

Subject: Environment Committee Work Programme

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 2 July 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 A report on the work programme is submitted to each Committee meeting to track the Committee's work and propose any changes, including confirming dates and adding topics as required.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes its work programme for the remainder of the 2015/16 Assembly year.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with Lead Members, to agree the scope and terms of reference for the Committee's investigation into the environmental pressures from London's growth.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee's work programme was initially agreed at the June meeting.

4. Issues for Consideration

Forthcoming Meetings and Other Business

- 4.1 The table below sets out the allocated dates for the Environment Committee in 2015/16 and lists the main business proposed for each date at this stage. The business for future dates is subject to change as the Committee develops proposals for its work. Dates may be used for formal Committee meetings, informal meetings, site visits or other activities for the Committee. The work programme also provides for the Committee to respond to any matters that arise during the year.

Meeting Date	Proposed topic
Thursday 3 September 2015	Committee meeting / site visit – environmental pressures of London’s growth
Thursday 1 October 2015	Committee meeting / site visit – environmental pressures of London’s growth
Thursday 5 November 2015	Committee meeting – update on carbon emissions
Thursday 10 December 2015	Committee meeting – waste collection and recycling
Thursday 7 January 2016	<i>To be agreed</i>
Thursday 4 February 2016	<i>To be agreed</i>
Wednesday 9 March 2016	Committee meeting – Mayoral delivery

Solar power

- 4.2 The Committee is today discussing solar power, and specifically the prospects for increasing the generation of electricity from solar cells on homes in London. A report on this topic can be found at Agenda Item 5 providing background for the discussion at this meeting.
- 4.3 The Committee also made a visit on 18 June 2015 to sites in Brixton and Chelsea to see solar generation in action and hear about the challenges and benefits. A report is expected in the autumn.

Topics for Later Scrutiny

- 4.4 Officers will conduct initial research and scoping on further topics to be investigated by the Committee in the autumn and later, and the result of this research will be brought to future Committee meetings.

Environmental pressures of London’s growth

- 4.5 With London’s population already at a record 8.6 million, and expected to grow to around 10 million by 2030 and 11 million by 2050, there will be intense pressure on all aspects of the city’s physical, social and economic fabric. There will be a need for new homes, workplaces, services and infrastructure. There will at the same time be an increasing need for green infrastructure such as recreation spaces and access to nature, sustainable drainage, urban cooling and biodiversity habitat. For example, the GLA projects that an extra 9,000 hectares of green space would be needed to maintain the London Plan standards on access to green space.
- 4.6 Seeking to meet all of these increasing demands within London’s borders will put pressure on land use and challenge building design. A review could examine this tension and look at how the Mayor and others with strategic influence in London are preparing to deal with it.
- 4.7 The Committee’s work programme allows for a meeting or meetings and potentially one or more site visits in the autumn, with a view to producing a report in the winter. More detailed options will be developed in the next few weeks and presented to Members informally, at which point arrangements for site visits/meetings in September and October Committee meetings will be finalised. It is

recommended that the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with Lead Members, to agree the terms of reference and outline of this work.

Carbon emissions

- 4.8 The Committee has in the past examined London's carbon emissions and the Mayor's progress with his goals to reduce them by 60 per cent by 2025. In November 2015, more than a year on from the publication of the Committee's report (*Could Do Better: a report card on progress with Mayoral carbon reduction targets*, July 2014), and in the lead-up to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, it could be timely to look at the latest emissions figures and programme updates. This may also provide an opportunity to complement the proposed domestic solar power investigation and follow up on past work and Member interests by looking at energy use and generation in the GLA and other public sector estates.

Waste collection and recycling

- 4.9 The Committee may investigate waste collection regimes across London, particularly for dry recycling, and the potential for improvements and perhaps greater standardization of collection regimes to increase recycling rates and the sustainability of materials cycles in London.

Business in early 2016

- 4.10 With the pre-election period ahead of the 2016 Mayoral and Assembly elections beginning on 21 March 2016, meetings in early 2016 may not fit well into projects leading to major proactive reports from the Committee. However, there are three dates available for meetings or other activities. Some may be used to respond to issues that arise during the year or to follow up previous work.
- 4.11 It is proposed that the last meeting of the term may be used to review delivery of the Mayor's environmental strategies and goals since 2008.

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

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

List of appendices to this report:

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None

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