

MINUTES

Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee
Date: Wednesday 12 July 2023
Time: 2.00 pm
Place: Chamber, City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE

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Present:

Emma Best AM (Chairman)

Len Duvall AM (Deputy Chair)

Shaun Bailey AM

Elly Baker AM

Léonie Cooper AM

Peter Fortune AM

Joanne McCartney AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Caroline Russell AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Susan Hall AM and Keith Prince AM. Shaun Bailey AM attended as a substitute.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

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

2.2 **Resolved:**

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

3 Summary List of Actions (Item 3)

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

3.2 **Resolved:**

That the completed and ongoing actions arising from previous meetings of the Committee be noted.

4 GLA Workforce Report (Item 4)

4.1 In accordance with Standing Order 2.2D the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that items 4 and 5 would be taken together.

4.2 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat as background to putting questions on the GLA Workforce Report to the following invited guests:

- Mary Harpley, Chief Officer, GLA;
- Shakira Keddo, Assistant Director for People, GLA; and
- Tim Steer, Executive Director of Housing and Land, GLA.

4.3 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4.4 During the course of the discussion the Chief Officer agreed to provide the following information:

- A breakdown of team anchor points, and how many staff were anchored at the various GLA buildings;
- Where staff had declared that they had a disability, confirmation of how when these declarations had last been updated;
- For faith and sexual orientation, data to compare the current GLA workforce against previous years and London's working-age population; and
- An analysis of the current completion rates of the GLA's mandatory training courses, including the Disability Equality training course and the Let's Talk About Race course.

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4.5 During the course of the discussion the Assistant Director for People agreed to provide the following information:

- A breakdown of agency staff numbers by Directorate, and what staffing issues were causing increased numbers of temporary staff in different areas;
- Of the total number of staff who had left the GLA, the percentage who had undertaken an exit interview;
- The cost of the Havas People contract which had been renewed to the end of 2023; and
- Of the staff who had been recruited from Newham, a breakdown of the spread across salary brackets.

4.6 **Resolved:**

(a) That the report as background to putting questions to invited guests, and the subsequent discussion, be noted.

(b) That authority be delegated to the Chairman, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Leaders, to agree any output from the discussion.

5 GLA Workforce Report 2022-23 (Item 5)

5.1 See minute 4.

6 People's Question Time - Westminster (Item 6)

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Chief Officer.

6.2 The Committee welcomed the additional security and safety measures for the Mayor and Assembly Members at People's Question Time (PQT) which had been set out in the report. They questioned if the safety of staff had also been considered. The Assistant Director of External Relations set out that there was a separate exit plan for staff following the event, and all security staff had investigated the venue and had clear instructions to keep people safe during and after the event.

6.3 For future PQT events, officers would come back to the Committee following the February 2024 PQT in Richmond with options for changing and improving the format.

6.4 It was confirmed that no leaflets would be allowed to be placed on chairs at PQT meetings. The policy on this would be considered and an updated policy shared with the Committee in due course.

6.5 Resolved:

That the proposals for People’s Question Time and its venue in the London Borough of Westminster on Thursday 9 November 2023 be noted.

7 London Assembly Work Programme 2023/24 (Item 7)

- 7.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat.
- 7.2 The Committee highlighted that May 2023 meeting of the Environment Committee was not included in the collated Work Programmes. The Assistant Director of Scrutiny and Investigation explained that the list would be updated to reflect that meeting, and also that the work programme of the Planning and Regeneration Committee was also not yet formally agreed. If there were any changes an updated list would be circulated to the Committee.
- 7.3 The Committee raised concern that the report did not reference rapporteurships. The Assistant Director of Scrutiny and Investigation explained that there had been an issue with capacity to provide support for rapporteurships which was being resolved. The Scrutiny Working Group would discuss the topic with party Group Leaders, including how rapporteurships would be prioritised and how external expertise could be utilised.
- 7.4 The Committee questioned guests on timing of briefings for Committees, improving the range of guests who attended meetings, and calls for evidence. In response to a question on if Committee reports would only be written following two-meeting investigations, the Committee noted that this was only the advice of the Scrutiny team. If a one-meeting investigation warranted a report then this could be decided on a meeting by meeting basis.
- 7.5 The Chairman proposed that a temporary addition to the Economy Committee’s terms of reference to encompass scrutiny of any actions or decisions of the Mayor in relation to childcare in London in the context of London’s economy be agreed in order for the Economy Committee to undertake its current investigation. Scrutiny of the Mayor’s actions and decisions on childcare was within the GLA Oversight Committee’s terms of reference. The Committee agreed that, in accordance with Standing Order 11.4, and following discussions with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Economy Committee, the temporary change should be made to provide clarity about the Economy Committee’s remit to scrutinise the important cross-cutting issue.

7.6 **Resolved:**

- (a) **That the collated planned Work Programmes for the London Assembly's Committees as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed; and**
- (b) **That a temporary addition to the Economy Committee's terms of reference, to encompass scrutiny of any actions or decisions of the Mayor in relation to childcare in London in the context of London's economy, be agreed as a time limited change for the duration of its current investigation in relation to childcare in London.**

8 Facilities Management Unit Restructure (Item 8)

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

8.2 **Resolved:**

That authority be delegated to the Chairman, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to respond to the consultation on the proposed Facilities Management Unit restructure in writing outside of the meeting.

9 GLA Oversight Committee Work Programme (Item 9)

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

9.2 **Resolved:**

That the Committee's work programme, as set out in paragraph 4.12 of the report in the agenda, be noted.

10 Date of Next Meeting (Item 10)

10.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 28 September 2023 at 2.00pm in the Chamber, City Hall.

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

11.1 There were no items of business that the Chairman considered to be urgent.

12 Close of Meeting

12.1 The meeting ended at 4.40pm.

Chairman

Date

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