

Subject: Economy Committee Work Programme

Report to: Economy Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 5 March 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee receives a report monitoring the progress of its work programme at each meeting. This report reviews the Committee's work in 2014/15. A report setting out an indicative work programme for the 2015/16 Assembly year will be agreed at the Committee's meeting in June 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes this record of its work in the 2014/15 Assembly year.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree the indicative work programme, including the topics for the first two meetings, for the 2015/16 Assembly year, subject to a decision of the London Assembly at its Annual Meeting to re-establish the Committee.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee was re-established at the Annual Meeting of the London Assembly held on 15 May 2014 to lead on the Assembly's work in relation to economic development, wealth creation, social development, culture, sport and tourism. It will have met formally in public eight times between May 2014 and the end of March 2015. This paper sets out a brief record of the Committee's work programme for that period.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Committee launched an investigation into the **risks to the London economy from climate change**. The Committee held meetings on this topic in June and October 2014 with a range of guests from business and the climate change sector. In December 2014 the Committee published a report summarising the views and information received so far in the investigation. The report was launched at a business engagement event held at City Hall in partnership with Team London Bridge (the local Business Improvement District).

- 4.2 In July, the Committee questioned the Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise, Kit Malthouse AM and Dr Gerard Lyons, the Mayor's Chief Economic Advisor, on **matters of importance to London's economy** and Dr Lyons' report on **London's relationship with the EU**. The Committee subsequently exchanged a number of letters with Dr Lyons to clarify issues brought out by this discussion, including one received by the Chair on the 15 January 2015, as attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 The Committee continued to follow up on the Assembly's work on **food poverty**. In July 2014, the Committee submitted written evidence to the inquiry of the All-party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the UK. In December 2014, the All Party Parliamentary Group published *A strategy for zero hunger in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland*, echoing the Assembly's own call for a Zero Hunger London. The inquiry's evidence review also quoted the Committee's submission, in particular the need for strategic oversight of initiatives tackling food poverty. The Committee is currently seeking an update from key stakeholders on the current extent of food poverty in the capital and progress in tackling it.
- 4.4 In September 2014, the Committee were hosted by the **Bank of England** for a briefing on financial services regulation. In late March 2015 the Committee will host a discussion event on the **future of the capital's financial services**. A formal report from this event will be presented at the Committee's meeting in June 2015.
- 4.5 In October 2014, the Committee concluded its investigation into **apprenticeships** in the capital. The report's recommendations centred on a proposal for the Mayor to produce an Apprenticeship Action Plan. The Mayor accepted this recommendation; The Mayor's response to the report is considered more fully under Agenda Item 7.
- 4.6 The Committee investigated the issue of **personal problem debt** in the capital. The Committee held two formal meetings with key experts and stakeholders in November and December 2014. The Committee will publish the report from this investigation by late March 2015.
- 4.7 In December 2014, the Committee published a summary of findings from its exploration of **internships** in the capital. Based on this evidence base the Committee wrote to the Mayor with recommendations for action. The Mayor accepted the Committee's recommendation to conduct research into this issue; the Mayor's response to the Committee is considered more fully under Agenda Item 9.
- 4.8 In January 2015 the Committee met with members of the **London Enterprise Panel's SME and Skills and Employment Working Groups** and the **Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise**. The Committee discussed a number of issues including London's economic outlook, initiatives aimed at support for SMEs; devolution of skills and employment programmes; the Mayor's commitments on job creation, apprenticeship starts and the promoting the London Living Wage; the Committee's findings and recommendations on the issue of internships; and the work of London & Partners.
- 4.9 In March 2015, the Committee will examine difficulties faced by **smaller microbusinesses** in the capital. The background for the discussion is covered at Agenda Item 6.

Work Programme for 2015/16

- 4.10 Subject to agreement by the Assembly at its Annual Meeting on 13 May 2015, the Committee's meeting slots in 2015/16 are scheduled on the following dates:

Thursday 18 June 2015 at 10.00am	Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 10.00am
Tuesday 14 July 2015 at 10.00am	Thursday 21 January 2016 at 10.00am
Thursday 10 September 2015 at 2.00pm	Wednesday 24 February 2016 at 10.00am
Thursday 15 October 2015 at 2.00pm	Tuesday 15 March 2016 at 10.00am
Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 10.00am	

- 4.11 The Committee is recommended to delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with Group Lead Members, to agree its indicative work programme for 2015/16, including the topics for the first two meetings following the Committee's re-establishment.

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 - Letter from Dr Gerard Lyons to the Chair, dated 23 December 2014

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None

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