Subject: The 2024-25 GLA Group Budget

Report to:	Budget and Performance Committee
Report of:	Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat
Date:	13 December 2023
Public Access:	This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out background information in relation to Budget and Performance Committee questions to senior representatives from the Greater London Authority (GLA), on the GLA's 2024-25 Group Budget.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests and notes the subsequent discussion; and
- 2.2 That the Committee delegates authority to the Chairman, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.

3. Background

3.1 The Budget and Performance Committee's key responsibility is its annual scrutiny of the Mayor's budget proposals for the next financial year. This involves detailed examination of the Mayor's plans for spending his budget to help ensure taxpayers' money is spent appropriately and effectively.

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The annual budget setting process

- 3.2 Each summer, the Mayor publishes Budget Guidance to the functional bodies on the preparation of their budgets. This contains information about the likely level of funding available for the next financial year as well as the Mayor's priorities for each organisation. Each organisation within the GLA family makes its own Budget Submission at the end of November and in December, the Mayor publishes his draft Group Budget.
- 3.3 The Committee produces a formal response to the Mayor's draft budget, which informs the full Assembly's debate and vote on the Mayor's proposals in February 2024. The Assembly has the power to amend the total budget requirement for each functional body if a two-thirds majority agree to do so. The Mayor then publishes his final Budget before the start of the financial year in April 2024.
- 3.4 This is the third session in the Budget scrutiny process, after a meeting on 21 November 2023, where questions were put to GLA Executive Directors, the Chief Officer and the Mayor's Chief and Deputy Chief of Staff about the draft GLA: Mayor 2024-25 Budget. On 12 December 2023 questions were put to the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development and senior representatives from the GLA, Transport for London, the London Legacy Development Corporation and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation about the GLA's plans for housing delivery in the GLA's 2024-25 Group Budget. There will be more sessions on 13 December 2023 where Members will meet with GLA officers and 17 December 2024 where Members will meet with officers from Transport for London, before sessions with the London Fire Commissioner, the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime, the Mayor and the whole of the Assembly in the new year.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The following guests have been invited to attend this session:
 - Enver Enver, Interim Chief Finance Officer, GLA; and
 - Elliott Ball, Assistant Director of Finance and Governance, GLA.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Being part of the Budget scrutiny process, financial considerations are key at this meeting.

List of appendices to this report:

None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

None.

Contact Information

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