

Subject: Action Taken by the Chair Under Delegated Authority and Outcome of Confirmation Hearings

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 4 November 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines recent action taken by the Chair of the London Assembly, in accordance with the authority delegated to her, in relation to two Confirmation Hearings, and notifies the Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order 10.6H, of the outcome of two Confirmation Hearings.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Assembly notes action taken by the Chair of the Assembly, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, in accordance with the authority delegated to her, namely to agree to hold Confirmation Hearings in relation to the proposed appointment of: (i) Sir Merrick Cockell to the office of Chairman of the London Pensions Fund Authority; and (ii) David Edmonds CBE to the office of Chairman of the London Legacy Development Corporation, and to ask both candidates to provide a CV and supporting statement.**
- 2.2 **That the Assembly notes the decisions of the Confirmation Hearings Committee, further to its meetings held on 20 May 2015 and 13 October 2015 and as set out at Appendices 2 and 5, to recommend that the Mayor should proceed with his proposed appointments to those offices.**
- 2.3 **That the Assembly notes the responses from the Mayor attached at Appendices 3 and 6 which mark the end of the Confirmation Hearings process in respect of the appointments.**
- 2.4 **That the Assembly notes the letter attached at Appendix 4 from the Chair of the Confirmation Hearings Committee meeting held on 20 May 2015, Valerie Shawcross CBE AM, to Sir Merrick Cockell, setting out issues raised during the confirmation hearing discussion, which has been copied to the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee for follow-up action as deemed necessary.**

3. Background

Action taken under Delegated Authority

- 3.1 The Mayor wrote to the Chair of the Assembly, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, on 24 August 2015 and on 24 September 2015, in accordance with the provisions of Section 60(a) and Schedule 4A of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (“the GLA Act”) as amended, to advise the Assembly of his proposed appointment of: (i) Sir Merrick Cockell to the office of Chairman of the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA); and (ii) David Edmonds CBE to the office of Chairman of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) respectively. The letters from Mayor are attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 As allowed for by the provisions of Schedule 4A to the GLA Act, the Chair of the Assembly has been granted a standing delegation of authority to: (i) decide whether to hold a Confirmation Hearing for the Mayor’s candidate for appointment to any of the offices listed in Section 60(a)(3) of the Act; and (ii) to request that the Mayor’s candidate for appointment produce, under paragraph 6(4) of Schedule 4A of the GLA Act, documents that relate to his or her proposed appointment.
- 3.3 The Chair, in accordance with that delegation, decided to hold Confirmation Hearings in relation to both proposed appointments and to ask the candidates to provide their CV and a supporting statement if they wished.

4 Issues for Consideration

Confirmation Hearings Committee Decision – Appointment to the office of the Chairman of LPFA

- 4.1 The Confirmation Hearings Committee met on 7 September 2015 to put questions to Sir Merrick Cockell in relation to his proposed appointment to the office of Chairman of the LPFA.
- 4.2 The Committee decided, unanimously, to recommend that the Mayor proceed with his appointment of Sir Merrick Cockell to the office of Chair of the LPFA.
- 4.3 The recommendation letter which was sent to the Mayor is attached as **Appendix 2** and the Mayor’s response, which marks the end of the confirmation hearings process, is attached as **Appendix 3**.
- 4.4 The GLA Oversight Committee agreed, at its meeting of 24 April 2014, that any issues raised in respect of prospective mayoral appointments during the confirmation hearings process should be reported to the appropriate Assembly bodies for follow-up action as deemed necessary.
- 4.5 During the confirmation hearing discussion several issues were raised and the Committee agreed to write to Sir Merrick Cockell, once appointed, with a summary of these issues. This letter is attached as **Appendix 4**, and has also been sent to the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee for follow-up action as deemed necessary.

Confirmation Hearings Committee Decision – Appointment to the office of the Chairman of LLDC

- 4.6 The Confirmation Hearings Committee met on 13 October 2015 to put questions to David Edmonds CBE in relation to his proposed appointment to the office of Chairman of the LLDC.
- 4.7 The Committee decided, unanimously, to recommend that the Mayor proceed with his appointment of Mr Edmonds to the office of Chair of the LPFA.
- 4.8 The recommendation letter which was sent to the Mayor is attached as **Appendix 5** and the Mayor's response, which marks the end of the confirmation hearings process, is attached as **Appendix 6**.
- 4.9 The wording of the recommendation letter was agreed by the Chair of the meeting under delegated authority, in consultation with Members of the Confirmation Hearings Committee.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Section 60(a) and Schedule 4A to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended) sets out the provisions relating to the confirmation process. An explanation of the provisions has been set out in the text above.
- 5.2 The GLA Act specifies that the end of the confirmation process is reached when:
The Mayor has given the Chair of the Assembly the notification required by paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 4A in respect of acceptance or rejection of the Assembly's recommendation;

OR

The period of three weeks (from the day on which the Assembly received notification from the Mayor of the candidate(s) whom he intends to appoint) has expired without any recommendation or written notice of a decision to exercise the veto (as applicable) being given to the Mayor by the Assembly.

- 5.3 The end of the confirmation process has therefore now been reached in respect of the appointment referred to in the report.

6. Financial Implications

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

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – letters from the Mayor, re LPFA and LLDC Chairmen nominations, dated 24 August and 24 September 2015

Appendix 2 – letter of recommendation to the Mayor re LPFA Chair, dated 7 September 2015

Appendix 3 – letter from the Mayor re LPFA Chairman appointment, dated 17 September 2015

Appendix 4 – letter to Sir Merrick Cockell, dated 18 September 2015

Appendix 5 - letter of recommendation to the Mayor re LLDC Chair, dated 14 October 2015

Appendix 6 - letter from the Mayor re LLDC Chairman appointment, dated 23 October 2015

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: Member's Delegated Authority Forms 625, 636 and 637
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