

MINUTES

Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee
Date: Tuesday 19 June 2012
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Committee Room 5, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Copies of the minutes may be found at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/committees/>

Present:

Len Duvall (Chair)
Jennette Arnold OBE (Deputy Chair)
Tony Arbour
John Biggs
Andrew Boff
Darren Johnson
Steve O'Connell
Caroline Pidgeon
Valerie Shawcross CBE

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

- 1.1 There were no apologies for absence.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed students from the James Allen's Girls' School who attended the meeting for Item 7 of the agenda.

2. Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 Resolved:

- (a) That the list of memberships of functional bodies and London borough councils, as set out in the table at Item 2, be noted as personal interests; and**

- (b) That gifts and hospitality received by Members, as set out on the Authority's gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

3. Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee held on 22 May 2012 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. Summary List of Actions (Item 4)

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

4.2 The Head of Paid Service confirmed that there would be no further updates on the devolution programme as the programme had now been completed.

4.3 Andrew Boff AM was advised that the Executive Director of Secretariat was in the process of individually canvassing Assembly Members about their views on the use of desk-top screens in the Chamber.

4.4 Resolved:

That the outstanding actions from previous meetings of the Budget and Performance Committee be noted.

5. Head of Paid Service Oral Update (Item 5)

5.1 The Head of Paid Service informed the Committee that the Mayor had now written to the Chair of the Assembly formally advising of the terms and conditions of various Mayoral appointments.

5.2 The Head of Paid Service also provided the Committee with an update on the Time for Action programme, the overall responsibility for which had effectively passed to the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) upon its establishment earlier in the year. There were, however, some activities that had been retained in the GLA, and were being delivered by the Health and Communities Unit. These were summarised as follows:

Project Oracle

In its first phase, the GLA had piloted the online system for recording successful approaches to tackling youth violence, and in its second phase, had been working with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and MOPAC to co-fund new evaluation research, which would be achieved through carefully supervised student placements and more evidence

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collection. The co-funding agreement would also be used to establish a new website to support that work.

YOU Matter

The GLA was working with the Safer London Foundation and Team London in order to increase the capacity of London's uniformed groups, with the aim of getting the 8,000 young people currently on waiting lists to participate in structured activities by 2014. The Committee was advised that over 3,000 young people had graduated from the waiting list, that they had secured about 380 adult volunteers and that 16 new uniformed units had been set-up across London.

Mayor's mentoring programme.

The contract to provide volunteer mentors had been won by the University of East London (UEL) last year, with a programme designed to run over a three year period. 100 matched relationships had been achieved in the first 9 months of the year, but the GLA would seek to validate later progress with UEL and undertake a more detailed review of performance and progress.

5.3 The update was noted.

6. Annual Governance Statement 2011-12 (Item 6)

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Service and the Executive Director of Resources.

6.2 In discussion the Committee raised the following issues for inclusion or clarification:

- The provision of governance training for Deputy Mayors;
- How the GLA can best assess value for money from the Crimestoppers arrangement for whistle-blowing;
- The need to provide in the Summary a better example of how the London Assembly's scrutiny process improves governance arrangements at the GLA;
- Clarification on how the Governance Statement relates to the work of the GLA Group and how commitments in the Governance Statement will be monitored;
- How best to promote transparency of the Mayor and the GLA;
- The need for an update on the labelling of general GLA savings as 'efficiency' savings, as set out in paragraph 5.7 of the Statement;
- Further clarity on Assembly Members, other than the Statutory Deputy Mayor, taking up GLA executive roles;
- More information on the GLA's use of statistics, including information on standards of authenticity and the availability of the information retained in the Datastore;
- Details of which scrutiny recommendations relating to the establishment of the London Legacy Development Corporation were not accepted and the reasons why those recommendations were rejected;

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- Information on the governance of GLA Group shared services;
- The need for a better mechanism of validating value for money and management efficiencies, including the use of external benchmarking and independent advice, such as the Independent Investment Programme Advisory Group's role in the running of Transport for London;
- Whether the agreed views of the London Assembly could be reasonably incorporated into the Assembly section of the Statement regardless of the Mayor's own views on the matter;
- Monitoring of governance issues following the GLA's devolving of functions to other agencies, boroughs and other authorities, with particular reference to the work of the Health and Communities Unit;
- Governance and protocols around TfL's sponsorship arrangements; and
- The London Assembly's approach to setting its own budget.

6.3 The Head of Governance and Resilience informed the Committee that the Annual Governance Statement would be considered next by the London Assembly's Audit Panel before submission to the Audit Commission. The Chair suggested that the Governance Statement should also be considered by party Group Leaders prior to submission to the Audit Commission.

6.4 **Resolved:**

That the comments on the draft GLA Annual Governance Statement for 2011-12, as recorded above, be noted and that the updated Statement be considered by party Group Leaders prior to submission to the Audit Commission.

7. Proposed Changes to the GLA Establishment (Item 7)

7.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Service.

7.2 Also in attendance for this Item was:

- Sir Edward Lister, Mayor's Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning; and
- Dan Hawthorn, Head of London 2012.

7.3 The Head of Paid Service informed the Committee that the proposed changes to the GLA establishment would result in a total reduction in staffing of 45 posts from across the London 2012 Unit, the Mayor's Office Support Staff and the London Thames Gateway Development Team. It was anticipated that the proposed changes would amount to savings of £1.2 million to the GLA (excluding potential redundancies).

7.4 In discussion, Members raised concerns about the potential for grade escalation arising from the proposals, the similarity between some of the proposed new posts and existing posts and the disparity between salary grades for those similar posts.

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- 7.5 Members also had concerns that the Statutory Deputy Mayor might not be sufficiently supported given the proposals to delete the posts of Diary Secretary to the Statutory Deputy Mayor and the Executive Assistant to the Statutory Deputy Mayor. The Mayor's Chief of Staff explained that whilst there was no reduction in the Statutory Deputy Mayor's functions, the proposals represented an ongoing attempt to streamline procedures within the Mayor's Office. As a result, it was proposed that the Statutory Deputy Mayor's secretarial support would be undertaken by her Assembly diary secretary but that the role would be jointly funded by the Mayor.
- 7.6 John Biggs AM queried if, in light of the proposed deletions in the London 2012 Team, there had been any plans to create a unit responsible for ensuring the delivery of the Mayor's Olympic Legacy. The Head of Paid Service explained that initial consideration had been given to the best means of continuing work on the Olympic Legacy, beyond the Legacy Corporation now in place, but that no decisions had yet been made. The Assistant Director of Human Resources clarified that should suitable roles be created for such a unit during the consultation period, and notwithstanding the usual re-deployment processes in the GLA, consideration would be given to ring-fencing posts as appropriate.
- 7.7 Andrew Boff AM asked about the integration of the London Thames Gateway Development Team into the existing GLA structure. The Head of Paid Service clarified that whilst it was anticipated that the functions of the London Thames Gateway Development Team could be absorbed within the present staff structure, it was yet to be decided whether that structure would require further review. It was noted that there would be potential for future savings.
- 7.8 Members also raised the issues of potential re-structuring of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the potential savings arising from a review of London TravelWatch, concerns about the lack of support for the Mayor's planning functions within the Mayor's Office Support Team and the potential for disruption caused to the London 2012 Team by this proposals during the Olympic Games period.
- 7.9 Andrew Boff AM proposed that the London Assembly budget should also be reviewed in relation to the potential for budget savings.
- 7.10 Members welcomed the incremental approach to restructuring that the Head of Paid Service had proposed.

7.11 **Resolved:**

That the comments on the proposed changes to the GLA establishment, as recorded above, be noted.

8. Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee 2012/13 (Item 8)

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 8.2 Members considered potential items for possible inclusion on the Committee's work programme, including scrutiny of Time For Action, the use of statistics and the Datastore, the case for London, other agencies in London (for example the Port of London Authority), the third sector and its contribution to London, the impact of welfare reforms, the Mayor's volunteer programmes and the Mayor's 2020 Vision for London.
- 8.3 The Head of Scrutiny and Investigations advised the Committee that the Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture had been invited to the 17 July meeting to provide an update and answer questions about the Mayor's education inquiry. Additionally, the Mayor's Chief of Staff and the Assistant Director of Intelligence had also been invited to attend the July meeting to provide an update on how the GLA is implementing the Mayor's commitments on open data and transparency and issues related to the GLA becoming a signatory to the code of practice on statistics.
- 8.4 **Resolved:**

That further work be undertaken to identify subjects for inclusion on the GLA Oversight Committee's work programme.

9. Date of Next Meeting (Item 9)

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Committee would be held on 17 July at 10am in Committee Room 5.

10. Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 10)

- 10.1 There were no items of urgent business.

11. Close of Meeting

- 11.1 The meeting finished at 11.55am.

Chair

Date

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