

MINUTES

Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee
Date: Tuesday 24 March 2015
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Committee Room 5, 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/oversight>

Present:

Len Duvall AM (Chair)
Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)
Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Roger Evans AM
Jenny Jones AM
Joanne McCartney AM
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Valerie Shawcross CBE AM
Nicky Gavron AM
Murad Qureshi AM

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Darren Johnson AM, for whom Jenny Jones AM was in attendance as a substitute member, and Andrew Boff AM.
- 1.2 Nicky Gavron AM and Murad Qureshi AM attended as observers for Item 12 of the agenda, Royal Albert Dock, and, in accordance with Standing Order 8.2 and with the permission of the Chair, took part in the discussion.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

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

2.2 **Resolved:**

That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee held on 24 February 2015, the minutes of the meetings of the Devolution Working Group held on 12 and 26 February 2015, the minutes of the meeting of the Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel held on 16 December 2014, and the minutes of the meeting of the Education Panel held on 25 February 2015, be signed by the Chair as correct records.

4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)

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

4.2 **Resolved:**

That the completed and outstanding actions arising from previous meetings of the GLA Oversight Committee be noted.

5 Action Taken Under Delegated Authority (Item 5)

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat setting out recent correspondence issued by the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee under delegated authority.

5.2 **Resolved:**

That the recent action taken by the Chair of the Committee under delegated authority be noted.

6 Head of Paid Service Oral Update (Item 6)

- 6.1 The Head of Paid Service informed the Committee that the Mayor's Chief of Staff had written to the Chairman of the Assembly on 16 March 2015 to advise how, subsequent to Kit Malthouse AM relinquishing his role as Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise in order to concentrate on the forthcoming general election, the various responsibilities associated with that role would be distributed amongst a number of existing Mayoral Advisers.

7 The Mayor's Senior Adviser for Team London, Volunteering, Charities and Sponsorship (Item 7)

- 7.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 7.2 In attendance for this item were:
- Veronica Wadley, Senior Adviser - Team London, Volunteering, Charities & Sponsorship, Greater London Authority (GLA); and
 - Natalie Cramp, Programme Director, GLA.
- 7.3 In discussion, the Committee queried the criteria that had been used for calculating the rate of informal volunteering in London; consequently, the Senior Adviser, Team London, Volunteering, Charities & Sponsorship, undertook to provide clarification.
- 7.4 A transcript of the discussion is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 7.5 **Resolved:**

That the report and discussion be noted.

8 Allocation of Assembly Budget (Item 8)

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 8.2 **Resolved:**
- (a) **That the overall proposed allocation of the Assembly budget for 2015-16 as set out in the report, be agreed.**
 - (b) **That authority be delegated to the Chairman of the Assembly to approve, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and Group Leaders, the detailed arrangements for Assembly events/receptions and lunchtime briefings.**

9 London Survey (Item 9)

- 9.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Communities and Intelligence.
- 9.2 In response to Joanne McCartney AM's question on how the Survey could better reflect the diversity of London, the Assistant Director of Intelligence advised that, whilst any survey is to some extent self-selecting, work would continue on finding better ways of engaging with different communities and that officers had been proactively working with the GLA's Public Liaison Unit and the Diversity Unit to improve this element of the Survey. He also pointed to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender representation on the Survey as an example of where outreach work had clearly been effective.
- 9.3 Roger Evans AM suggested that recent work undertaken by the Police and Crime Committee on experiences of online crime illustrated that it was a growing trend and might therefore merit inclusion in the next Survey. He also advised that other Assembly Members might have suggestions of similar measures arising from their scrutiny work and therefore should also be consulted. The Assistant Director of Intelligence confirmed that he would welcome proposals from Assembly Members and added that officers were currently in discussion with GLA teams and functional bodies for further suggestions.

9.4 **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

10 Proposed Changes to the GLA Establishment (Item 10)

- 10.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Service that set out proposed staffing changes to the Regeneration, Environment and Economic and Business Policy units, the Committee Services Unit and the Programme, Policy and Services unit.

10.2 **Resolved:**

That the proposed changes to the establishment in the Greater London Authority, as set out in the report, be noted.

11 Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee (Item 11)

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

11.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the GLA Oversight Committee's work programme for 2015/16, as set out in the report, be agreed;**
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Leaders, to agree and vary the detailed arrangements of the Committee's work programme as necessary; and**
- (c) That John Biggs AM be appointed as rapporteur to carry out a follow-up investigation into transparency in the GLA Group and wider GLA family.**

11.3 At 10.50am the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes to allow the invited guests time to arrive for the next item. The meeting resumed at 10.55am.

12 Royal Albert Dock (Item 12)

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

12.2 In attendance for this item were:

- David Lunts, Executive Director Housing and Land, GLA;
- Simon Powell, Assistant Director - Strategic Projects and Property, GLA;
- Doug Wilson, Head of Financial Services, GLA;
- Sir Edward Lister, Board Chairman, London & Partners;
- Gordon Innes, Chief Executive, London & Partners; and
- Andrew Cooke, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive, London & Partners.

12.3 In discussion the Board Chairman, London & Partners, undertook to provide the Committee with the following additional information:

- Subject to legal clearance, the documentation, including relevant email exchanges, in relation to the Royal Albert Dock development that had been made available to Moore Stephens as background to their audit inspection;
- Further comment on the London & Partners press release of 31 May 2013 on London & Partners' relationship with Advanced Business Parks (ABP);

**Greater London Authority
GLA Oversight Committee
Tuesday 24 March 2015**

- Confirmation of the date on which Mr Tongbo Liu left the employ of London & Partners;
- Clarification on the extent to which the GLA has the ability to audit London & Partners, and further details of current and future grant agreements and the associated auditing requirements;
- Confirmation of when and which London & Partners and GLA staff met with Ms Xuelin Black, particularly in her role as adviser to ABP; and
- Clarification on whether there are records of ABP meeting with any predecessor organisations prior to discussions with London & Partners in relation to the Royal Albert Dock development.

12.4 A transcript of the discussion is attached as **Appendix 2**.

12.5 **Resolved:**

(a) That the report and discussion with invited guests be noted.

(b) That it be noted that the discussion discharged the actions required by the Assembly motion on the matter agreed at Mayor's Question Time on 19 November 2014.

13 Date of Next Meeting (Item 13)

13.1 Subject to confirmation at the London Assembly's Annual Meeting on 13 May 2015, the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Tuesday 30 June 2015 at 10.00am in Committee Room 5, City Hall.

14 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 14)

14.1 There were no items of urgent business.

15 Close of Meeting

15.1 The meeting finished at 1.10pm.

Chair

Date

Contact Officer: John Barry, Principal Committee Manager; Telephone: 020 7983 4425; Email: john.barry@london.gov.uk; Minicom: 020 7983 4458