

MINUTES

Meeting: London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Date: Wednesday 18 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

Joanne McCartney AM

Kemi Badenoch AM

Steve O'Connell AM

Andrew Boff AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

James Cleverly AM MP

Murad Qureshi AM

Tom Copley AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Andrew Dismore AM

Navin Shah AM

Len Duvall AM

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM

Roger Evans AM

Richard Tracey AM

Nicky Gavron AM

Fiona Twycross AM

Darren Johnson AM

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Mayor John Biggs AM and Kit Malthouse AM MP.
- 1.2 During the course of the meeting the Chair welcomed to the public gallery: two groups of students from the USA - from Arcadia College University and from Dartmouth College; a group of journalism students from City University and pupils from Gatehouse School in Tower Hamlets.
- 1.3 The Chair, Mayor and Assembly Group Leaders placed on record their condolences to the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015, and to their loved ones. The meeting observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

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 Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) Meeting held on 21 October 2015 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Mayor's Report (Item 4)

4.1 Resolved:

That the Mayor's Report covering the period from 8 October to 4 November 2015 be noted.

- 4.2 In accordance with Standing Order 5.4A, the Mayor gave an oral update on matters occurring since the publication of his report. The record of the oral update is attached at **Appendix 1**.

5 Questions to the Mayor (Item 5)

- 5.1 The record of the discussion with the Mayor, including oral answers given by the Mayor to Members' questions, is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 5.2 The written answers to those questions not asked or unanswered during the meeting is attached as **Appendix 3**.
- 5.3 During the course of the question and answer session the Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to extend the meeting in order to allow the remaining questions on the priority order paper to be put to the Mayor and for the remaining items of business on the agenda to be considered.
- 5.4 At the conclusion of the question and answer session, the Chair moved the motion set out on the agenda in her name:
- “That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked”.**
- 5.5 Gareth Bacon AM noted that amendments to the motion in the name of the Chair had been tabled and referred to the informal agreement between Groups that business at MQT meetings should be limited to the receipt of the Mayor's Report and the question and answer session with the Mayor, unless, by exception, with the agreement of the Chair, there were any urgent items requiring consideration. He explained that no advance notice of the amendments had been provided to the Assembly's GLA Conservatives Group and that the Group would not be taking part in the debate on the amendments or motion.
- 5.6 The Chair explained that, notwithstanding the informal agreement referred to, Members retained the ability under Standing Orders to move amendments to motions set out on the agenda without notice. She noted also that the amendments related to matters raised during the question and answer session with the Mayor. She indicated that, where amendments were tabled at meetings, she would be happy to consider requests for an adjournment in order to allow Members time to read those amendments.
- 5.7 Murad Qureshi AM moved and Stephen Knight AM seconded the following amendment to the motion:

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

Add:

Further, this Assembly notes the recent announcement of the UK Met Office that global temperatures are set to rise in 2015 to more than one degree above pre-industrial levels¹. The world will soon be halfway towards 2C, the gateway to dangerous warming. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that further warming “will

¹ Matt McGrath, Warming set to breach 1C threshold, *BBC News*, 09.11.15

**Greater London Authority
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)
Wednesday 18 November 2015**

increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems.”²

This Assembly notes that London is particularly exposed to the effects of climate change. We are more vulnerable to heat than surrounding areas, due to the Urban Heat Island effect; a significant proportion of our critical infrastructure is already at risk of flooding and/or overheating; and we are already in an area of Serious Water Stress³. Human-influenced climate change will exacerbate these problems, posing a threat to the health, wellbeing and safety of Londoners, and to the capital's supply-chains and key industries⁴.

Despite these challenges, the Mayor's two terms of office have been characterised by drift, as environmental concerns have been relegated to the deep recesses of the City Hall policy agenda:

- London continues to suffer poor air quality episodes with nearly 10,000 premature deaths every year⁵.
- On energy, the failure to deliver affordable and low carbon decentralised energy schemes leaves London increasingly vulnerable to blackouts⁶.
- On cutting carbon emissions across London's buildings, transport, economy, workplaces, homes and energy supply, the Mayor has missed crucial milestones towards meeting the 2025 target⁷.

Looking ahead to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, and the end of his term of office, the Mayor could leave a positive and lasting environmental legacy by working with the London Pension Fund Authority on managed divestment of LPFA funds from all commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds.

This Assembly believes the next Mayor must prioritise the following initiatives to restore London's reputation as a progressive, sustainable, forward thinking city that will take the difficult decisions necessary to improve the lives of all Londoners, through:

1. **Cleaning up London's toxic air** - A bigger, stronger ULEZ that drives a revolution in sustainable transport; saving lives and limiting the exposure of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.
2. **Tackling fuel poverty** - In retro-fitting London's most energy efficient properties the next Mayor must find innovative ways to reach the most vulnerable through advice and referral schemes, tackling cold homes and energy efficiency in tandem.
3. **Delivering a new settlement on climate change** - The next administration must redouble efforts to limit global warming to the 2 degree limit by meeting our own carbon reduction targets. The next administration must work to restore London's reputation as a

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate change threatens irreversible and dangerous impacts, but options exist to limit its effects*, 02.11.15

³ London Climate Change Partnership (2012), *A Summary of Climate Change Risks for London*

⁴ London Assembly Economy Committee (2014), *The impact of climate change on London's economy*

⁵ Adam Vaughn, [Nearly 9,500 people die each year in London because of air pollution – study](#), *Guardian*, 15.07.15

⁶ [Electricity blackouts risk up, says National Grid](#), *BBC News*, 15.07.15

⁷ [London Assembly Environment Committee Report: Could do Better](#), 25.07.14

**Greater London Authority
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)
Wednesday 18 November 2015**

world leading city in cutting carbon and safeguarding economic security from the rise of the carbon bubble.

4. **Making London a centre of environmental innovation** - The next Mayor must use the creative spirit of Tech City, the entrepreneurial and financial expertise of the financial services sector and the drive of London's SMEs to formulate a new strategy, to make London the world's most powerful base for green technology."

5.8 Darren Johnson AM moved and Murad Qureshi AM seconded the following amendment to the motion:

"After, "That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked."

Add:

Further, this Assembly notes the recent announcement of the UK Met Office that global temperatures are set to rise in 2015 to more than one degree above pre-industrial levels⁸. The world will soon be halfway towards 2C, the gateway to dangerous warming. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that further warming "will increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems."⁹

This Assembly notes that London is particularly exposed to the effects of climate change. We are more vulnerable to heat than surrounding areas, due to the Urban Heat Island effect; a significant proportion of our critical infrastructure is already at risk of flooding and/or overheating; and we are already in an area of Serious Water Stress¹⁰. Human-influenced climate change will exacerbate these problems, posing a threat to the health, wellbeing and safety of Londoners, and to the capital's supply-chains and key industries¹¹.

Despite these challenges, the Mayor's two terms of office have been characterised by drift, as environmental concerns have been relegated to the deep recesses of the City Hall policy agenda:

- London continues to suffer poor air quality episodes with nearly 10,000 premature deaths every year¹².
- On energy, the failure to deliver affordable and low carbon decentralised energy schemes leaves London increasingly vulnerable to blackouts¹³.
- On cutting carbon emissions across London's buildings, transport, economy, workplaces, homes and energy supply, the Mayor has missed crucial milestones towards meeting the 2025 target¹⁴.

⁸ Matt McGrath, Warming set to breach 1C threshold, *BBC News*, 09.11.15

⁹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate change threatens irreversible and dangerous impacts, but options exist to limit its effects*, 02.11.15

¹⁰ London Climate Change Partnership (2012), *A Summary of Climate Change Risks for London*

¹¹ London Assembly Economy Committee (2014), *The impact of climate change on London's economy*

¹² Adam Vaughn, [Nearly 9,500 people die each year in London because of air pollution – study](#), *Guardian*, 15.07.15

¹³ [Electricity blackouts risk up, says National Grid](#), *BBC News*, 15.07.15

¹⁴ [London Assembly Environment Committee Report: Could do Better](#), 25.07.14

**Greater London Authority
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)
Wednesday 18 November 2015**

Looking ahead to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, and the end of his term of office, the Mayor could leave a positive and lasting environmental legacy by working with the London Pension Fund Authority on managed divestment of LPFA funds from all commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds.

This Assembly believes the next Mayor must prioritise the following initiatives to restore London's reputation as a progressive, sustainable, forward thinking city that will take the difficult decisions necessary to improve the lives of all Londoners, through:

1. **Cleaning up London's toxic air** - A bigger, stronger ULEZ that drives a revolution in sustainable transport; saving lives and limiting the exposure of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.
2. **Tackling fuel poverty** - In retro-fitting London's most energy efficient properties the next Mayor must find innovative ways to reach the most vulnerable through advice and referral schemes, tackling cold homes and energy efficiency in tandem.
3. **Delivering a new settlement on climate change** - The next administration must redouble efforts to limit global warming to the 2 degree limit by meeting our own carbon reduction targets. The next administration must work to restore London's reputation as a world leading city in cutting carbon and safeguarding economic security from the rise of the carbon bubble.
4. **Making London a centre of environmental innovation** - The next Mayor must use the creative spirit of Tech City, the entrepreneurial and financial expertise of the financial services sector and the drive of London's SMEs to formulate a new strategy, to make London the world's most powerful base for green technology.
5. **Develop a new London risks-based strategic approach to climate adaptation** – in line with the recommendations in the London Assembly's report, *Come Rain or Shine: London's Adaptation to the Risks of Severe Weather and Weathering the Storm: The Impact of Climate Change on London's Economy*, when the Mayor next issues or revises the Environment Strategy. This should be based on the Thames Estuary 2100 'decisions pathway' approach, identifying the 'adaptation gap' between the assessed risks and current resilience, and should formulate options for adaptation."

5.9 Muard Qureshi AM accepted the amendment moved by Darren Johnson AM and altered the amendment in his name accordingly.

5.10 Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Murad Qureshi AM, as altered, was agreed (13 votes cast in favour and no votes cast against).

5.11 Upon being put to the vote, the motion as amended, namely:

"That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.

Further, this Assembly notes the recent announcement of the UK Met Office that global temperatures are set to rise in 2015 to more than one degree above pre-industrial levels¹⁵. The world will soon be halfway towards 2C, the gateway to

¹⁵ Matt McGrath, Warming set to breach 1C threshold, *BBC News*, 09.11.15

dangerous warming. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that further warming “will increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems.”¹⁶

This Assembly notes that London is particularly exposed to the effects of climate change. We are more vulnerable to heat than surrounding areas, due to the Urban Heat Island effect; a significant proportion of our critical infrastructure is already at risk of flooding and/or overheating; and we are already in an area of Serious Water Stress¹⁷. Human-influenced climate change will exacerbate these problems, posing a threat to the health, wellbeing and safety of Londoners, and to the capital's supply-chains and key industries¹⁸.

Despite these challenges, the Mayor's two terms of office have been characterised by drift, as environmental concerns have been relegated to the deep recesses of the City Hall policy agenda:

- London continues to suffer poor air quality episodes with nearly 10,000 premature deaths every year¹⁹.
- On energy, the failure to deliver affordable and low carbon decentralised energy schemes leaves London increasingly vulnerable to blackouts²⁰.
- On cutting carbon emissions across London's buildings, transport, economy, workplaces, homes and energy supply, the Mayor has missed crucial milestones towards meeting the 2025 target²¹.

Looking ahead to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, and the end of his term of office, the Mayor could leave a positive and lasting environmental legacy by working with the London Pension Fund Authority on managed divestment of LPFA funds from all commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds.

This Assembly believes the next Mayor must prioritise the following initiatives to restore London's reputation as a progressive, sustainable, forward thinking city that will take the difficult decisions necessary to improve the lives of all Londoners, through:

- 6 **Cleaning up London's toxic air - A bigger, stronger ULEZ that drives a revolution in sustainable transport; saving lives and limiting the exposure of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.**
- 7 **Tackling fuel poverty - In retro-fitting London's most energy efficient properties the next Mayor must find innovative ways to reach the most**

¹⁶ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate change threatens irreversible and dangerous impacts, but options exist to limit its effects*, 02.11.15

¹⁷ London Climate Change Partnership (2012), *A Summary of Climate Change Risks for London*

¹⁸ London Assembly Economy Committee (2014), *The impact of climate change on London's economy*

¹⁹ Adam Vaughn, [Nearly 9,500 people die each year in London because of air pollution – study](#), *Guardian*, 15.07.15

²⁰ [Electricity blackouts risk up, says National Grid](#), *BBC News*, 15.07.15

²¹ [London Assembly Environment Committee Report: Could do Better](#), 25.07.14

vulnerable through advice and referral schemes, tackling cold homes and energy efficiency in tandem.

- 8 **Delivering a new settlement on climate change - The next administration must redouble efforts to limit global warming to the 2 degree limit by meeting our own carbon reduction targets. The next administration must work to restore London's reputation as a world leading city in cutting carbon and safeguarding economic security from the rise of the carbon bubble.**
- 9 **Making London a centre of environmental innovation - The next Mayor must use the creative spirit of Tech City, the entrepreneurial and financial expertise of the financial services sector and the drive of London's SMEs to formulate a new strategy, to make London the world's most powerful base for green technology.**
- 10 **Develop a new London risks-based strategic approach to climate adaptation – in line with the recommendations in the London Assembly's report, Come Rain or Shine: London's Adaptation to the Risks of Severe Weather and Weathering the Storm: The Impact of Climate Change on London's Economy, when the Mayor next issues or revises the Environment Strategy. This should be based on the Thames Estuary 2100 'decisions pathway' approach, identifying the 'adaptation gap' between the assessed risks and current resilience, and should formulate options for adaptation."**

was agreed (13 votes cast in favour and no votes cast against).

6 Change to the Membership of the GLA Oversight Committee (Item 6)

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

6.2 Resolved:

- (a) **That further to the London Assembly GLA Conservatives Group's nomination, Gareth Bacon AM be appointed as a member of the GLA Oversight Committee, to replace Andrew Boff AM.**
- (b) **That it be agreed that Andrew Boff AM be appointed as a substitute member of the GLA Oversight Committee, to replace Gareth Bacon AM.**

7 Date of Next Meeting (Item 7)

7.1 It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly would be the Plenary meeting which will take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 2 December 2015 in the Chamber, City Hall.

8 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 8)

8.1 There was no urgent business.

9 Close of Meeting

9.1 The meeting closed at 1.12pm.

Chair

Date

Contact Officer: Rebecca Arnold
Committee Services Manager
GLA Secretariat, City Hall
The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA
Telephone: 020 7983 4421
Email: rebecca.arnold@london.gov.uk