

MINUTES

Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)
Date: Tuesday 9 December 2014
Time: 3.00 pm
Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

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

Present:

Roger Evans AM (Chairman)	Stephen Knight AM
Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair)	Kit Malthouse AM
John Biggs AM	Joanne McCartney AM
Andrew Boff AM	Steve O'Connell AM
Victoria Borwick AM	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
James Cleverly AM	Murad Qureshi AM
Tom Copley AM	Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Andrew Dismore AM	Navin Shah AM
Nicky Gavron AM	Valerie Shawcross CBE AM
Darren Johnson AM	Richard Tracey AM
Jenny Jones AM	Fiona Twycross AM

1 Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements (Item 1)

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Tony Arbour AM, Gareth Bacon AM and Len Duvall AM.
- 1.2 The Chairman announced that the Executive Director of Resources had written to explain that, due to the timing of the Local Government Finance settlement, Parliament could be asked to agree a variation of the GLA Act to enable the Draft GLA Group Budget 2015/16 to be presented to the Assembly after the last day of January in 2015.
- 1.3 However, having taken into account advice from the Executive Director of Resources in relation to this matter and after informal discussions with party Groups, the Chairman confirmed that he would write to the Executive Director of Resources to state that the Assembly was content to keep the timetable of meetings for the Assembly's consideration of the GLA Group budget in January and February 2015 as had been scheduled.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 Resolved:

That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the tables at Item 3, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting held on 5 November 2014 and the London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) meeting held on 19 November 2014 be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

4 Question and Answer Session (Item 4)

Part A:

- 4.1 The Assembly put questions to Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, and Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, on policing in London.
- 4.2 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached as **Appendix 1**, and written answers are attached as **Appendix 2**.

Part B:

4.3 The Chair formally moved the motion in the agenda, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.”

4.4 **Resolved:**

The answers to the questions asked be noted.

5 Action Taken By The Chairman Under Delegated Authority (Item 5)

5.1 The Assembly received the report of Executive Director of Secretariat.

5.2 **Resolved:**

That the recent action taken by the Chairman of the Assembly, Roger Evans AM, in accordance with the authority delegated to him, namely not to hold a confirmation hearing in respect of the proposed reappointment of James Cleverly AM as Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority for the period 1 December 2014 to 16 June 2015, be noted.

6 Petitions (Item 6)

6.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

6.2 Valerie Shawcross CBE AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

“We the undersigned call upon the Mayor of London to increase the number of bus countdown indicators on Greyhound Lane and Streatham Vale. As the busiest station in Streatham, we believe that Streatham Common Station is under served in terms of information about onward bus travel. This is especially relevant to women and those travelling late at night when they have been advised not to get mobile phones out on leaving the station by the police.”

6.3 **Resolved:**

That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor of London, as Chairman of Transport for London, for a response.

6.4 Valerie Shawcross CBE AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

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“We are concerned at the loss of 194 police officers in Southwark since 2010 and call on the Mayor of London to restore our lost officers.”

6.5 Resolved:

That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor of London for a response.

6.6 Murad Qureshi AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

“We, the undersigned, are concerned about the slow moving of traffic in and around Redbridge roundabout, which has serious health implication for local residents. Traffic entering and leaving the roundabout into Redbridge Lane East and subsequently into surrounding roads, including Roding Lane South, moves at a slow pace and is often stationary during rush hours in the morning and late afternoons /evenings. For local drivers it is taking 45 minutes or more just to reach the roundabout. Residents, including our resident Councillor Gurdial Bhamra, are frustrated and concerned about the high level of pollution and its impact on all, especially children and residents who are walking through the polluted air. This problem has been highlighted before:

- Surveys were conducted by LBR
- Meetings were held with LBR, London Buses and TFL representatives.

TfL and LBR expressed an understanding but no concrete steps have been taken to reduce the impact. We urge the council and mayor of London to take remedial action by:

1. Shortening the phasing of traffic lights for slip road from A406 to allow at least 5 vehicles to enter the roundabout from Redbridge Lane East OR
2. Installing traffic lights at the junction to control the flow of traffic.
3. LBR to carry out traffic study for a bigger area and produce traffic plans to reduce this problem.”

6.7 The Chairman stated that he was aware that work had been undertaken to re-route buses in the area and that there were differing views amongst local residents in relation to the proposals contained in the petition.

6.8 Resolved:

That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor of London, as Chairman of Transport for London, for a response.

7 Motions (Item 7)

- 7.1 Valerie Shawcross CBE AM moved and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM seconded the following motion, altered in accordance with Standing Order 3.6A (2), with the consent of the meeting:

“This Assembly welcomes the fact that Govia Thameslink Railway aims to extend Oyster Pay As You Go (PAYG), in partnership with TfL and other TOCs, to London Gatwick & London Luton Airports.

This Assembly notes that passengers at London Gatwick Airport and London Luton Airport will join passengers at London Heathrow Airport and London City Airport in being able to use an Oyster card or a Contactless Payment Card if they plan to visit London.

This Assembly believes that the passengers at London Stansted Airport and the passengers at London Southend Airport will welcome the same opportunities to use an Oyster card or a Contactless Payment Card if they plan to travel to London.

This Assembly further notes that both airports are within the East Anglia franchise and that the consultation on the new franchise period will begin next year.

This Assembly therefore urges the Mayor to write to the Department for Transport, London Stansted Airport, London Southend Airport and Transport for London to urge them to work together to include extending Oyster to both airports as part of the new franchise.”

- 7.2 Upon being put to vote, the motion in the name of Valerie Shawcross CBE AM, namely:

“This Assembly welcomes the fact that Govia Thameslink Railway aims to extend Oyster Pay As You Go (PAYG), in partnership with TfL and other TOCs, to London Gatwick & London Luton Airports.

This Assembly notes that passengers at London Gatwick Airport and London Luton Airport will join passengers at London Heathrow Airport and London City Airport in being able to use an Oyster card or a Contactless Payment Card if they plan to visit London.

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This Assembly further notes that both airports are within the East Anglia franchise and that the consultation on the new franchise period will begin next year.

This Assembly therefore urges the Mayor to write to the Department for Transport, London Stansted Airport, London Southend Airport and Transport for London to urge them to work together to include extending Oyster to both airports as part of the new franchise.”

was agreed unanimously.

- 7.3 Valerie Shawcross CBE AM, on behalf of Joanne McCartney AM, moved and Richard Tracey AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly welcomes the fact that Network Rail is currently consulting on its Anglia route study document, but we are disappointed that it has not prioritised the four-tracking of the route between Liverpool Street and Stansted Airport.

This Assembly notes that the Mayor has announced that Crossrail 2 could be open by 2029 and that would require four tracking of the Lea Valley line, but that Network Rail sees four-tracking as one of the options for meeting passenger demand up to 2043.

This Assembly further notes that the document confirms that, “prior to publication of the final Route Study, more detailed work with stakeholders will be undertaken to better understand the benefits and potential funding sources in relation to any early four-tracking to the Lea Valley”

This Assembly believes that the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area will create over 15,000 new jobs and over 20,100 new homes by 2031 and that four-tracking is vital to support these plans.

This Assembly therefore urges Network Rail to work with Transport for London, and other stakeholders, to develop a sound business case and timetable for progressing with four-tracking of the line between London Liverpool Street and Stansted Airport as soon as possible.”

- 7.4 Upon being put to vote, the motion in the name of Valerie Shawcross CBE AM, namely:

“This Assembly welcomes the fact that Network Rail is currently consulting on its Anglia route study document, but we are disappointed that it has not prioritised the four-tracking of the route between Liverpool Street and Stansted Airport.

This Assembly notes that the Mayor has announced that Crossrail 2 could be open by 2029 and that would require four tracking of the Lea Valley line, but that Network Rail sees four-tracking as one of the options for meeting passenger demand up to 2043.

This Assembly further notes that the document confirms that, “prior to publication of the final Route Study, more detailed work with stakeholders will be undertaken to better understand the benefits and potential funding sources in relation to any early four-tracking to the Lea Valley”

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This Assembly therefore urges Network Rail to work with Transport for London, and other stakeholders, to develop a sound business case and timetable for progressing with four-tracking of the line between London Liverpool Street and Stansted Airport as soon as possible.”

was agreed unanimously.

- 7.5 Fiona Twycross AM moved and James Cleverly AM seconded, on behalf of Andrew Boff AM, the following motion:

“This Assembly believes that improving enforcement of the National Minimum Wage should be made a key priority for the Government, with the failure to properly enforce the National Minimum Wage allowing many rogue businesses to undercut wages and drive down pay for people on low-incomes. While regional data on enforcing the National Minimum Wage is not available, the Centre for London and the Trust for London estimates that more than 300,000 people in the UK earn less than the legal minimum wage. Despite this, only nine employers have ever been prosecuted for breaching this law, while only one employer has ever been ‘named and shamed’. These figures demonstrate that the current enforcement regime is not sufficient.

This Assembly believes the Mayor should champion means by which enforcement can be improved in London. To this end, the Assembly calls on the Mayor to lobby the Government to take forward many of the recommendations put forward by the Trust for London and Centre for London report, ‘Settling for Nothing Less: Enhancing National Minimum Wage Compliance and Enforcement’ in London. In particular, we support proposals for:

- Devolving enforcement responsibilities to local authorities and allowing them to retain funds that are generated through fines, as part of a wider need to increase the number of proactive investigations into National Minimum Wage violations;
- Removing the upper-limit on fines for violating the National Minimum Wage; and
- A more rigorous approach that ensures that every company that breaches the National Minimum Wage is ‘named and shamed’.

Furthermore, we call on the Mayor to undertake an audit of the Greater London Authority's supply chain to ensure it holds no contracts with companies paying less than the National Minimum Wage. We believe the Mayor should use his business engagement team to urge all private sector businesses in London to also undertake such audits."

7.6 Upon being put to vote, the motion in the name of Fiona Twycross AM, namely:

"This Assembly believes that improving enforcement of the National Minimum Wage should be made a key priority for the Government, with the failure to properly enforce the National Minimum Wage allowing many rogue businesses to undercut wages and drive down pay for people on low-incomes. While regional data on enforcing the National Minimum Wage is not available, the Centre for London and the Trust for London estimates that more than 300,000 people in the UK earn less than the legal minimum wage. Despite this, only nine employers have ever been prosecuted for breaching this law, while only one employer has ever been 'named and shamed'. These figures demonstrate that the current enforcement regime is not sufficient.

This Assembly believes the Mayor should champion means by which enforcement can be improved in London. To this end, the Assembly calls on the Mayor to lobby the Government to take forward many of the recommendations put forward by the Trust for London and Centre for London report, 'Settling for Nothing Less: Enhancing National Minimum Wage Compliance and Enforcement' in London. In particular, we support proposals for:

- **Devolving enforcement responsibilities to local authorities and allowing them to retain funds that are generated through fines, as part of a wider need to increase the number of proactive investigations into National Minimum Wage violations;**
- **Removing the upper-limit on fines for violating the National Minimum Wage; and**
- **A more rigorous approach that ensures that every company that breaches the National Minimum Wage is 'named and shamed'.**

Furthermore, we call on the Mayor to undertake an audit of the Greater London Authority's supply chain to ensure it holds no contracts with companies paying less than the National Minimum Wage. We believe the Mayor should use his business engagement team to urge all private sector businesses in London to also undertake such audits."

was agreed unanimously.

7.7 Stephen Knight AM moved and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM seconded the following motion:

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“This Assembly recognises the important role that London & Partners – the official promotional company for London – plays in attracting businesses, events, students and visitors to our capital.

This Assembly also notes:

- i. that London & Partners continues to be majority funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and has received over £50 million of funding from the GLA since the organisation was launched in April 2011¹; and
- ii. that the Mayor has committed to making London government more transparent and believes the GLA should lead the way in “transparency and openness”.²

This Assembly believes

- i. that there is a fundamental public interest in seeing how public money is being spent in order to demonstrate whether, and how, value for money is being achieved; and
- ii. that, notwithstanding the outcome of the Assembly’s independent investigation into the Royal Albert Dock tendering process (and London & Partners involvement in that process), a number of immediate steps can be taken to improve London & Partners’ accountability to Londoners.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London to write to London & Partners instructing them to:

- i. abide by the principles of the GLA Group Corporate Governance Framework;
- ii. publish a register of gifts, expenses and hospitality for all board members and senior staff;
- iii. proactively disclose information and to respond to requests for information as if they were covered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA);
- iv. provide the Assembly’s Budget and Performance Committee with a full business plan during the course of its annual scrutiny of the Mayor’s budget; and

¹ Mayoral Decision ‘1327’:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/MD1327%20LP%20business%20plan%202014-15%20PDF.pdf>

² Boris Johnson, 2012 Election Manifesto: ‘cutting waste and council tax’:

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/boris-johnson-2012-manifesto-council-tax>

- v. provide the GLA Oversight Committee with full details of senior employee pay, as previously requested.

This Assembly further calls on the Mayor to make these points a condition of providing any future funding to London & Partners.”

7.8 Upon being put to vote, the motion in the name of Stephen Knight AM, namely:

“This Assembly recognises the important role that London & Partners – the official promotional company for London – plays in attracting businesses, events, students and visitors to our capital.

This Assembly also notes:

- i. **that London & Partners continues to be majority funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and has received over £50 million of funding from the GLA since the organisation was launched in April 2011³; and**
- ii. **that the Mayor has committed to making London government more transparent and believes the GLA should lead the way in “transparency and openness”⁴.**

This Assembly believes

- i. **that there is a fundamental public interest in seeing how public money is being spent in order to demonstrate whether, and how, value for money is being achieved; and**
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This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London to write to London & Partners instructing them to:

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³ Mayoral Decision ‘1327’:

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⁴ Boris Johnson, 2012 Election Manifesto: ‘cutting waste and council tax’:

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/boris-johnson-2012-manifesto-council-tax>

- ii. **publish a register of gifts, expenses and hospitality for all board members and senior staff;**
- iii. **proactively disclose information and to respond to requests for information as if they were covered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA);**
- iv. **provide the Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee with a full business plan during the course of its annual scrutiny of the Mayor's budget; and**
- v. **provide the GLA Oversight Committee with full details of senior employee pay, as previously requested.**

This Assembly further calls on the Mayor to make these points a condition of providing any future funding to London & Partners."

was agreed unanimously.

7.9 Tom Copley AM moved and Jennette Arnold OBE AM seconded the following motion:

"This Assembly condemns the actions of Westbrook Partners in their approach to the New Era estate in Hoxton. We believe it is entirely unacceptable that this community, with many long-standing tenants including many key workers, can be subjected to such practices, with many facing extreme rent hikes that will make it impossible for them to remain in their homes beyond Christmas.

This Assembly urges the owners, Westbrook Partners, to either continue renting homes at affordable rents or sell the estate to a reputable and willing housing association. Given the restrictions placed on the London Borough of Hackney as a result of the arbitrary cap on Housing Revenue Account borrowing, we also urge the Mayor of London to explore what legal options are available to the GLA to issue a Compulsory Purchase Order for the estate, with a view to selling it to a reputable social landlord.

Fundamentally, however, this Assembly notes that the treatment of tenants on the New Era estate highlights why we need reform of the private rented sector. As a minimum, we believe the Mayor should be lobbying the Government to introduce on a statutory basis longer-term tenancies with predictable rent rises and ending no fault eviction."

7.10 Upon being put to vote, the motion in the name of Tom Copley AM, namely:

"This Assembly condemns the actions of Westbrook Partners in their approach to the New Era estate in Hoxton. We believe it is entirely unacceptable that this community, with many long-standing tenants including many key workers, can be

subjected to such practices, with many facing extreme rent hikes that will make it impossible for them to remain in their homes beyond Christmas.

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Fundamentally, however, this Assembly notes that the treatment of tenants on the New Era estate highlights why we need reform of the private rented sector. As a minimum, we believe the Mayor should be lobbying the Government to introduce on a statutory basis longer-term tenancies with predictable rent rises and ending no fault eviction.”

was agreed (with 13 votes cast in favour and 5 against).

7.11 During the course of the Item, at 5.36pm, the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to extend the meeting in order to allow the remaining motion on the agenda to be moved.

7.12 Tom Copley AM moved and Jennette Arnold OBE AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation on planning and Travellers and further notes the proposal to treat Gypsies and Travellers who moved into fixed accommodation as having given up their traveller status.

This Assembly believes that this is incompatible with equalities and human rights laws, and incompatible with the positive steps that some local authorities have taken in recent years to help meet the needs of these communities for secure sites and support. The effect of it will be to undercount those who identify as travellers, meaning councils will not have to build the pitches that are needed to sustain this culture and way of life.

Though the DCLG’s consultation deadline has passed, this Assembly calls on the Mayor – given his obligations under London Plan Policy 3.8B(i)⁵ – to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government urging him to drop the proposals regarding the relationship between occupancy and traveller status.”

⁵ **London Plan Policy 3.8B(i):** “boroughs should work with the Mayor and local communities to identify the range of needs likely to arise within their areas and ensure that...the accommodation requirements of gypsies and travellers (including travelling show people) are identified and addressed”

7.13 Upon being put to vote, the motion in the name of Tom Copley AM, namely:

“This Assembly notes the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation on planning and Travellers and further notes the proposal to treat Gypsies and Travellers who moved into fixed accommodation as having given up their traveller status.

This Assembly believes that this is incompatible with equalities and human rights laws, and incompatible with the positive steps that some local authorities have taken in recent years to help meet the needs of these communities for secure sites and support. The effect of it will be to undercount those who identify as travellers, meaning councils will not have to build the pitches that are needed to sustain this culture and way of life.

Though the DCLG’s consultation deadline has passed, this Assembly calls on the Mayor – given his obligations under London Plan Policy 3.8B(i)⁶ – to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government urging him to drop the proposals regarding the relationship between occupancy and traveller status.”

was agreed (with 12 votes cast in favour and 5 against).

8 Date of Next Meeting (Item 8)

8.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly was the Mayor’s Question Time meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 17 December 2014 in the Chamber, City Hall.

9 Any Other Business the Chairman Considers Urgent (Item 9)

9.1 There were no items of urgent business.

10 Close of Meeting

10.1 The meeting ended at 5.45 pm.

⁶ **London Plan Policy 3.8B(i):** “boroughs should work with the Mayor and local communities to identify the range of needs likely to arise within their areas and ensure that...the accommodation requirements of gypsies and travellers (including travelling show people) are identified and addressed”

**Greater London Authority
London Assembly (Plenary)
Tuesday 9 December 2014**

Chairman

Date

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