

# Subject: Motions

**Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)**

**Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat**

**Date: 2 December 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 motions submitted by Assembly Members as set out below.**

## 3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Jenny Jones AM** and will be seconded by Darren Johnson AM:

“This Assembly notes:

- recent research suggesting that “profound and immediate changes” are now required to keep average global warming below the guardrail of 2°C and that global greenhouse gas emissions must peak as soon as possible and be falling by 10 per cent a year within the next decade<sup>1</sup>.
- analysis of the draft Paris agreement by the European Commission which suggests that, with the pledges from nations so far, global emissions won’t peak until 2030<sup>2</sup>, and further analysis suggesting that on the basis of these pledges we will still experience global average warming of 2.7°C of warming by 2100, compared to warming of 3.7°C based on the full implementation of existing government policies<sup>3</sup>.
- reporting by the Government’s Committee on Climate Change that UK emissions were only falling by an underlying rate of 1 per cent per year, when at least 3 per cent annual reductions are required to meet the its current policy commitments<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Anderson, K in Nature Geoscience (12 October 2015), *Duality in climate science*

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/current-climate-commitments-would-increase-global-temperature-around-3-degrees>

<sup>3</sup> Carbon Tracker initiative, <http://climateactiontracker.org/global.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/reducing-carbon-emissions/how-the-uk-is-progressing/>

- the £9.6 billion of UK government subsidies given annually to fossil fuel extraction in the UK and overseas, equivalent to £350 per household, which the March 2015 budget further increased while reducing support for renewable energy<sup>5</sup>, while the Energy Secretary has admitted the UK government will miss its legally binding renewable energy target for 2020 due to “the absence of a credible plan”<sup>6</sup>.

This Assembly calls on the Mayor of London to:

- protect climate change programmes in his 2016-17 budget, including the safeguarding of the London Climate Change Partnership following funding cuts from the Environment Agency;
- urge fellow city leaders at the C40 meetings in Paris to adopt the strongest possible measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- make this climate emergency a top priority for his remaining time in office, particularly when lobbying the government.”

3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Jenny Jones AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

“This Assembly notes the recommendation of the Airports Commission that a carbon tax is imposed on flights by 2030 to remain within emissions targets agreed with the Committee on Climate Change.

This Assembly notes that last year more than half of British adults took no flights, that only one in ten took more than four flights, and that 15% - the frequent flyers - take over 70% of all our flights, mostly for leisure purposes<sup>7</sup>. This Assembly notes the proposal in light of these figures from the ‘a free ride’ organisation to introduce a frequent flyer levy, providing every person with one tax free return flight each year, and progressively taxing further flights at higher rates thereafter<sup>8</sup>.

This Assembly believes such a proposal could provide a fairer way to implement a carbon tax on Londoners’ flights, and calls on the Mayor of London to commission a study on its feasibility and potential impact from GLA Economics.”

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

“This Assembly notes the considerable public interest in the Concession Agreement between the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and West Ham United FC for their rental of the Olympic Stadium.

<sup>5</sup> Overseas Development Institute (November 2015), Empty promises: G20 subsidies to oil, gas and coal production, <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9957.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> The Ecologist (9 November 2015), *Leaked letter: Rudd admits 25% green energy undershoot, misled Parliament*, [http://www.theecologist.org/News/news\\_analysis/2986190/leaked\\_letter\\_rudd\\_admits\\_25\\_green\\_energy\\_undershoot\\_misled\\_parliament.html](http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2986190/leaked_letter_rudd_admits_25_green_energy_undershoot_misled_parliament.html)

<sup>7</sup> Analysis of DfT (23 July 2014), Public experiences of and attitudes towards air travel: 2014, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-experiences-of-and-attitudes-towards-air-travel-2014>

<sup>8</sup> <http://afreeride.org/>

This Assembly believes the LLDC was wrong to redact the released document, and was wrong to appeal the Information Commissioner's ruling that the document should be published in full.

This Assembly therefore calls on the LLDC to drop its appeal against the Information Commissioner's ruling and to publish the Concession Agreement in full."

- 3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

"This Assembly notes the Mayor's supportive response to its previous motion expressing concern over staffing changes and restructuring at the Newsquest Group, whose publications include:

The Croydon Guardian, Sutton Guardian, Epsom Guardian, Wimbledon Guardian, Wandsworth Guardian, Balham and Tooting Guardian, Mitcham and Morden Guardian, Kingston Guardian, Surrey Comet, Elmbridge Comet, Richmond & Twickenham Times, and The News Shopper - for Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley.

This Assembly agrees with the Mayor that local newspapers are part of the fabric of London's local communities and play a vital role in informing people about grassroots subjects that matter to Londoners.

This Assembly believes that local newspapers continue to be a key source of information for many of London's diverse communities, and perform a powerful public scrutiny function by holding local government and other organisations to account for their actions.

This Assembly is concerned by the recent announcement that Newsquest is to move eight posts on its titles in south London to its production centres in Weymouth and Newport – a move which the Assembly believes will threaten the quality and long term survival of local papers in south London.

This Assembly therefore calls on:

- 1) The Mayor to write to the CEO of Newsquest Group expressing further concern over the relocation of local media jobs outside London.
- 2) The Chair of the London Assembly's Economy Committee, in consultation with party Group Leads, to include the contribution of local newspapers to London's economy and their role in connecting local communities and businesses together in the list of future topics for possible investigation identified through the Committee's work programme."

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

"This Assembly notes the positive environmental and health effects of walking and wishes to see London become a safer city for pedestrians.

“This Assembly notes the Mayor’s target to halve the number of people killed or seriously injured on London’s roads by 2020<sup>[1]</sup> compared to the Government base line of 3,627.<sup>[2]</sup>

“This Assembly believes that a target of 1,813 people, or fewer, being killed or seriously injured on London’s roads by 2020 is still too high.

“This Assembly believes that the Mayor should adopt a Vision Zero approach to road danger, which incorporates four key principles:

- Safety: road traffic systems should take account of the fact that people make mistakes and should minimise both the opportunity for error and the harm done when they do occur.
- Ethics: human life and health have highest priority.
- Responsibility: those who design and manage road systems share responsibility with road users.
- Mechanisms for change: We must all be ready to change to achieve safety.

“This Assembly further notes that Vision Zero combines strong enforcement of traffic law and better roadway engineering with campaigns to discourage dangerous behaviour on roads. It also aims to raise the profile of traffic safety problems and help change cultural attitudes, which are too accepting of road death and injury.

“This Assembly calls on the Mayor and TfL to take a bold approach to pedestrian safety. We need ambitious targets to drive forward progress on pedestrian safety, the political will to make difficult decisions, and clear leadership to build the momentum to change our roads and streets for the better. Adopting Vision Zero principles for London’s road safety policy could change public perception of road dangers as an inevitable part of modern city life. It would remind people that death and injury on our roads can be avoided if a serious effort is made to tackle the causes of the problem.”

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

“Around 17,000 domestic workers are brought to the UK each year to work in some of the most exclusive residential areas of London<sup>9</sup>. Migrant domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation<sup>10</sup> and evidence suggests that low pay, physical and mental abuse, long working hours, and trafficking are endemic. Reports of abuse and exploitation are rare and to date there has been no conviction upheld for trafficking an adult to the UK for domestic servitude<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2015/june/mayor-takes-action-to-halve-road-casualties-by-2020>

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/casualties-in-greater-london-2014.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Kalayaan-3-year-briefing.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Domestic work by its nature is carried out in the home of the employer, out of sight from the outside world regulatory bodies. Migrant domestic workers also often live in the home of their employer which further increases their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.

<sup>11</sup> [Kalayaan Briefing: Research on Police Effectiveness in the Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers](#)

The situation is exacerbated under the current visa rules<sup>12</sup>, introduced in 2012, which tie domestic workers to their employer<sup>13</sup>. Critics of the tied-visa claim that the UK government has recreated kafala, a much criticised sponsorship system used in Gulf States, which is turning migrant workers into modern day slaves<sup>14</sup>.

The Mayor's response to the issue is that MOPAC's victim strategy pays careful attention to ensure the best possible reach of resources to all victims of crime<sup>15</sup>. More could be done to make sure that convictions are upheld and to stop abuse from happening in the first place.

This Assembly therefore welcomes the suggestion made by the Government's Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, for an inspections system designed to assess the welfare of domestic workers<sup>16</sup>. However, concerns that such regulation would be ineffectual under the current tied-visa must be taken into account when considering future policies to protect domestic workers.

We understand that the recommendations of an independent review of the tied-visa commissioned by the Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime, Karen Bradley, are due to be announced<sup>17</sup>. Given the barrier to justice for domestic workers that the tied visa presents, this Assembly calls on the Mayor, in his capacity as the de facto Police and Crime Commissioner for London, to write to the Home Secretary, making the case for the tied-visa to be repealed."

- 3.7 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Andrew Dismore AM** and will be seconded by Tom Copley AM:

"This Assembly rejects the shameful, decades-old practice of blacklisting that has in the UK construction industry, ruined the lives of thousands of workers and their families<sup>18</sup>. The wide scale nature of blacklisting was illustrated by the Information Commissioner's 2009 raid on the offices of the notorious Consulting Association, which uncovered a blacklist containing the names of thousands of construction workers<sup>19</sup>.

Over thirty large construction companies used the Consulting Association database, which contained information about construction workers' personal relationships, trade union activity, and employment history<sup>20</sup>. This Assembly notes that most of the workers on the blacklist of the Consulting Association were trade unionists, many of them blacklisted for raising legitimate health and safety concerns with their employer.

This Assembly is therefore concerned to learn that Keir Group – a founder member of the Consulting Association<sup>21</sup> – is involved in the building, development, and maintenance of the nine PFI fire

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<sup>12</sup> Since April 2012 migrant domestic workers who enter the UK on the Overseas Domestic Worker visa are tied to their employer, if the worker leaves for any reason they will have breached the immigration rules.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.kalayaan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Kalayaan-3-year-briefing.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/17/uk-tied-visa-system-turning-domestic-workers-into-modern-day-slaves>

<sup>15</sup> [http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question\\_281962](http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_281962)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/wealthy-foreigners-face-spot-checks-on-domestic-staff-to-stamp-out-slavery-a3109971.html>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/17/uk-tied-visa-system-turning-domestic-workers-into-modern-day-slaves>

<sup>18</sup> Nigel Morris, Thousands of workers 'blacklisted' over political views, *Independent*, 06.08.12

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Dave Smith and Phil Chamberlain, On the blacklist: how did the UK's top building firms get secret information on their workers?, *Guardian*, 27.02.15

<sup>21</sup> Scottish Affairs Committee (2013), *Ninth Report Blacklisting in Employment: Interim Report*

stations that are being constructed across London. This is especially disappointing, given the Mayor's categorical statement in 2013 that:

"I do not condone or tolerate the blacklisting of workers, whether for raising health and safety concerns or for any other reason."<sup>22</sup>

This Assembly is determined that blacklisting should never occur again and calls on the Mayor to emphasise to all functional bodies that every employee must be protected in raising health and safety concerns and their fundamental right to trade union membership without the fear of reprisals be upheld; and calls on LFEPA to examine whether its internal procurement processes and/or commercial law allows it to exclude contractors that have been implicated in the practice of blacklisting, such as Kier Group."

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**List of appendices to this report:** None.

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| <b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>  |
| List of Background Papers: None.  |
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<sup>22</sup> Mayor of London's response to 16 January 2013 Plenary motion on blacklisting, 05.03.13