

Subject: Devolution Working Group

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 22 October 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper proposes that the Committee formally agree the report produced by the Devolution Working Group, *A New Agreement for London*.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee agrees the Devolution Working Group's report, *A New Agreement for London*.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Fiscal Devolution Working Group was established by the GLA Oversight Committee in December 2013. In response to policy developments, at its meeting of 20 November 2014, the GLA Oversight Committee amended the title to the Devolution Working Group and agreed the following amended 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.

- 3.2 The Chair of the Devolution Working Group has agreed in principle, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, the draft report. As the Devolution Working Group was established as a working group, it is not authorised to take formal decisions, and so it recommends this draft report to the GLA Oversight Committee for formal agreement.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 On 10 September 2015, the Working Group published its report, *A New Agreement for London*.
- 4.2 The report can be found at **Appendix 1** for Members and officers only and on the London Assembly website at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/publications/a-new-agreement-for-london>
- 4.3 The report made a number of arguments for fiscal devolution, including full business rate localisation, and for further public service reform in order to enable London government to better meet the needs and demands of its growing population.
- 4.4 The GLA Oversight Committee is now asked to agree the report formally. Officers confirm that the report and its findings fall within the terms of reference.

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

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

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1: *A New Agreement for London*

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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