

# Subject: Motions

**Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)**

**Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat**

**Date: 24 October 2012**

**This report will be considered in public**

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is asked to consider the motions set out which have been submitted by Assembly Members.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly considers the motions set out below.**

## 3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Jenny Jones AM** and will be seconded by Andrew Boff AM:

“This Assembly notes that the Government has established an independent Commission tasked with identifying and recommending options for the UK’s airport capacity and connectivity. An interim report expected in 2013 will make recommendations on immediate options to improve the use of existing runway capacity. The Assembly notes that the Commission won’t report on the substantive question of expanding Heathrow airport until after the 2015 General Election.

Given the importance of Heathrow airport and aviation policy to London, this Assembly calls on the Government to ensure the Commission publishes its final report before the 2015 General Election. This Assembly also reaffirms its longstanding opposition to any increase in flights at Heathrow, whether through mixed mode operation, night flights or the construction of a third runway. This Assembly would not want to see Heathrow Airport closed.”

- 3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Pidgeon AM** and seconded by Stephen Knight AM:

“The London Assembly notes:

The coalition government’s recent announcement of a range of measures to boost British housebuilding, jobs and the economy;

That this announcement includes proposals for a three-year relaxation of permitted development rules and the renegotiation of existing planning obligations.

The London Assembly believes:

That Local Authorities are best placed to manage the development of land and buildings;

That allowing home owners to build extensions of up to eight metres without the need for planning permission could cause lasting damage to the built environment and result in neighbourhood disputes;

That mixed communities should be actively promoted across London.

The London Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor, as the strategic planning authority for London, to reaffirm his commitment to mixed and balanced communities, and to reject any attempt to renegotiate existing planning obligations where this would lead to a reduction in the level of affordable housing being provided. The London Assembly also calls on the Mayor to oppose any attempt to significantly extend permitted development rights."

- 3.3 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Tom Copley AM** and seconded by Caroline Pidgeon AM:

"This Assembly notes with concern the decision by Ofqual to change the C/D boundary for English GCSEs mid-year, meaning students whose work was assessed in June had to attain more marks than their peers whose work was submitted in January. This has resulted in thousands of students across London missing out in a vital C grade in their GCSE English exam, in many cases preventing them from continuing into further education.

This Assembly believes that it is wrong to play politics with children's futures; that exams must be both rigorous and fair; and that moving the goal posts for students mid-year is inherently unfair and sends out entirely the wrong signal to students.

This Assembly notes the Mayor's recent declaration at Conservative Party Conference that "we need look at what is happening in our schools". Further, this Assembly recognises the focus of the Mayor's year-long education inquiry in to the "four in 10 of London's school children [who] do not achieve the level [of GCSEs] needed for good life chances". With this in mind, the Assembly calls on the Mayor to make urgent representations to the Education Secretary on behalf of students in London who have missed out on a C grade in English because of this unfair change."

- 3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Valerie Shawcross AM** and seconded by Jenny Jones AM:

"This Assembly notes that the 'South London Line' train service from Victoria to London Bridge via Denmark Hill will be withdrawn in December 2012. We further note that, as a consequence, passengers using Clapham High Street and Wandsworth Road stations will lose their direct services to London Victoria, and passengers using Denmark Hill and Peckham Rye will see direct services to Victoria significantly reduced. This Assembly notes with regret that despite cross party efforts by Assembly Members and stakeholders, mitigation measures, including those proposed by Transport for London, remain unfunded and therefore, absent.

The Assembly calls upon the Mayor, as Chair of Transport for London, to take urgent action involving key stakeholders from TfL, the GLA and the Department for Transport to address this major loss of transport services to South London, taking advantages of the opportunities afforded by the retender of Thameslink and Southeastern rail franchises where appropriate."

3.5 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Fiona Twycross AM** and seconded by Tom Copley AM:

“This Assembly notes that, in light of ongoing economic uncertainty as the UK experiences a double-dip recession, both the Mayor and the UK Government are threatening the UK’s economic recovery with austerity policies that have reduced aggregate demand in the economy and resulted in increased debt.

This Assembly notes that the Government’s and the Mayor’s austerity policies - such as the proposed cuts to London’s Fire Service - are economically unsound and are damaging the UK economy and the livelihoods of Londoners, as evidenced by the International Monetary Fund’s October 10 prediction that the UK economy will shrink by 0.4% in 2012.

While the Olympics created a temporary upswing in employment, this Assembly is concerned that the figures for long term unemployment are at their highest for sixteen years, while youth unemployment in the UK hovers around 21%. Within London, the Mayor has destroyed the jobs of considerable numbers of highly committed public servants, with 1700 police officers and 1800 PCSO roles removed from the Metropolitan Police Service; and is threatening the livelihoods of firefighters through the planned cuts to the London Fire Brigade. The Mayor has also failed to address the fallout from economic policies that have resulted in almost a quarter of London’s young adults being left without work, which is considerably higher in some riot-hit communities such as Hackney, where 34% of 16 – 24 year olds are currently unemployed.

The Assembly therefore notes the missed opportunities for Legacy job creation highlighted by the BBC.

This Assembly wishes to express its support for the TUC march held recently on October 20 and supports the TUC call for the Government to adopt economic policies conducive to job creation in London. This Assembly also calls on the Mayor of London to honour his own manifesto commitments to job creation in the Olympic boroughs and beyond.”

3.6 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Jennette Arnold AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

“This Assembly condemns the Government’s decision to reduce tax rates for millionaires while also reducing payments to those many Londoners – the vast majority of whom are in work, disabled, or retired – who are supported by the benefits system.

We therefore reject the Mayor’s call for the top rate of tax to be cut further. We urge him to campaign as enthusiastically in the interest of those lower-income Londoners supported by welfare as he does for the interests of, for example, the banking sector.

This Assembly recognises the Mayor gained minor concessions to the Government’s welfare reforms. However, we believe that none of these concessions acknowledged the unique circumstances of London, in particular the higher cost of living in the capital.

This Assembly is appalled that the Mayor has said he will seek no further concessions to the welfare reforms. Given the likely impact of these reforms, this Assembly believes that the Mayor’s position is unacceptable. We urge the Mayor to re-enter into negotiation with the Government, in order to seek to improve measures in the act set to damage the lives of Londoners. In particular, we call for a benefit cap that recognises the cost of living in London compared to the rest of the country.”

3.7 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Fiona Twycross AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

“This Assembly believes that the safety and security of Londoners is being put at risk as a result of cuts to emergency services being pushed through by the Mayor and the Coalition Government to the key emergency services – the Metropolitan Police Service, the London Fire Brigade alongside the London Ambulance Service and the city’s Accident & Emergency Departments.

The Assembly believes that the cuts are going too far and too fast and that the many millions of pounds being taken from the budgets of the NHS, the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade will inevitably endanger families and communities across the capital.

This Assembly believes that the cuts, from these various budget streams, are being carried out without strategic consideration of their aggregate effects on Londoners’ safety or the geography of blue light coverage. The closures of police front desks, fire stations and A & E departments will mean various pockets of London could see the safety of residents threatened by longer response times.

This Assembly recognises the strategic, metropolitan perspective of the Mayor of London and Greater London Authority and challenges his acceptance of these cuts as an economic necessity, with little information or regard for the safety consequences. This Assembly calls on the Mayor to commission strategic research into the formation of blue light black holes, to stand up for Londoners against the cuts being imposed by the Coalition Government and to reconsider and abandon his own draconian cuts to the emergency services on which we rely to keep Londoners safe.”

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**List of appendices to this report:** None.

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| <b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b> |
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| List of Background Papers: None. |
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| Contact Officer: | Rebecca Arnold, Committee Services Manager |
| Telephone:       | 020 7983 4421                              |
| E-mail:          | rebecca.arnold@london.gov.uk               |