

# MINUTES

**Meeting: Planning and Housing Committee**

**Date: Tuesday 17 May 2011**

**Time: 3.30 pm**

**Place: Committee Room 2, 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/planning-housing>

**Present:**

Jenny Jones (Chair)

Nicky Gavron (Deputy Chair)

Mike Tuffrey

Len Duvall

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Navin Shah AM, for whom Len Duvall AM attended as a substitute Member, and on behalf of Tony Arbour AM, Andrew Boff AM, Kit Malthouse AM and Steve O'Connell AM.

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

**2.1 Resolved:**

- (a) That the relevant Assembly Members' membership of Functional Bodies and London Borough Councils, as set out in Item 2 on the agenda, be noted and recorded as personal interests;**
- (b) That Navin Shah AM's declaration of a planning application with the London Borough of Southwark be additionally noted as a personal interest; and**
- (c) That gifts and hospitality received by Members in the previous three years, as set out on the Authority's gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

### **3. Membership of the Committee (Item 3)**

#### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the membership and chairing arrangements for the Committee, agreed by the Assembly at its Annual Meeting on 4 May 2011, be noted:**

Jenny Jones (Chair)  
Nicky Gavron (Deputy Chair)  
Tony Arbour  
Andrew Boff  
Kit Malthouse  
Steve O'Connell  
Navin Shah  
Mike Tuffrey

### **4. Terms of Reference (Item 4)**

#### **4.1 Resolved:**

**That the following terms of reference for the Committee, agreed by the Assembly at its Annual Meeting on 4 May 2011, be noted:**

1. To examine and report from time to time on –
  - the strategies, policies and actions of the Mayor and the Functional Bodies; and
  - matters of importance to Greater London as they relate to spatial development/planning and housing matters in London.
2. To examine and report to the Assembly from time to time on the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy ('The London Plan') and the Mayor's Housing Strategy, particularly in respect of their implementation and revision.
3. When invited by the Mayor, to contribute to his consideration of major planning applications.
4. To monitor the Mayor's exercise of his statutory powers in regard to major planning applications referred by the local planning authorities, and to report to the Assembly with any proposal for submission to the Mayor for the improvement of the process.
5. To review Local Development Documents submitted to the Mayor by the local planning authorities for consistency with his strategies overall, to prepare a response to the Mayor for consideration by the Assembly, and to monitor the Mayor's decisions with regard to Local Development Documents.
6. To consider planning matters on request from another standing committee and report its opinion to that standing committee.

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7. To take into account in its deliberations the cross cutting themes of: the health of persons in Greater London; the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and the promotion of opportunity.
8. To respond on behalf of the Assembly to consultations and similar processes when within its terms of reference.
9. To consider, as necessary, strategic planning matters as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008 and to make recommendations as appropriate. (The Assembly has no powers in relation to any individual planning applications.)

## **5. Standing Delegations (Item 5)**

### **5.1 Resolved:**

**That the following standing delegation to the Chair of the Committee, as agreed by the Assembly at its Annual Meeting on 4 May 2011, be noted:**

On 14 July 2005 the then Planning and Spatial Development Committee resolved:

“That the Committee delegate a general authority to the Chair, following consultation with the other Members of the Committee, to respond on its behalf where it is consulted on issues by organisations and there is insufficient time to consider the consultation at a committee meeting.”

## **6. Minutes (Item 6)**

### **6.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Housing Committee held on 29 March and 5 April 2011 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

## **7. Proposal for an Investigation into Housing Conditions in London's Private Rented Sector (Item 7)**

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

### **7.2 Resolved:**

**That the Committee investigate the housing conditions in London's private rented housing with the following terms of reference:**

- **To assess London's private rented housing sector in relation to its state of**

**repair, the standard of facilities provided and the degree of comfort, health, energy and water efficiency it provides;**

- **To assess wider opportunities for improving London's private rented housing and whether there is a need for the Mayor to co-ordinate further efforts to improve this sector; and**
- **To review any examples of improvement programmes being run by London boroughs or community enterprises that might offer scope for the wider application across London.**

## **8. Proposal for a Review of Mayoral Decisions on Strategic Planning Applications (Item 8)**

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat. The Scrutiny Manager explained the background to the three options presented in the report, resulting from the pilot study carried out by officers since the Committee's meeting on 6 April 2011.
- 8.2 Nicky Gavron AM recalled that the late Sir Simon Milton, then Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning, had given the Committee assurances about the monitoring of planning applications. The Scrutiny Manager explained that the pilot project carried out had used material provided by the Planning Decisions Unit.
- 8.3 Mike Tuffrey AM stated that when the Committee had discussed the issue informally, there was a consensus that the project should be equivalent to the one carried out in 2006. He proposed that it should be the Committee's role, once every four years, to stand back and take stock of the cumulative effect of the Mayor's planning policies on the strategic planning decisions.
- 8.4 The Chair asked that a review of planning decisions by the Mayor be considered for the work programme of the Committee in the final year of each administration.
- 8.5 The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and Deputy Chair, in consultation with party Group Leads, to agree the scope for the proposed review, subject to officers drawing up the specification to replicate the 2006 study, ensuring that best value for money is secured and if possible, attracting a more experienced planning consultant to carry out the work.

### **8.6 Resolved:**

**That authority be delegated to the Chair and Deputy Chair, in consultation with party Group Leads, to agree the scope and terms of reference for the proposed review.**

**9. Responses to the Committee's Report on Fire Safety in London's Tall and Timber Framed Buildings (Item 9)**

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

**9.2 Resolved:**

**That the responses to the report of the Committee's investigation into fire safety in London's tall and timber buildings be noted.**

**10. Committee Work Programme 2011/12 (Item 10)**

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

**10.2 Resolved:**

**That the report updating Members on the status of various items on the Committee's work programme and the main items for the year 2011/12 be noted.**

**11. Date of Next Meeting (Item 11)**

11.1 The next meeting of the Committee was to be held on Tuesday 7 June 2011 at 10.00am in Committee Room 2.

**12. Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 12)**

12.1 There was no other business.

**13. Close of Meeting**

13.1 The meeting ended at 3.47 pm.

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Chair

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Date

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