

# MINUTES

**Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)**

**Date: Friday 13 May 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:**

|                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tony Arbour AM (Chairman)             | Florence Eshalomi AM    |
| Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair) | Nicky Gavron AM         |
| Gareth Bacon AM                       | David Kurten AM         |
| Kemi Badenoch AM                      | Joanne McCartney AM     |
| Shaun Bailey AM                       | Steve O'Connell AM      |
| Sian Berry AM                         | Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM |
| Andrew Boff AM                        | Keith Prince AM         |
| Leonie Cooper AM                      | Caroline Russell AM     |
| Tom Copley AM                         | Dr Onkar Sahota AM      |
| Unmesh Desai AM                       | Navin Shah AM           |
| Tony Devenish AM                      | Fiona Twycross AM       |
| Andrew Dismore AM                     | Peter Whittle AM        |
| Len Duvall AM                         |                         |

## **1 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair of the London Assembly (Item 1)**

- 1.1 Jennette Arnold OBE AM delivered an address on her term as Chair of the London Assembly, referring to the number of reports produced by the London Assembly and in particular the high-profile work of the Transport Committee on scrutinising Transport for London (TfL), the work of the GLA Oversight Committee on TfL's Garden Bridge design procurement, the recommendations of the Education Panel to the Mayor, and the work of the Police and Crime Committee on crime on public transport. She also expressed a hope that the work of the Chair with the Holocaust Educational Trust would be continued.
- 1.2 The Head of Paid Service then conducted the election for the position of Chair of the London Assembly for the 2016/17 year.
- 1.3 It was proposed by Gareth Bacon AM and seconded by Len Duvall AM that Tony Arbour AM be appointed Chair of the London Assembly for the 2016/17 year. Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM spoke in support of the nomination.
- 1.4 There being one nomination before the Assembly, it was:
- 1.5 **Resolved:**

**That Tony Arbour AM be appointed Chair of the London Assembly until the next Annual Meeting of the Assembly in May 2017.**

[Tony Arbour AM in the Chair]

- 1.6 The Chairman addressed the Assembly and expressed his view that the Assembly had become a recognised and important established political institution in the eyes of Londoners. He emphasised how the work of the Assembly necessitated cross-party working in order to operate in the interests of London and Londoners. The Chairman also stressed his desire for London to be granted greater devolved responsibilities.
- 1.7 The Chairman then presided over the election for the office of Deputy Chair of the London Assembly.
- 1.8 It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Gareth Bacon AM that Jennette Arnold OBE AM be appointed Deputy Chair of the London Assembly for the 2016/17 year. Sian Berry AM, Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM and Len Duvall AM spoke in support of the nomination.

- 1.9 There being one nomination before the Assembly, it was:

**Resolved:**

**That Jennette Arnold OBE AM be appointed Deputy Chair of the London Assembly until the next Annual Meeting of the Assembly in May 2017.**

## **2 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 2)**

- 2.1 There were no apologies for absence.

## **3 Declarations of Interests (Item 3)**

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

3.2 **Resolved:**

**That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 3, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.**

## **4 Results of 2016 Greater London Authority Elections (Item 4)**

- 4.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

4.2 **Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

## **5 Assembly Party Groups and Members (Item 5)**

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

5.2 **Resolved:**

**That the formation of party Groups from within the overall membership of the London Assembly be noted.**

## **6 Deputy Mayors (Item 6)**

### **6.1 Resolved:**

**That the appointment of Joanne McCartney AM to the position of statutory Deputy Mayor be noted.**

6.2 In accordance with Standing Order 2.2D, the Chairman agreed to take the remaining items in a different order than that set out on the agenda.

## **7 Nominations to Outside Bodies (Item 11)**

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

7.2 Len Duvall AM proposed and Fiona Twycross AM seconded the following nominations to the outside bodies indicated:

- Advisory Board for the Centre for Public Scrutiny – Tony Arbour AM;
- Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee – Dr Onkar Sahota AM; and
- London Sustainable Development Commission – Nicky Gavron AM.

### **7.3 Resolved:**

**That the following Members be nominated to the outside bodies indicated for the period up until the next ordinary GLA elections:**

- **Advisory Board for the Centre for Public Scrutiny – Tony Arbour AM;**
- **Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee – Dr Onkar Sahota AM; and**
- **London Sustainable Development Commission – Nicky Gavron AM.**

## **8 GLA Corporate Governance Framework (Item 12)**

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

### **8.2 Resolved:**

- (a) That the Scheme of Delegation of Functions of the London Assembly, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted;**
- (b) That the Mayoral Scheme of Delegation, as set out at Appendix 2 of the report, be noted; and**

- (c) That the standing delegation of authority to the Executive Director of Secretariat to make minor and consequential changes, arising from relevant decisions of the London Assembly and/or its committees, to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions of the London Assembly and the Assembly's Decision Making Framework, be reconfirmed.

## **9 Future Plenary Meeting (Item 13)**

### **9.1 Resolved:**

That the Assembly, under section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, requires the attendance of the Chairman and the Commissioner of Transport for London at the 8 June 2016 London Assembly (Plenary) 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.

## **10 Action Taken by the Chair Under Delegated Authority (Item 14)**

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

### **10.2 Resolved:**

That the recent action taken by the Chair of the London Assembly for the 2015/16 Assembly Year, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, under delegated authority, namely not to hold a confirmation hearing in respect of the proposed appointment of Councillor Daniel Moylan as Interim Deputy Chairman of Transport for London for the period up until 26 June 2016, be noted.

## **11 Minutes (Item 15)**

### **11.1 Resolved:**

That the minutes of London Assembly meetings held on 2 March 2016 (Plenary) and 16 March 2016 (Mayor's Question Time) be signed by the Chair as correct records.

## **12 Date of Next Meeting (Item 16)**

12.1 The next meeting of the London Assembly would be the Mayor's Question Time meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 25 May 2016 in the Chamber, City Hall.

### **13 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 17)**

- 13.1 The Chairman explained that he 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), he 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, noting also that the matter which the motion related to had not arisen until after the agenda for the meeting had been published.
- 13.2 In accordance with Standing Order 3.12 and following an oral statement from the proposer of the motion as to why the Assembly should agree to consider it, by general consensus the Assembly unanimously agreed to consider the urgent motion.
- 13.3 Gareth Bacon AM moved and Len Duvall AM seconded the urgent motion, namely:

“This Assembly wishes to express its disappointment in the way London Elects and the London Borough of Barnet Returning Officer conducted the Mayoral and London Assembly elections and proposes the setting up of a working group to examine what happened, as has always happened in previous elections, alongside assessing the way in which the elections were carried out across London.

In the London Borough of Barnet the supplementary register, rather than the full register, was supplied to all 155 polling stations. By the time the error was spotted and remedial action taken, estimates suggest a significant number of voters were disenfranchised.

The Mayoral and London Assembly elections were overseen by London Elects, and the counting of ballots on Friday 6th May 2016 was delayed by nearly seven hours following a computer system failure. The full London Assembly results were not announced until shortly before midnight whilst the Mayoral ballot was only formally read in the early hours of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

A working group should be formed and should include in its investigations the London Borough of Barnet’s and London Elects’ handling of the Mayoral and London Assembly elections, and examine what changes should be made to prevent such failings from reoccurring. The working group should also assess how the Mayoral and London Assembly elections were conducted across the capital with the aim of encouraging best practice.

This investigation should be completed at the earliest opportunity, with the Barnet part of the investigation concluding before the European Referendum so the Council and the Electoral Commission, and with London Elects if necessary, have time to make any changes in Barnet to ensure that this does not happen again. The working group should report to the London Assembly’s Oversight Committee.”

- 13.4 Upon being put to the vote, the urgent motion in the name of Gareth Bacon AM, namely:

**“This Assembly wishes to express its disappointment in the way London Elects and the London Borough of Barnet Returning Officer conducted the Mayoral and London Assembly elections and proposes the setting up of a working group to examine what happened, as has always happened in previous elections, alongside assessing the way in which the elections were carried out across London.**

**In the London Borough of Barnet the supplementary register, rather than the full register, was supplied to all 155 polling stations. By the time the error was spotted and remedial action taken, estimates suggest a significant number of voters were disenfranchised.**

**The Mayoral and London Assembly elections were overseen by London Elects, and the counting of ballots on Friday 6th May 2016 was delayed by nearly seven hours following a computer system failure. The full London Assembly results were not announced until shortly before midnight whilst the Mayoral ballot was only formally read in the early hours of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

**A working group should be formed and should include in its investigations the London Borough of Barnet’s and London Elects’ handling of the Mayoral and London Assembly elections, and examine what changes should be made to prevent such failings from reoccurring. The working group should also assess how the Mayoral and London Assembly elections were conducted across the capital with the aim of encouraging best practice.**

**This investigation should be completed at the earliest opportunity, with the Barnet part of the investigation concluding before the European Referendum so the Council and the Electoral Commission, and with London Elects if necessary, have time to make any changes in Barnet to ensure that this does not happen again. The working group should report to the London Assembly’s Oversight Committee.”**

was agreed unanimously.

- 13.5 The Chairman explained that he had received a request to debate a second urgent motion and that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), he 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, noting also that the matter which the motion related to had not arisen until after the agenda for the meeting had been published.

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- 13.6 In accordance with Standing Order 3.12 and following an oral statement from the proposer of the motion as to why the Assembly should agree to consider it, by general consensus the Assembly agreed to consider the urgent motion.

- 13.7 Andrew Dismore AM moved and Fiona Twycross AM seconded the urgent motion, namely:

“Following the electoral fiasco during the Mayoral and London Assembly elections, this Assembly has significant doubts about the ability of London Borough of Barnet to manage and administer elections.

In Barnet, the supplementary register, rather than the full register, was supplied to polling stations. By the time the error was spotted and remedial action taken, a significant number of voters were disenfranchised, though many were able to return to vote later. Many postal votes did not arrive on time, or were not received at all. Many poll cards were not received in time or at all. The election hotline was unavailable for most of the day.

The consequences of these problems, though, pale into insignificance when compared to the state of the electoral register in Barnet, which is worryingly deficient.

As a consequence of the significant issues raised, this Assembly has no confidence that Barnet could run a whelk stall let alone sort out the register and rectify these errors and inefficiencies by the time of the EU Referendum; especially as the details of their own inquiry have not even been announced yet.

The Assembly therefore calls on London Elects and the Electoral Commission to intervene actively to take over the running of Barnet’s election administration for the Referendum and to conduct an urgent review of the state and accuracy of Barnet’s electoral register; and also proposes that a London local authority with a record of excellent electoral administration, such as Camden, should take over the management of the European Union Referendum in the London Borough of Barnet.”

- 13.8 Upon being put to the vote, the urgent motion in the name of Andrew Dismore AM, namely:

**“Following the electoral fiasco during the Mayoral and London Assembly elections, this Assembly has significant doubts about the ability of London Borough of Barnet to manage and administer elections.**

**In Barnet, the supplementary register, rather than the full register, was supplied to polling stations. By the time the error was spotted and remedial action taken, a significant number of voters were disenfranchised, though many were able to return to vote later. Many postal votes did not arrive on time, or were not received at all. Many poll cards were not received in time or at all. The election hotline was unavailable for most of the day.**



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was agreed (by 15 votes for and 10 votes against).

#### **14 Establishment of Assembly Committees and Bodies for 2016/17 (Item 7)**

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

14.2 A list of proposed Assembly committees and other bodies for establishment for the 2016/17 year, together with the proposed terms of reference, membership and nominations for Chair and Deputy Chair for each body was formally tabled at the meeting and is attached to these minutes as **Appendix 1**.

14.3 **Resolved:**

**(a) That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the proportionality rules be disapplied where committee membership is not politically proportional in respect of the overall membership of the Assembly;**

**(agreed unanimously)**

**(b) That it be agreed to establish the committees and other bodies set out at tabled Appendix 1 as ordinary committees for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Assembly in May 2017, and that the size, constitution, terms of reference, membership, substitute Members, Chairs and Deputy Chairs for each of those bodies be approved;**

- (c) **That the existing standing delegation to the Chair of the Assembly in respect of powers (conferred by Schedule 4A of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 as amended) to decide to hold a confirmation hearing and to decide whether to request the candidate to produce any documents be confirmed; and that appointment of the Chair be delegated to the Committee for election at each meeting; and**
- (d) **That the previous decisions of the then Business Management and Appointments Committee in respect of committee meetings and work programmes, as set out at paragraphs 4.38 and 4.39 of Agenda Item 7 be confirmed.**

## **15 Appointment of Members to Committees (Item 8)**

- 15.1 The Assembly considered the business presented under items 7, 8 and 9 on the agenda collectively under Item 7.

## **16 Election of Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs (Item 9)**

- 16.1 The Assembly considered the business presented under items 7, 8 and 9 on the agenda collectively under Item 7.

## **17 Dates of Assembly and Committee Meetings in 2016/17 (Item 10)**

- 17.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 17.2 The programme of Assembly and committee meetings for the 2016/17 Assembly Year was formally tabled at the meeting and is attached to these minutes as **Appendix 2**.

### **17.3 Resolved:**

**That the programme of Assembly and committee meetings for the 2016/17 Assembly Year and allocated meeting slots to the committees and bodies established under Item 7 of the agenda be agreed.**

## **18 Close of Meeting**

- 18.1 The meeting finished at 11.10am.

**Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Plenary)  
Friday 13 May 2016**

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Chairman

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Date

**Contact Officers:** John Barry  
Principal Committee Manager  
GLA Secretariat, City Hall  
The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

**Telephone:** 020 7983 4425

**Email:** john.barry@london.gov.uk

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