LONDONASSEMBLY

Economy Committee

Internships in London – Progress on recommendations

Committee's recommendation	The Mayor's response	Committee follow-up actions
Recommendation 1 The Mayor should develop a policy position on internships and take a leadership role in promoting good quality paid internships in London. The Mayor's policy position would set out the benefits of paid internships for young people and employers. It would also include a key message that any internship longer than four weeks should be paid at least the National Minimum Wage. We welcome the GLA group's policy of paying its interns the London Living Wage and this position statement should encourage other employers to pay interns the London Living Wage.	The Mayor gave his support to good quality paid internships in the capital that pay at least the National Minimum Wage, if not the London Living Wage. The Mayor highlighted how the GLA pays at least the London Living Wage to all staff, including interns and apprentices. The Mayor reaffirmed his commitment to promoting the Living Wage to London's employers and making it the norm by 2020.	The Committee has since written to the Deputy Mayor seeking a clear Mayoral position on whether interns working longer than four weeks should be paid at least the National Minimum Wage.
Recommendation 2 The Mayor should be part of an awareness-raising campaign on the rights of interns. The Mayor should work with campaigning organisations, employer groups, professional bodies and others to raise awareness of the rights of interns to be paid the National Minimum Wage and promote good practice guidelines, for example UK Music's recently-published <i>Internship Code of Practice</i> . Fundamental to this would be clearly stating the benefits for businesses of paying interns. To support this campaign the Mayor should harness the GLA group's regular contact with employers and young people, as well as its web, press and social media presence.	The Mayor will not run a separate campaign on internships until more details on the issues are known. He will reconsider, once more information is available.	

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Recommendation 3

The Mayor should commission more research to understand the role of internships in London.

The Mayor's research should examine the use of internships by demographics of interns, level of pay, sector, employer size and job outcomes. Helping to address the lack of robust data would also help the Mayor to decide how to target any further interventions on internships, beyond the two recommendations above, particularly for sector-specific work.

The Mayor stated that he would be happy to commission research to better understand the role of internships in London. This research would examine what would be most effective to promote and/or raise awareness of internships and explore the proposal for a maximum length of time of any unpaid internships.

The Committee has since written to the Mayor seeking further information on the commissioning of this research