and Fiona Twycross AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes the proposed changes set out in the Local Government Pension Scheme: Revoking and replacing the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 which specifically proposes to prevent local authorities using their pensions and procurement policies to pursue boycotts disinvestments and sanctions against foreign nations and the UK defence industry.

This Assembly also notes that as of January 2016 the Greater London Authority had invested through its Group Investment Syndicate (GIS) £85 million of taxpayer’s money in the Riyadh Bank, a bank which is 49 per cent owned by state bodies and prominently features the three most senior members of the Saudi royal family in its annual reports.

This Assembly objects to the proposed changes to the management to Local Government Pension Scheme to restrict the freedom of elected bodies to take decisions about the appropriateness of certain foreign investments and believes that the predominant concern of a financial return on investments can be combined with policies relating to the appropriateness and ethical concerns of investing in certain countries and regimes, especially when the investments are in state owned or part state owned financial institutions.

The Chair of the London Assembly should write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government expressing the London Assembly’s objections to the restrictions on potential investment decisions that are being proposed.

This Assembly also urges the Mayor to ensure that all investments undertaken by the GLA Group Investment Syndicate are regularly published and available via the website www.london.gov.uk to allow Londoners full access to information about how investment decisions are being made on their behalf.”

6.12 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

“This Assembly notes the proposed changes set out in the Local Government Pension Scheme: Revoking and replacing the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 which specifically proposes to prevent local authorities using their pensions and procurement policies to pursue boycotts disinvestments and sanctions against foreign nations and the UK defence industry.

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The Chair of the London Assembly should write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government expressing the London Assembly's objections to the restrictions on potential investment decisions that are being proposed.

This Assembly also urges the Mayor to ensure that all investments undertaken by the GLA Group Investment Syndicate are regularly published and available via the website www.london.gov.uk to allow Londoners full access to information about how investment decisions are being made on their behalf."

was agreed (11 votes in favour and 3 votes against).

7 Reports of Assembly Members on the Work of Outside Bodies (Item 7)

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

7.2 **Resolved:**

That the reports of Members appointed to outside bodies indicated, on the work of the bodies since May 2015, be noted.

8 Date of Next Meeting (Item 8)

8.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly was the Mayor's Question Time meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 16 March 2016 in the Chamber, City Hall.

9 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 9)

9.1 There were no items of urgent business.

10 End of Meeting

10.1 The meeting finished at 12.55pm.

Chair	Date
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