

MINUTES

Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee
Date: Thursday 17 September 2015
Time: 2.00 pm
Place: Chamber, 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)
Andrew Boff AM
Tom Copley AM
Darren Johnson AM
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Navin Shah AM
Valerie Shawcross CBE AM

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Joanne McCartney AM, for whom Tom Copley AM attended as a substitute Member, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, for whom Valerie Shawcross CBE AM attended as a substitute Member, and from Roger Evans AM.
- 1.2 The Chair informed the Committee that he had an item of urgent business to be discussed under agenda item 13, in relation to the Government consultation on proposals to increase joint working between emergency services.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 Resolved:

That the 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 meetings of the GLA Oversight Committee held on 30 June 2015 and 9 July 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.

5.2 Resolved:

That the action taken by the Chair of the London Assembly, namely to approve the publication of the London Assembly Annual Report 2014/15, be noted.

6 Head of Paid Service Oral Update (Item 6)

6.1 The Committee received the oral update of the Head of Paid Service.

6.2 Darren Johnson AM asked if the Authority had given consideration to retaining development capacity within the Webteam on a long-term basis, to further improve and adapt the website after its public launch. The Head of Paid Service explained that recruitment across the GLA

had slowed in advance of the 2016 Mayor and Assembly elections, but that the staffing arrangements of the Webteam would be reviewed post election; further, it was likely that a number of the current fixed-term posts in the Webteam would be extended beyond the website launch to provide immediate, short-term support.

- 6.3 The Head of Paid Service also provided the Committee with an update on the welfare of the security officer who had been injured during recent disruptions to meetings at City Hall; Members were informed that the officer had been released from hospital and was being supported by the Authority. The Head of Paid Service and Assembly Members also placed on record their praise and gratitude for the way in which the Authority's security officers had dealt with the whole incident.

7 Appointment of Rapporteur to Investigate the Potential of a Land Value Tax for London (Item 7)

- 7.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 7.2 Tom Copley AM informed the Committee that the terms of reference agreed at that morning's Planning Committee for the proposed rapporteurship had been slightly amended from those included in the GLA Oversight Committee's report, insofar as the Planning Committee had agreed to make the broad focus of the proposed investigation the case for and against the introduction of a Land Value Tax for London.

7.3 **Resolved:**

That Tom Copley AM be appointed as a rapporteur for the Planning Committee, to conduct an investigation into the case for and against the introduction of a Land Value Tax for London, with terms of reference as agreed by the Planning Committee.

8 The Garden Bridge Design Procurement (Item 8)

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 8.2 In attendance for this item were the following invited guests:
- Richard De Cani, Managing Director of Planning, Transport for London (TfL);
 - Will Hurst, Deputy Editor, Architects' Journal; and
 - Walter Menteth, Director of Walter Menteth Architects, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) National Councillor and former Chair of the RIBA Procurement Reform Group.

8.3 During the course of the conversation, the Committee requested the following additional information:

- Confirmation on whether, as part of the invitation to tender, there was a process for the submission of clarification questions, and if any such questions seeking clarification on the brief were submitted during the process;
- Full details of the comments about the procurement exercise for the Garden Bridge design attributed to Professor Christopher Bovis during the meeting, and a written response from TfL to the comments made.

8.4 A transcript of the discussion is attached as **Appendix 1**.

8.5 **Resolved:**

That the report and discussion be noted.

9 Shared Services Update (Item 9)

9.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Resources.

9.2 **Resolved:**

That the Shared Services Update be deferred until the next appropriate meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee.

10 Secretariat Quarterly Review, Quarter 1, 2015-16 (Item 10)

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

10.2 **Resolved:**

That the core Secretariat quarterly monitoring report for the first quarter of 2015-16 (April-June 2015) 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:**

That, subject to the rescheduling of the Shared Services Update, the GLA Oversight Committee's work programme for 2015-16 be noted.

12 Date of Next Meeting (Item 12)

12.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday 22 October 2015 at 2.00pm in the Chamber.

13 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 13)

13.1 In accordance with section 100B(4B) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to consider an item of urgent business in order that it be considered at the first opportunity and in advance of the consultation deadline pertaining to the matter.

Consultation on Joint Working Between Emergency Services (Item 13a)

13.2 The Chair proposed that the GLA Oversight Committee should respond on behalf of the London Assembly to the recently announced Government consultation on proposals to increase joint working between emergency services.

13.3 **Resolved:**

That authority be delegated to the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Leaders, to either agree the Committee's response to the Government consultation on proposals to increase joint working between emergency services, or to prepare a response for formal agreement at the Committee's next meeting, as deemed appropriate.

14 Close of Meeting

14.1 The meeting finished at 4.15pm.

Chair

Date

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