

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** GLA Oversight Committee  
**Date:** Tuesday 20 June 2023  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Place:** Chamber, City Hall,  
Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

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Present:

Emma Best AM (Chairman)

Len Duvall AM (Deputy Chair)

Elly Baker AM

Léonie Cooper AM

Peter Fortune AM

Susan Hall AM

Joanne McCartney AM

Keith Prince AM

Caroline Russell AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Hina Bokhari AM

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, for whom Hina Bokhari AM substituted.

## **2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)**

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

2.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) 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.**
- (b) That the declaration of a non-pecuniary interest by Joanne McCartney AM, namely in their role as Statutory Deputy Mayor she had made two trips abroad to the European Union Capital City Mayors' Meeting in 2017 and 2018 to stand in for the Mayor, be noted, insofar as it related to Agenda Item 5.**

## **3 Minutes (Item 3)**

3.1 **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

## **4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)**

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

4.2 **Resolved:**

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

## **5 GLA Domestic and International Trips (Item 5)**

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat as background to putting questions on GLA domestic and international trips to the following invited guests:

- Mary Harpley, Chief Officer, GLA;
- David Bellamy CBE, Mayor's Chief of Staff, GLA;
- Enver Enver, Acting Chief Finance Officer and Director, Group Finance Performance, GLA; and
- Phillip Graham, Executive Director for Good Growth, GLA.

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

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5.3 During the course of the discussion the Acting Chief Finance Officer and Director, Group Finance Performance, agreed to provide the following information:

- The carbon offsetting figures for trips undertaken by GLA staff from 2018 to the present;
- Details of the carbon offsetting arrangements that were in place as part of the contract the GLA held with corporate travel management company Agiito Limited; and
- The cost of all the journeys undertaken by the Deputy Mayor for Business and a breakdown of what costs were funded by the GLA, London & Partners or other third parties.

5.4 Over the course of the meeting the Mayor's Chief of Staff agreed to share the following information:

- Confirmation on whether or not there was a partnership agreement between the GLA and United Airlines for the summer 2022 trade mission and, if there was a partnership, the details of this;
- The list of engagements undertaken by the Mayoral Director for Political and Public Affairs during her trip to the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League Final;
- Confirmation if gifts and hospitality for senior staff, the Mayor and mayoral appointees were held centrally on the GLA's website and if so, how this information could be better presented so as to enhance transparency;
- The internal and external costs, key performance indicators and carbon footprint for the four-day trade mission to India undertaken by the Deputy Mayor for Business, and the Night Czar's visit to Sydney, Australia;
- A list of the international trips made by the current Mayor and previous Mayor and details of the means of transport used;
- To review the GLA trips data provided to the Committee, ensuring that all details were correct and fully explained;
- Details of the exceptional circumstances staff faced when forced to use air travel when other less environmentally impactful modes of transport were available; and
- Provide the Mayor's policy and procedure on carbon offsetting.

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

- An update on progress with the review of how expenses, gifts and hospitality are recorded, providing detail on how the recording of decision-making and the description of an item on the register had been improved; and

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- Why four officers from the Communities and Skills Directorate travelled to Abu Dhabi in 2022/23, and also why the the GLA was continuing to work with the United Arab Emirates despite Transport for London banning advertising from this country due to their poor human rights records.

5.6 Correspondence between Hina Bokhari AM and the Mayor's Chief of Staff received following the meeting is attached at **Appendices 2** and **3**.

5.7 **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.**

## **6 Proposed Changes to the GLA Establishment - Planning and Regeneration (Item 6)**

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Chief Officer.

6.2 The Committee raised concerns that the proposed changes contradicted a previous commitment made by the Chief Officer that existing job role pay grades would not be changed before the pay and grading review. The Chief Officer responded that the planned restructure for the Planning and Regeneration team had predated this commitment. The Assistant Director for Planning and Regeneration added that the regrading had been undertaken for specific roles so that they would come into line with colleagues with similar responsibilities. It had also been made clear to staff that these grades could be changed based on pay and reward review.

6.3 The Assistant Director for Planning and Regeneration outlined that due to the restructure involving two organisations it was necessary to use a matrix organisational structure.

6.4 **Resolved:**

**That the proposed changes to the GLA Establishment relating to the restructure of the current Planning & Regeneration Unit be noted.**

## **7 Proposed Changes to the GLA Establishment - Skills and Employment Unit (Item 7)**

7.1 The Committee received the report of the Chief Officer.

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7.2 In response to queries from the Committee, the Assistant Director for Skills and Employment said that the Compliance Manager role that was being proposed for deletion was being recreated across the Adult Education Budget (AEB) team to have a wider remit around assurance. The Senior Manager Governance & Compliance role was being proposed for deletion due to the time limited nature of the post. It was set up to create and embed governance structures for the AEB team, a task that had now been completed. The European Social Fund partly funded the post of Compliance Manager, the new assurance function would have a wider remit and would be funded by the AEB and other external revenue streams.

7.3 The Chief Officer agreed to share the recommendations from an Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board and The Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) audit that led to the proposed restructure of the Skills and Employment Unit.

7.4 **Resolved:**

**That the proposed changes to the Skills and Employment Unit be noted.**

## **8 GLA Oversight Committee Work Programme (Item 8)**

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

8.2 **Resolved:**

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

## **9 Date of Next Meeting (Item 9)**

9.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 12 July 2023 at 2.00pm in the Chamber, City Hall.

## **10 Any Other Business the Chairman Considers Urgent (Item 10)**

10.1 There were no items of business that the Chair considered to be urgent.

## **11 Close of Meeting**

11.1 The meeting ended at 12.28pm.

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Chairman

Date

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