

Subject: Motions

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 8 September 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is asked to consider the motions set out which have been submitted by Assembly Members.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly considers the motion set out below.**

3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM** and will be seconded by Len Duvall AM:

“This Assembly notes that the Government plans to bring forward the full implementation of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) by one year from 1st December 2016 to 1st December 2015, resulting in the deletion of hundreds of thousands of names from the London Electoral Register ahead of the Mayor and Assembly elections next May.

The Assembly recalls that under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, people who were only on the electoral register as a result of the previous household registration system would remain on the list of voters until December 2016. While Ministers have the power to bring the date forward, the independent Electoral Commission has given clear advice that doing so would be wrong. The effect would be to delete nearly two million names from UK Electoral Registers of which an estimated quarter of a million are in London.

The Assembly is concerned that according to their June 2015 report on IER, the Electoral Commission identified that six of the eight boroughs where more than 10% of voters' names will be deleted from the electoral register are in London. These six are Brent, Hackney, Haringey, Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea, Redbridge and the worst in the country is Hackney which is set to see 23% of electors lose their right to vote.

This Assembly accepts the conclusions of the Electoral Commission that:

- a) "The number of London boroughs with high proportions of retained entries further underlines the importance of considering the transition end date in relation to the polls scheduled for May 2016 – which includes elections to the London Assembly and for London Mayor."

and

- b) "Ministers should not make an order to bring forward the end of the transition to Individual Electoral Registration."

While recognising that the primary role of maximising electoral registration within the Greater London Authority rests with the Greater London Returning Officer, this Assembly notes the distinctive role and influence that the Mayor can use in opposing these changes and therefore urges the Mayor to protect the right to vote of all Londoners and to back moves in the House of Commons and House of Lords to block the deletion of names from the Electoral Register. "

- 3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Richard Tracey AM** and will be seconded by Darren Johnson AM:

"This Assembly believes there is no circumstance under which Heathrow Expansion would be acceptable"

- 3.3 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Stephen Knight AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

"This Assembly notes with concern possible plans by the Government to extend Permitted Development Rights after May 2016, making permanent the removal of the need to apply for planning permission for office to residential conversions.

Objections to the rights have been raised on a number of occasions not only by the Assembly and London boroughs, but additionally by organisations such as the Federation of Small Businesses, given the serious threat they pose to the availability of premises for small businesses in London.

The Assembly believes extension will further deplete the number of commercial sites, driving up the cost of property, reducing opportunities for new businesses and jobs, and ultimately hindering London's economic development.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to make representations regarding the extension to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, highlighting the negative impact this could have on London's economic recovery specifically."

- 3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Victoria Borwick AM** and will be seconded by Andrew Boff AM:

"This Assembly would not support any proposal for female only train carriages on TFL trains. The idea amounts to nothing more than gender segregation and does nothing to address any of the issues of sexual harassment. Everyone should feel safe on TFL trains – isolating women and treating them as the problem is not the answer."

- 3.5 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Murad Qureshi AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

"This Assembly calls on the Mayor to seek an urgent meeting with Government Ministers to discuss ways of mitigating the worst effects of the Government's summer budget and to lobby for stronger

national policies that will facilitate a cleaner, greener London. Looking ahead to the Paris Conference in a few months' time, this Assembly believes the budget was a historic missed opportunity to set out an agenda for a change and show real leadership amongst the world's leading economies.

It is increasingly cities around the world that are leading the charge against the biggest environmental challenges of our age. However, London, like other global cities, can only act in the parameters of the policies set down by national governments. This budget is the latest in a long list of retrograde steps since reports appeared in the press of the Prime Minister calling for an end to "all this green crap".¹

The decision to abandon the commitment to zero carbon homes, which was due to come in next year, will severely limit the ability of the Mayor to meet his carbon reduction targets and deliver sustainable homes in the capital. London already has an uphill battle in making its existing housing stock energy efficient, following this announcement it is likely that many new homes being built today will require retro-fits in the near future.

This Assembly also notes with concern the changes to Vehicle Excise Duty, which will dis-incentivise consumers buying low emission vehicles. These changes will create policy uncertainty at the very time when London needs to up its game in tackling poor air quality. Given that it is low emission vehicles that is driving growth in the UK new car market, this policy change will damage business and consumer confidence.²

The attacks on renewables outlined in the Budget, such as the changes to the Climate Change Levy, will result in renewable electricity effectively paying a carbon tax, a measure described as "totally bizarre" by Friends of the Earth.³ It is deeply disappointing that London's domestic solar power generating capacity is the lowest of any region in the country and these changes will do sustained damage to industry confidence."

List of appendices to this report: None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None.
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¹ [The Guardian Online](#) 21.11.13 (Accessed 21.8.15)

² Information from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) via [Autocar.co.uk](#) (Accessed 21.8.15)

³ Spokesperson for Friends of the Earth, as quoted in [BusinessGreen.com](#) (Accessed 21.8.15)