

Subject: Environment Committee Work Programme 2011/12

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 23 June 2011

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose areas of work to be covered by the Committee in 2011/12, with a schedule of meetings. This paper identifies priority topics for consideration and possible areas for follow up work on previous Committee reviews and briefings. The Committee notes its work programme and agrees any changes at each meeting.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes its work programme for 2011/12, as outlined in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.9 of this report.**

3. Background

- 3.1 This report sets out a proposed programme of work to be covered by the Committee during 2011/12, including priority topics for consideration. As 2011/12 will be the final year of the Mayor's four-year administration, it is proposed that the Committee could use some of its meetings later in the year to consider progress with Mayoral strategies and discuss the Mayor's environmental achievements.

4. Issues for Consideration

2011/12 topics for investigation – proposed priority areas of work

- 4.1 **London's energy gap** – the issue of London's energy gap was the main item for the 19 May 2011 meeting of the Committee, including a briefing on the London Array and a broader discussion around London's 'energy gap', development of the green economy and ways of developing skills and employment benefits.
- 4.2 **The Olympic Park environmental legacy** – as the final instalment of the Committee's work on the Mayor's commitment to organise a sustainable Games the Committee will assess the prospective environmental legacy of the Olympic Park at its meeting on 23 June 2011.

- 4.3 **Electric vehicles** - the Mayor has a commitment to make London the electric vehicle capital of the world. There would be benefits to London's air quality, but plans for expanding the charging network have been scaled back. The Committee would look at what the Mayor has done to promote this objective and what the future of electric vehicles in London may be. A report on the scope and terms of reference of this review is included on the agenda for 23 June meeting of the Committee.
- 4.4 **London City Airport** – a review into the monitoring processes put in place by the airport to assess the impact the increase in flights is having on air quality, noise and climate change, and what action it is taking to mitigate any identified effects. This item has been postponed from 2010/11 to allow for the judicial review process to be finalized. The September meeting may be able to hear from the airport and from Newham Council.
- 4.5 **Royal Parks** – the Committee will discuss with the Royal Parks Agency the challenges facing the Royal Parks, the role they play in London's environment and how the new governance arrangements will work.
- 4.6 **Noise and air pollution at Heathrow airport** – the Committee's review will build on the Committee's previous work on Heathrow airport, looking at the latest environmental data and BAA's mitigation measures.
- 4.7 **Management of Vegetation on railway embankments** – a proposal for a rapporteurship on the management of vegetation on railway embankments is included on the agenda for the 23 June meeting.
- 4.8 **Drought** - following the long period of dry weather affecting London and the South East, the Committee will keep under review the issue of drought and if necessary invite Thames Water to a meeting.
- 4.9 The schedule of meetings in 2011/12 is set out below:

Date of Committee	Main business
19 May 2011	London's Energy Gap
23 June 2011	Olympic Park environmental legacy
12 July 2011	Electric vehicles
8 September 2011	Noise and air pollution at Heathrow Airport
20 October 2011	Royal Parks
10 November 2011	London City Airport
12 January 2012	Progress with Mayoral Strategies
2 February 2012	Stakeholders to discuss Mayoral achievements
1 March 2012	Mayor's Environment Advisor

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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