

# Subject: Re-Establishment of Working Groups and Panels

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 30 June 2015

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report requests the GLA Oversight Committee to consider re-establishing the Standing Orders Working Group, the Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel, the Education Panel and the Devolution Working Group.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee considers whether to re-establish the Education Panel as a working group with the term of reference, size, membership and chairing arrangements, as set out in the report;**
- 2.2 **That the Committee considers whether to re-establish the Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel as a working group, with the term of reference, size, membership and chairing arrangements, as set out in the report;**
- 2.3 **That the Committee considers whether to re-establish the Standing Orders Working Group, with the term of reference, size, membership and chairing arrangements, as set out in the report;**
- 2.4 **That the Committee considers whether to re-establish the Devolution Working Group with the terms of reference, size, membership and chairing arrangements, as set out in the report.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Annual Meeting of the Assembly on 13 May 2015 established the GLA Oversight Committee as an ordinary committee for the period until the Annual Meeting of the Assembly in May 2016.

## 4. Issues for Consideration

### Education Panel

- 4.1 As agreed at the Annual Meeting of 1 May 2013, the GLA Oversight Committee has the responsibility of scrutinising the Mayor's activities in respect of education matters within London. It was agreed at the GLA Oversight Committee meeting that to assist in the undertaking of this work a working group be established for the 2013-14 Assembly year with the following term of reference:

*To keep under review and investigate as appropriate the development and delivery of the Mayor's policies and strategies in relation to education and to report back to the GLA Oversight Committee as necessary.*

- 4.2 The Panel held three meetings to discuss the following three topics; the provision of school places, the implementation of the recommendation of the Mayor's Education Inquiry and the role of the Mayor in supporting Academies and Free Schools.
- 4.3 Given the Mayor's continued commitment to play a role in education the need for the Education Panel remains and it is proposed that it be re-established with the same term of reference. The Panel will discuss its work programme at its first meeting but possible topics for consideration include an update on the provision of school places, the role of the Mayor in supporting young people in the transition from school to work and university and progress with his commitment to improve the outcomes for young people studying at Pupil Referral Units. Panel Members have also been asked to review access across London to quality mainstream education for children with special education needs and those with physical or mobility impairments.
- 4.4 If it is agreed to re-establish the Education Panel as a working group, it is proposed that the Committee agrees the size, appoints Members to the Panel and appoints the Chair of the Panel, as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

### Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel

- 4.5 The Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel was established by the GLA Oversight Committee as a working group in May 2012 with the following term of reference:
- To conduct, in conjunction with the Mayor, the performance review process for the Authority's Head of Paid Service, reporting relevant matters requiring formal decision and/or for consideration as necessary to the GLA Oversight Committee.*
- 4.6 If it is agreed to re-establish the Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel as a working group, it is proposed that the Panel comprise one GLA Conservative Assembly Member, one Green Assembly Member, one Labour Assembly Member and one Liberal Democrat Assembly Member; and that the Committee appoints Members; and appoints the Chair of the Panel, as detailed in Appendix 1.

## **Standing Orders Working Group**

- 4.7 At its meeting on 25 May 2011, the Committee (formerly known as the Business Management and Administration Committee) agreed to establish a Standing Orders Working Group, which would only meet when necessary. As from time to time it is necessary to consider revisions to Standing Orders where Assembly Members and the Mayor consider that changes to procedure would make meetings more effective, the Committee is requested to consider re-establishing the Standing Orders Working Group for the 2014-15 Assembly year with the term of reference, as set out below:

*To consider changes to the GLA's Standing Orders as required and to make recommendations to the GLA Oversight Committee.*

- 4.8 If the Committee agrees to re-establish the Standing Orders Working Group, it is requested to agree the size, appoint Members and the Chair of the Working Group as detailed in Appendix 1.

## **Devolution Working Group**

- 4.9 The Fiscal Devolution Working Group was established by the GLA Oversight Committee in December 2013, and subsequently amended by the Committee at its November 2014 to become the Devolution Working Group with the following terms of reference:

*To consider London's case for further devolved services and taxes in the context of developments including the Scottish referendum and the devolved model of service provision announced for Manchester;*

*To progress the case for further devolution to London by developing practical solutions to unanswered questions including how additional powers and yield from any localised taxes could work in terms of the roles and responsibilities of GLA and London Boroughs; and*

*To develop draft position statements for the Assembly's consideration on issues related to the potential further devolution of powers to London Government and any potential changes to governance arrangements within London Government and to take the lead in promoting the Assembly's agreed views on these matters.*

- 4.10 If it is agreed to re-establish the Devolution Working Group, it is proposed that the Committee agrees the size, appoints Members to the Panel and appoints the Chair of the Panel, as detailed in Appendix 1.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Section 55(4) of the GLA Act provides the Assembly may: "appoint one or more committees ("advisory committees") to advise it on any matter relating to the discharge of its functions". The Assembly may delegate its functions (except powers that are exercised jointly with the Mayor) to a committee, sub-committee or individual Member of the Assembly (sections 54(1) and 55(1)), but not to an advisory committee, which may only advise in accordance with section 55(4).

- 5.2 The political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 apply to any committees and sub committees established by the Assembly. This means that the allocation of seats on committees must be proportionate to the number of Members each party Group has on the Assembly as a whole.
- 5.3 Political proportionality must be applied to every ordinary and advisory committee or sub-committee established by the Assembly, with the exception of the Standards Committee. The political balance requirements do not apply to the Standing Orders Working Group, the Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel, the Education Panel and the Fiscal Devolution Working Group since it is not proposed that they are established as ordinary sub-committees, but as working groups under SO 8.5, and in accordance with the principles established by R v Warwickshire District Council ex parte Bailey [1999] COD 184.
- 5.4 As it is proposed that the Standing Orders Working Group, the Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel, the Education Panel and the Fiscal Devolution Working Group are established as working groups they are not subject to access to information rules.
- 5.5 A working group or panel established under Standing Order 8.5 cannot exercise any function of the Assembly or determine any matter, other than to make a recommendation. Standing Order 8.5 also stipulates that a member of a working group or panel unable to attend a meeting may request any Assembly or co-opted member to attend in their stead.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

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### List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 - Membership and Chairing Arrangements for Working Groups and Panels

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
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## Membership and Chairing Arrangements

<b>Education Panel</b>		
<b>Total number of seats: 6</b>	<b>Membership</b>	
<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Name</i>	
2 Labour	Jennette Arnold OBE AM <b>(Chair)</b> Andrew Dismore AM	
2 Conservative	Tony Arbour AM Andrew Boff AM	
1 Green Party	Darren Johnson AM	
1 Liberal Democrat	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM	

<b>Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel</b>		
<b>Total number of seats: 4</b>	<b>Membership</b>	
<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Name</i>	
1 Labour	Valerie Shawcross CBE AM <b>(Chair)</b>	
1 Conservative	Andrew Boff AM	
1 Green Party	Jenny Jones AM	
1 Liberal Democrat	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM	

<b>Standing Orders Working Group</b>		
<b>Total number of seats: 3</b>	<b>Membership</b>	
<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Name</i>	
1 Green Party	Darren Johnson AM	
1 Conservative	Steve O'Connell AM	
1 Labour	John Biggs AM	

<b>Devolution Working Group</b>		
<b>Total number of seats: 4</b>	<b>Membership</b>	
<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Name</i>	
1 Labour	Len Duvall AM <b>(Deputy Chair)</b>	
1 Conservative	Andrew Boff AM	
1 Green Party	Darren Johnson AM <b>(Chair)</b>	
1 Liberal Democrat	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM	