

# MINUTES

**Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)**  
**Date: Wednesday 4 November 2015**  
**Time: 10.00 am**  
**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/whole-assembly>

**Present:**

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair)	Jenny Jones AM
Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)	Stephen Knight AM
Gareth Bacon AM	Kit Malthouse AM MP
Kemi Badenoch AM	Joanne McCartney AM
Andrew Boff AM	Steve O'Connell AM
James Cleverly AM MP	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Tom Copley AM	Murad Qureshi AM
Andrew Dismore AM	Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Len Duvall AM	Navin Shah AM
Roger Evans AM	Valerie Shawcross CBE AM
Nicky Gavron AM	Richard Tracey AM
Darren Johnson AM	Fiona Twycross AM

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

- 1.1 An apology for absence was received from Mayor John Biggs AM.

## **2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)**

- 2.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

2.2 **Resolved:**

**That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.**

## **3 Question and Answer Session - London & Partners (Item 3)**

### **Part A:**

- 3.1 The Assembly put questions to Sir Edward Lister, Chairman, London & Partners, and Gordon Innes, Chief Executive, London & Partners, on the work of London & Partners.
- 3.2 During the course of the discussion, the Assembly requested the following additional information:
- Further details of which countries were being surveyed as part of the long-term strategy work on the tourist experience in London;
  - An update on what was being done to improve broadband connectivity in London and details of London & Partners' submission to the Public Accounts Committee;
  - The number of overseas trade missions that London & Partners has led and the number it indirectly supported overseas;
  - An update on the Royal Albert Dock development and details of the recent contract with Citic Construction;
  - Progress on the development of London & Partners new mobile app;
  - An analysis of the impact of England's exit from the 2015 Rugby World Cup at the group stage, specifically with reference to the impact on visitor numbers to both inner and outer London;
  - An update on what could be done by London & Partners, in conjunction with VisitEngland, to encourage boroughs in outer London to improve provision of bed and breakfast and other accommodation;
  - Further information on how London & Partners' ten-year tourist strategy would seek to balance the success of tourist attractions across London;
  - Details of what could be done to promote the Thames as a route to reaching outer London attractions;

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- An update on progress in lobbying Ministers to make London and the UK more open to international students, particularly on changes to immigration policy concerning post-study work visa issues;
- An update on the research work being undertaken on the implications of a British exit from the European Union on trade deals with major economies, access to the EU market, and impact on international and European headquarters functions;
- Details of any cost-benefit analysis used to inform the decision to withdraw from the Tour de France Grand Depart; and
- An update on what London & Partners could do to facilitate the promotion of the London Living Wage in the hospitality and catering industry through its business plan.

3.3 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached as **Appendix 1**.

3.4 The written answers to those questions not asked at the meeting are attached at **Appendix 2**.

**Part B:**

3.5 The Chair formally moved the motion in the agenda, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.”

3.6 **Resolved:**

**The answers to the questions asked be noted.**

**4 Action Taken by the Chair Under Delegated Authority and Outcome of Confirmation Hearings (Item 4)**

4.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

4.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the 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, be noted.**
- (b) That 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 the report, to recommend that the Mayor should proceed with his proposed appointments to those offices, be noted.**

- (c) That the responses from the Mayor attached at Appendices 3 and 6 to the report which mark the end of the Confirmation Hearings process in respect of the appointments, be noted.**
- (d) That the letter attached at Appendix 4 to the report 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, be noted.**

## **5 Mayoral Commitments (Item 5)**

5.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

5.2 **Resolved:**

**That the commitments made by the Mayor, Boris Johnson MP, during London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) meetings held between October 2014 and October 2015 be noted.**

## **6 Future Plenary Meetings (Item 6)**

6.1 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the Assembly, under section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, requires the attendance of Ron Dobson CBE QFSM (Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Planning), and Gareth Bacon AM (Chairman, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority) at the 2 December 2015 London Assembly (Plenary) meeting, for which notice will be given in accordance with section 62 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 in due course, to answer questions in relation to the policies and work of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.**
- (b) That the Assembly, under section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, requires the attendance of the Mayor, Boris Johnson MP (in his capacity as Chairman of Transport for London) and Mike Brown (Commissioner, Transport for London) at the 10 February 2016 London Assembly (Plenary) meeting, for which notice will be given in accordance with**

**section 62 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 in due course, to answer questions in relation to the policies and work of Transport for London.**

## **7 Petitions (Item 7)**

7.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

7.2 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

*‘To get planning permission for a new Whitgift Centre, Westfield are paying Croydon £15 million. TfL want to spend it (+£9 million) on a ‘Dingwall Road loop’ – which would stop trams short of most shops.*

*Our trams are crowded. Spend the money instead on more trams.*

*We the undersigned want the £24 million cost of the proposed “Dingwall Road loop” spent instead on more trams and longer trams (and longer platforms to cope).’*

7.3 **Resolved:**

**That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, as Chairman of Transport for London, for a response.**

7.4 Stephen Knight AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

*‘We call on the Mayor of London to work with TfL and Westminster City Council to remove all motor traffic from Oxford Street, introduce a zero emission shuttle bus, leading to full pedestrianisation of Oxford Street by 2020.’*

7.5 **Resolved:**

**That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, as Chairman of Transport for London, for a response.**

## **8 Motions (Item 8)**

8.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

8.2 During the course of the discussion, at 12.30pm the Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to extend the meeting in order to allow the remaining items of business on the agenda to be considered.

- 8.3 Darren Johnson AM proposed and Andrew Boff AM seconded the following motion, altered in accordance with Standing Order 3.6A (1):

“This Assembly notes the tragic deaths of eight people cycling in London so far this year, seven of whom were killed in collisions with Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).

Despite positive initiatives led by the Mayor, TfL and the MPS, this Assembly believes there are still too many dangerous HGVs on London’s roads.

We therefore call on the Mayor of London to work with the Government and commercial partners to implement the following policies:

- a rush-hour lorry ban, subject to the completion of a full impact assessment;
- the construction industry to adopt Construction Logistics and Cyclist Safety (CLOCS) standards across the board, including direct vision lorry cabs, including a commitment from the Mayor to make direct vision lorry cabs compulsory on all GLA Group contracts before the end of his term of office;
- confidential reporting of bad practice to be rolled out to all HGV drivers, irrespective of whether their employer wants to take part;
- comprehensive enforcement so that rogue operators do not permit unlicensed, untrained lorry drivers, or unsafe vehicles, to operate on our roads, with regular reporting from the London Freight Enforcement Partnership against an aim to reduce commercial vehicle casualties.”

- 8.4 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Darren Johnson AM, namely:

**“This Assembly notes the tragic deaths of eight people cycling in London so far this year, seven of whom were killed in collisions with Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).**

**Despite positive initiatives led by the Mayor, TfL and the MPS, this Assembly believes there are still too many dangerous HGVs on London’s roads.**

**We therefore call on the Mayor of London to work with the Government and commercial partners to implement the following policies:**

- a rush-hour lorry ban, subject to the completion of a full impact assessment;
- the construction industry to adopt Construction Logistics and Cyclist Safety (CLOCS) standards across the board, including direct vision lorry cabs, including a commitment from the Mayor to make direct vision lorry cabs compulsory on all GLA Group contracts before the end of his term of office;
- confidential reporting of bad practice to be rolled out to all HGV drivers, irrespective of whether their employer wants to take part;
- comprehensive enforcement so that rogue operators do not permit unlicensed, untrained lorry drivers, or unsafe vehicles, to operate on our

**roads, with regular reporting from the London Freight Enforcement Partnership against an aim to reduce commercial vehicle casualties.”**

was agreed unanimously.

8.5 Stephen Knight AM proposed and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes the recent admission by Volkswagen, the German carmaker, that it has installed ‘defeat devices’ – software designed to manipulate emissions test results – in 11 million vehicles worldwide, of which 1.2 million are in the UK.<sup>1</sup>

This Assembly further notes:

- i) the failure of recent European vehicle emissions standards (Euro standards) to deliver the anticipated emissions reductions; and
- ii) the results of TfL’s recent testing of Euro 6/VI vehicles using London drive cycles which found that a number of Euro 6 passenger cars emit several times more NO<sub>x</sub> than some HGVs.<sup>2</sup>

This Assembly remains concerned that large sections of the capital continue to exceed both the annual mean and hourly legal limits for the concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and are currently projected to continue doing so until 2025 at the earliest, over fifteen years after the original deadline for compliance.<sup>3</sup>

This Assembly believes that the Mayor has a duty to review his current policies and proposals in light of the emerging scientific evidence on the performance of Euro 6 vehicles under real-world driving conditions and our increasing knowledge of the adverse effects of air pollution on human health.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London to review the planned exhaust emission standards of his Ultra Low Emission Zone to ensure that all vehicles driving in the centre of the capital in 2020 are truly ultra-low or zero emission.”

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<sup>1</sup>See comments made by Paul Willis, Managing Director of VW UK, appearing before the House of Commons Transport Select Committee on Monday 12 October 2015.

<sup>2</sup> TfL Euro 6 emission standard testing: <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/In-service%20emissions%20performance%20of%20Euro%206VI%20vehicles%20WEBSITE%20COPY.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Draft Air Quality Plan for the achievement of EU air quality limit value for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in Greater London Urban Area: [http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/no2-consultation-2015/AQplans\\_UK0001.pdf](http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/no2-consultation-2015/AQplans_UK0001.pdf)

8.6 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

**“This Assembly notes the recent admission by Volkswagen, the German carmaker, that it has installed ‘defeat devices’ – software designed to manipulate emissions test results – in 11 million vehicles worldwide, of which 1.2 million are in the UK.<sup>4</sup>**

**This Assembly further notes:**

- i) the failure of recent European vehicle emissions standards (Euro standards) to deliver the anticipated emissions reductions; and**
- ii) the results of TfL’s recent testing of Euro 6/VI vehicles using London drive cycles which found that a number of Euro 6 passenger cars emit several times more NOx than some HGVs.<sup>5</sup>**

**This Assembly remains concerned that large sections of the capital continue to exceed both the annual mean and hourly legal limits for the concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and are currently projected to continue doing so until 2025 at the earliest, over fifteen years after the original deadline for compliance.<sup>6</sup>**

**This Assembly believes that the Mayor has a duty to review his current policies and proposals in light of the emerging scientific evidence on the performance of Euro 6 vehicles under real-world driving conditions and our increasing knowledge of the adverse effects of air pollution on human health.**

**This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London to review the planned exhaust emission standards of his Ultra Low Emission Zone to ensure that all vehicles driving in the centre of the capital in 2020 are truly ultra-low or zero emission.”**

was agreed (with 13 votes cast in favour and 8 votes cast against).

8.7 Stephen Knight AM proposed and Murad Qureshi AM seconded the following motion, altered in accordance with Standing Order 3.6A (1):

“This Assembly notes the Government’s recent consultation on its review of the Feed-in Tariff scheme, the subsidy scheme for the generation of renewable electricity from small-scale installations.

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<sup>4</sup>See comments made by Paul Willis, Managing Director of VW UK, appearing before the House of Commons Transport Select Committee on Monday 12 October 2015.

<sup>5</sup> TfL Euro 6 emission standard testing: <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/In-service%20emissions%20performance%20of%20Euro%206VI%20vehicles%20WEBSITE%20COPY.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Draft Air Quality Plan for the achievement of EU air quality limit value for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in Greater London Urban Area: [http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/no2-consultation-2015/AQplans\\_UK0001.pdf](http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/no2-consultation-2015/AQplans_UK0001.pdf)



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This Assembly further notes that

- i) London currently has the lowest amount of installed solar power capacity of any region in the UK, but among the greatest potential to generate solar power; and that
- ii) 2,740 people are currently employed in the solar industry and its supply chain in London according to recent research published by the Solar Trade Association.

This Assembly is concerned that the 87 per cent cut to the Feed-in Tariff for solar energy proposed by the Government will have a disproportionate impact on London's ability to generate energy from local and renewable sources.

This Assembly also notes the comments made by the Mayor of London on 16 September 2015 that "it would be wrong if the cut in the feed-in tariffs actually stops people from investing in solar because it clearly has many attractions."

This Assembly regrets the Mayor's refusal so far to lead a cross-party delegation of interested parties to meet with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to discuss the impact of the Government's proposed changes to the Feed in Tariff on the viability of the solar industry in London.

Should the Mayor continue to refuse to lead such a delegation by the end of the week (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015), this Assembly calls on the Chair of the London Assembly, in consultation with Party Group Leads and the Environment Committee, to write to the Secretary of State requesting a meeting on behalf of Assembly Members and London-based solar companies."

- 8.8 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Stephen Knight AM, namely:

**"This Assembly notes the Government's recent consultation on its review of the Feed-in Tariff scheme, the subsidy scheme for the generation of renewable electricity from small-scale installations.**

**This Assembly further notes that:**

- i) London currently has the lowest amount of installed solar power capacity of any region in the UK, but among the greatest potential to generate solar power; and that**
- ii) 2,740 people are currently employed in the solar industry and its supply chain in London according to recent research published by the Solar Trade Association.**

**This Assembly is concerned that the 87 per cent cut to the Feed-in Tariff for solar energy proposed by the Government will have a disproportionate impact on London's ability to generate energy from local and renewable sources.**

**This Assembly also notes the comments made by the Mayor of London on 16 September 2015 that "it would be wrong if the cut in the feed-in tariffs actually stops people from investing in solar because it clearly has many attractions."**

**This Assembly regrets the Mayor's refusal so far to lead a cross-party delegation of interested parties to meet with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to discuss the impact of the Government's proposed changes to the Feed in Tariff on the viability of the solar industry in London.**

**Should the Mayor continue to refuse to lead such a delegation by the end of the week (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015), this Assembly calls on the Chair of the London Assembly, in consultation with Party Group Leads and the Environment Committee, to write to the Secretary of State requesting a meeting on behalf of Assembly Members and London-based solar companies."**

was agreed (with 13 votes cast in favour and 7 votes cast against).

- 8.9 Richard Tracey AM proposed and Murad Qureshi AM seconded the following motion:

**"This Assembly notes that up to 300 tonnes of rubbish is recovered from the Thames every year, with the amount of plastics, especially plastic bottles growing annually.**

**With this in mind the Assembly offers its wholehearted support to the Port of London Authority's Cleaner Thames Campaign, which calls on Londoners to 'do the right' thing and make sure their rubbish goes in the bin, not in the River Thames.**

**Noting the Authority's strategic role in promoting recycling and waste reduction, this Assembly also urges the Mayor to work with the Port of London Authority, its partners and London's riparian Boroughs to support this campaign."**

- 8.10 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Richard Tracey AM, namely:

**"This Assembly notes that up to 300 tonnes of rubbish is recovered from the Thames every year, with the amount of plastics, especially plastic bottles growing annually.**

**With this in mind the Assembly offers its wholehearted support to the Port of London Authority's Cleaner Thames Campaign, which calls on Londoners to 'do the right' thing and make sure their rubbish goes in the bin, not in the River Thames.**

**Noting the Authority's strategic role in promoting recycling and waste reduction, this Assembly also urges the Mayor to work with the Port of London Authority, its partners and London's riparian Boroughs to support this campaign."**

was agreed unanimously.

8.11 Andrew Dismore AM proposed and Jennette Arnold OBE AM seconded the following motion:

"This Assembly expresses its concern over the decision of the Government abruptly to end ESOL funding for mandated DWP referred FE students.

The Assembly believes that it does not represent joined up Government for one department, the DWP, to mandate people to go on ESOL courses or lose their benefit on the one hand; and on the other for another department, BIS, to entirely cut the funding for such mandated, work tailored courses.

The Mayor has previously insisted that "everybody in London, everybody who comes to work in our economy, should be able to speak English."<sup>[1]</sup> However, given this latest barrier being placed in the way of those seeking to acquire English language skills, this Assembly is sceptical about the Government's commitment to ensuring that all those seeking employment and greater integration into their communities are able to do so, especially in the context of other Government cuts to the Adult Skills Budget, which restrict ESOL courses so that refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants who need to learn English find it ever-harder to access appropriate language classes.

The Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to:

- Lobby the Business, Education, and Work and Pensions Ministers to seek an alternative to the ESOL funding cuts.
- To commission a study from GLA Economics looking at the costs and benefits to the London regional economy of government funding for ESOL courses."

8.12 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Andrew Dismore AM, namely:

**"This Assembly expresses its concern over the decision of the Government abruptly to end ESOL funding for mandated DWP referred FE students.**

**The Assembly believes that it does not represent joined up Government for one department, the DWP, to mandate people to go on ESOL courses or lose their benefit on the one hand; and on the other for another department, BIS, to entirely cut the funding for such mandated, work tailored courses.**

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<sup>[1]</sup> Nicholas Cecil, Boris Johnson: Everybody in London should be able to speak English, Evening Standard, 06.01.15

**The Mayor has previously insisted that “everybody in London, everybody who comes to work in our economy, should be able to speak English.”<sup>[1]</sup> However, given this latest barrier being placed in the way of those seeking to acquire English language skills, this Assembly is sceptical about the Government’s commitment to ensuring that all those seeking employment and greater integration into their communities are able to do so, especially in the context of other Government cuts to the Adult Skills Budget, which restrict ESOL courses so that refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants who need to learn English find it ever-harder to access appropriate language classes.**

**The Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to:**

- Lobby the Business, Education, and Work and Pensions Ministers to seek an alternative to the ESOL funding cuts.**
- To commission a study from GLA Economics looking at the costs and benefits to the London regional economy of government funding for ESOL courses.”**

was agreed (with 12 votes cast in favour).

8.13 Nicky Gavron AM proposed and Navin Shah AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly calls on the Mayor of London to lobby the Government to reverse its decision that the temporary rule allowing property owners to convert offices and other workspaces into flats almost overnight, without the need for planning permission, will be made permanent<sup>7</sup>.

The temporary policy has already been an unmitigated disaster for outer London, where over 320 fully occupied office buildings have been earmarked for conversions. Richmond-upon-Thames, for example, has lost 20 per cent of its office space, displacing 3,150 local jobs<sup>8</sup>. Where owners do not convert, the hope value on all commercial and light industrial premises provides an incentive to drive up rents, squeezing out even more affordable workspace. The migration of jobs outside of local authorities and beyond is particularly concerning in light of plans to allow local authorities to keep increased business rate revenues. The converted housing will not be affordable and is not required to meet environmental or disability standards set by local authorities<sup>9</sup>.

The extended policy will be even more damaging to London’s economy. The exemption currently enjoyed by limited parts of central London will expire in 2019. Boroughs will be able to impose Article 4 directions to suspend the permitted development rights, but this is a cumbersome process which can result in councils being subject to compensation claims by property owners and can be vetoed by the Secretary of State against the councils’ wishes.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Nicholas Cecil, Boris Johnson: Everybody in London should be able to speak English, Evening Standard, 06.01.15

<sup>7</sup> DCLG press release. “[Thousands more homes to be developed in planning shake up.](#)” 13 October 2015.

<sup>8</sup> London Councils. “The Impact of Permitted Development Rights for Office to Residential Conversions.” August 2015.

<sup>9</sup> National Planning Policy Guidance. “[Planning Obligations.](#)” Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 23b-005-20140306

In addition, under the new rules, developers will be able to demolish office buildings and build new residential buildings in their place, further undermining the ability of local authorities to plan for development.

This Assembly recognises that some areas may have a surplus of office space, but the existing planning system already gives local authorities the tools to allow conversions where appropriate<sup>10</sup>.

Given his statutory planning function in London, this Assembly calls on the Mayor to lobby the Government to withdraw its proposals regarding Permitted Development Rights in the capital."

8.14 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Nicky Gavron AM, namely:

**"This Assembly calls on the Mayor of London to lobby the Government to reverse its decision that the temporary rule allowing property owners to convert offices and other workspaces into flats almost overnight, without the need for planning permission, will be made permanent<sup>11</sup>.**

**The temporary policy has already been an unmitigated disaster for outer London, where over 320 fully occupied office buildings have been earmarked for conversions. Richmond-upon-Thames, for example, has lost 20 per cent of its office space, displacing 3,150 local jobs<sup>12</sup>. Where owners do not convert, the hope value on all commercial and light industrial premises provides an incentive to drive up rents, squeezing out even more affordable workspace. The migration of jobs outside of local authorities and beyond is particularly concerning in light of plans to allow local authorities to keep increased business rate revenues. The converted housing will not be affordable and is not required to meet environmental or disability standards set by local authorities<sup>13</sup>.**

**The extended policy will be even more damaging to London's economy. The exemption currently enjoyed by limited parts of central London will expire in 2019. Boroughs will be able to impose Article 4 directions to suspend the permitted development rights, but this is a cumbersome process which can result in councils being subject to compensation claims by property owners and can be vetoed by the Secretary of State against the councils' wishes.**

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<sup>10</sup> London Plan Policy 4.2

<sup>11</sup> DCLG press release. "[Thousands more homes to be developed in planning shake up.](#)" 13 October 2015.

<sup>12</sup> London Councils. "The Impact of Permitted Development Rights for Office to Residential Conversions." August 2015.

<sup>13</sup> National Planning Policy Guidance. "[Planning Obligations.](#)" Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 23b-005-20140306

**In addition, under the new rules, developers will be able to demolish office buildings and build new residential buildings in their place, further undermining the ability of local authorities to plan for development.**

**This Assembly recognises that some areas may have a surplus of office space, but the existing planning system already gives local authorities the tools to allow conversions where appropriate<sup>14</sup>.**

**Given his statutory planning function in London, this Assembly calls on the Mayor to lobby the Government to withdraw its proposals regarding Permitted Development Rights in the capital.”**

was agreed unanimously.

- 8.15 Fiona Twycross AM proposed Dr Onkar Sahota AM seconded the following motion, altered in accordance with Standing Order 3.6A (1):

“This Assembly urges the Government to maintain Universal Free School Meals for infant school pupils in London, introduced in 2014, when it announces the Spending Review on 25 November 2015.

Universal Free School Meals have been shown to have significant benefits for educational performance of children across the country, and therefore in London, with the 2009-11 pilot schemes generating four weeks additional progress for pupils at Key Stage 1 and eight weeks progress at Key Stage 2. Universal Free School Meals for infants are therefore an important tool for improving attainment in the classroom and reducing the stigma of means tested free school meals that results in many children failing to claim their meal.

With over 40,000 visits by children to a London food bank last year (2014/15), and evidence from the Mayor that 74,000 London children sometimes or often go to bed hungry at night, it is also clear that Universal Free School Meals can be an important means of tackling child hunger in the capital. At a time when tax credits are due to be severely cut, Universal Free School Meals are also helping the family budgets of parents with young children, who save around £400 a year per child.

This Assembly therefore urges the Government to protect Universal Free School Meals for infant school pupils in London and for the Mayor – who has previously stated his support for the School Food Plan’s recommendation for the rollout of universal free school meals for 4 to 7 year olds<sup>15</sup> – to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor calling for Universal Free School Meals to be protected.”

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<sup>14</sup> London Plan Policy 4.2

<sup>15</sup> Question 2015/1948, Mayor’s Question Time, 17.06.15

8.16 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Fiona Twycross AM, namely:

**“This Assembly urges the Government to maintain Universal Free School Meals for infant school pupils in London, introduced in 2014, when it announces the Spending Review on 25 November 2015.**

**Universal Free School Meals have been shown to have significant benefits for educational performance of children across the country, and therefore in London, with the 2009-11 pilot schemes generating four weeks additional progress for pupils at Key Stage 1 and eight weeks progress at Key Stage 2. Universal Free School Meals for infants are therefore an important tool for improving attainment in the classroom and reducing the stigma of means tested free school meals that results in many children failing to claim their meal.**

**With over 40,000 visits by children to a London food bank last year (2014/15), and evidence from the Mayor that 74,000 London children sometimes or often go to bed hungry at night, it is also clear that Universal Free School Meals can be an important means of tackling child hunger in the capital. At a time when tax credits are due to be severely cut, Universal Free School Meals are also helping the family budgets of parents with young children, who save around £400 a year per child.**

**This Assembly therefore urges the Government to protect Universal Free School Meals for infant school pupils in London and for the Mayor – who has previously stated his support for the School Food Plan’s recommendation for the rollout of universal free school meals for 4 to 7 year olds<sup>16</sup> – to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor calling for Universal Free School Meals to be protected.”**

was agreed unanimously.

8.17 Jennette Arnold OBE AM proposed and Tony Arbour AM seconded the following motion, altered in accordance with Standing Order 3.6A (1):

“This Assembly notes that approximately 6 million people were killed during the Holocaust, including 1.5 million Jewish children. Since the Holocaust, other genocides such as the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 have killed millions of people. Even now, people all over the world live in fear of being killed due to their race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or nationality.

This Assembly is proud that the UK has always played a major role in ensuring that the Holocaust is never forgotten. Holocaust Memorial Day has taken place in the UK since 2001, with a UK event and over 3,600 local activities taking place on or around 27 January each year. The Holocaust Educational Trust has taken thousands of UK students to visit former-concentration camps, in order to teach them the lessons of the Holocaust.

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<sup>16</sup> Question 2015/1948, Mayor’s Question Time, 17.06.15

This Assembly believes that Holocaust Memorial Day should continue to be commemorated in the UK. Children should be encouraged and enabled to actively promote the lessons learnt from the Holocaust and other genocides. Efforts of schools across London to raise awareness, such as the Hampton School in Richmond, where pupils promoted the issue on social media using the hashtag #genocideknowmore, should be encouraged and applauded.

This Assembly also believes that the Greater London Authority and London's Boroughs should continue to work with local schools, charities, and other stakeholder organisations to promote understanding of this important issue, to ensure that the Holocaust, and other Genocides, are remembered through the generations."

8.18 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Jennette Arnold OBE AM, namely:

**"This Assembly notes that approximately 6 million people were killed during the Holocaust, including 1.5 million Jewish children. Since the Holocaust, other genocides such as the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 have killed millions of people. Even now, people all over the world live in fear of being killed due to their race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or nationality.**

**This Assembly is proud that the UK has always played a major role in ensuring that the Holocaust is never forgotten. Holocaust Memorial Day has taken place in the UK since 2001, with a UK event and over 3,600 local activities taking place on or around 27 January each year. The Holocaust Educational Trust has taken thousands of UK students to visit former-concentration camps, in order to teach them the lessons of the Holocaust.**

**This Assembly believes that Holocaust Memorial Day should continue to be commemorated in the UK. Children should be encouraged and enabled to actively promote the lessons learnt from the Holocaust and other genocides. Efforts of schools across London to raise awareness, such as the Hampton School in Richmond, where pupils promoted the issue on social media using the hashtag #genocideknowmore, should be encouraged and applauded.**

**This Assembly also believes that the Greater London Authority and London's Boroughs should continue to work with local schools, charities, and other stakeholder organisations to promote understanding of this important issue, to ensure that the Holocaust, and other Genocides, are remembered through the generations."**

was agreed unanimously.



8.19 Fiona Twycross AM proposed and Andrew Dismore AM seconded the following motion:

“Trade unions play an important role in reducing inequality<sup>17</sup>. Given London’s status as one of the most unequal cities in the industrialised world<sup>18</sup>, this Assembly believes the Trade Union Bill 2015-16 is an attempt to militate against the economic interests of hardworking Londoners, including officers of the Greater London Authority, by discouraging trade union membership.

This Assembly believes the Trade Union Bill will seek to undermine trade union membership in the following ways:

#### Turnout Restrictions

Strike action is always a last resort, but the Government’s aim that 50% of members must turn out to vote and 40% of the entire membership must vote in favour (that amounts to 80% of those voting, on a 50% turnout)<sup>19</sup> in ‘important public services’, represents an attack on the democratic rights of workers in London, such as those working for TfL and for the London Fire Brigade.

The Government’s refusal to allow secure online balloting<sup>20</sup> of the kind used to select the Conservative Party candidate for the 2016 London Mayoral Election, and which could potentially increase turnout, suggests that the primary motivation for the Trade Union Bill is to reduce the scope for unions to represent the interests of workers.

#### Surveillance of Trade Union Members

The London Assembly believes draconian measures seeking the names of pickets and restrictions on social media usage are an attack on fundamental human rights<sup>21</sup>. Oversight of such matters would place costly demands on the Metropolitan Police Service risk the independence of policing in the capital.

Steve White, the chair of the Police Federation of England and Wales, recently informed MPs that the surveillance of trade unionists proposed by the bill:

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<sup>17</sup> Dr Lydia Hayes and Professor Tonia Novitz (2014), *Trade Unions and Economic Inequality*

<sup>18</sup> Randeep Ramesh, London's richest people worth 273 times more than the poorest, *Guardian*, 21.04.10

<sup>19</sup> Trades Union Congress, [About the Trade Union Bill](#)

<sup>20</sup> Trades Union Congress, [TUC slams Conservative "hypocrisy" over use of online balloting for London Mayoral selection](#), 02.10.15

<sup>21</sup> Article 23(4) of The Universal Declaration Human Rights – “Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.”

*“would be such a massively complex operation and from the police point of a view a dangerous road to go down...It would be a travesty if the police went back to the days of the 70s or the 80s when the police were seen as an arm of a state.”<sup>22</sup>*

### Use of Agency Workers

The London Assembly is further concerned that allowing the use of agency workers to ‘break’ strikes<sup>23</sup> will lead to staff carrying out work they are not trained for, potentially lead to unsafe workplaces and services, and undermine good working relationships. Such practices could also have an impact of the effective functioning of London’s transport network.

### Facility Time and Member Subscriptions

This Assembly believes that facility time arrangements for local trade union representatives and the deduction of subscriptions through payroll are matters for negotiation between employers, such as individual members of the GLA family, and recognised trade unions, which form the basis of good employee relations.

Given the concerns expressed and that, despite the Bill’s potentially negative impact on workers in the capital, the Mayor has expressed ‘passionate support’ for the proposed legislation<sup>24</sup>, this Assembly believes that

- If enacted, the Trade Union Bill 2015-16 could discourage trade union membership, undermining the important role trade unions play in addressing economic inequality in the capital; and
- This would impact upon the principle duty of the Greater London Authority to promote economic development and wealth creation in Greater London.

The Assembly requests that the Chair of the Assembly writes to the Mayor of London to convey these concerns.”

8.20 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Fiona Twycross AM, namely:

**“Trade unions play an important role in reducing inequality<sup>25</sup>. Given London’s status as one of the most unequal cities in the industrialised world<sup>26</sup>, this Assembly believes the Trade Union Bill 2015-16 is an attempt to militate against the economic**

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<sup>22</sup> Patrick Wintour, Trade union bill: police ‘dread and fear’ social media plan, *Guardian*, 15.10.15

<sup>23</sup> Frances O’Grady, The Trade Union Bill is coming – here’s what it threatens, *The Independent*, 16.10.15

<sup>24</sup> Boris Johnson, If Jeremy Corbyn honestly cares about the workers, he’ll back trade union reform, *Daily Telegraph*, 13.09.15

<sup>25</sup> Dr Lydia Hayes and Professor Tonia Novitz (2014), *Trade Unions and Economic Inequality*

<sup>26</sup> Randeep Ramesh, London’s richest people worth 273 times more than the poorest, *Guardian*, 21.04.10

interests of hardworking Londoners, including officers of the Greater London Authority, by discouraging trade union membership.

This Assembly believes the Trade Union Bill will seek to undermine trade union membership in the following ways:

#### **Turnout Restrictions**

Strike action is always a last resort, but the Government's aim that 50% of members must turn out to vote and 40% of the entire membership must vote in favour (that amounts to 80% of those voting, on a 50% turnout)<sup>27</sup> in 'important public services', represents an attack on the democratic rights of workers in London, such as those working for TfL and for the London Fire Brigade.

The Government's refusal to allow secure online balloting<sup>28</sup> of the kind used to select the Conservative Party candidate for the 2016 London Mayoral Election, and which could potentially increase turnout, suggests that the primary motivation for the Trade Union Bill is to reduce the scope for unions to represent the interests of workers.

#### **Surveillance of Trade Union Members**

The London Assembly believes draconian measures seeking the names of pickets and restrictions on social media usage are an attack on fundamental human rights<sup>29</sup>. Oversight of such matters would place costly demands on the Metropolitan Police Service risk the independence of policing in the capital.

Steve White, the chair of the Police Federation of England and Wales, recently informed MPs that the surveillance of trade unionists proposed by the bill:

*"would be such a massively complex operation and from the police point of a view a dangerous road to go down...It would be a travesty if the police went back to the days of the 70s or the 80s when the police were seen as an arm of a state."*<sup>30</sup>

#### **Use of Agency Workers**

The London Assembly is further concerned that allowing the use of agency workers to 'break' strikes<sup>31</sup> will lead to staff carrying out work they are not trained for,

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<sup>27</sup> Trades Union Congress, [About the Trade Union Bill](#)

<sup>28</sup> Trades Union Congress, [TUC slams Conservative "hypocrisy" over use of online balloting for London Mayoral selection](#), 02.10.15

<sup>29</sup> Article 23(4) of The Universal Declaration Human Rights – "Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

<sup>30</sup> Patrick Wintour, Trade union bill: police 'dread and fear' social media plan, *Guardian*, 15.10.15

potentially lead to unsafe workplaces and services, and undermine good working relationships. Such practices could also have an impact of the effective functioning of London's transport network.

#### **Facility Time and Member Subscriptions**

**This Assembly believes that facility time arrangements for local trade union representatives and the deduction of subscriptions through payroll are matters for negotiation between employers, such as individual members of the GLA family, and recognised trade unions, which form the basis of good employee relations.**

**Given the concerns expressed and that, despite the Bill's potentially negative impact on workers in the capital, the Mayor has expressed 'passionate support' for the proposed legislation<sup>32</sup>, this Assembly believes that**

- **If enacted, the Trade Union Bill 2015-16 could discourage trade union membership, undermining the important role trade unions play in addressing economic inequality in the capital; and**
- **This would impact upon the principle duty of the Greater London Authority to promote economic development and wealth creation in Greater London.**

**The Assembly requests that the Chair of the Assembly writes to the Mayor of London to convey these concerns."**

was agreed (with 12 votes cast in favour and 5 votes cast against).

## **9 Statutory Officers' Protocol (Item 9)**

9.1 The Assembly received the report of the Head of Paid Service.

9.2 **Resolved:**

**That, noting that it is a joint decision with the Mayor, the revisions to the Statutory Officers Staffing Protocol, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved and adopted.**

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<sup>31</sup> Frances O'Grady, The Trade Union Bill is coming – here's what it threatens, *The Independent*, 16.10.15

<sup>32</sup> Boris Johnson, If Jeremy Corbyn honestly cares about the workers, he'll back trade union reform, *Daily Telegraph*, 13.09.15

## **10 Date of Next Meeting (Item 10)**

- 10.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly was the Mayor's Question Time meeting which was scheduled to take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 18 November 2015 in the Chamber, City Hall.

## **11 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 11)**

- 11.1 There were no items of urgent business.

## **12 Close of Meeting**

- 12.1 The meeting ended at 1.58pm.

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Chair

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Date

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