

Subject: Proposed Delegation of Authority to the Chair of the Assembly

Report to: London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 16 December 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 It is proposed that the Assembly agrees a general delegation of authority to the Chair, in consultation with relevant Members, in relation to urgent matters for the period up until the next meeting of the Assembly.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That, in relation to urgent matters only, a general delegation of authority in respect of the Assembly's powers and functions (apart from those that cannot under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 be delegated) be given to the Chair of the Assembly, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Leaders and relevant Committee Chair(s), from the close of this meeting until the next meeting of the Assembly, which will be the Mayor's Question Time meeting on 20 January 2016.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The 16 December 2015 meeting of the Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) will be the last meeting of the Assembly until the Mayor's Question Time meeting on 20 January 2016.
- 3.2 It may be prudent to establish a mechanism whereby the Assembly could, if necessary and deemed appropriate, undertake relevant actions during that period between meetings, and it is therefore suggested that, in relation to urgent matters only, a general delegation of authority in respect of the Assembly's powers and functions (apart from those that cannot under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 be delegated) be given to the Chair of the Assembly, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Leaders and relevant Committee Chair(s), from the close of this meeting until the Mayor's Question Time meeting on 20 January 2016.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The delegation of authority would cover the whole range of powers and functions given to the London Assembly under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 that are capable of being delegated. It is considered unlikely that such authority would need to be used during the relevant period, but, if an issue does arise, the delegation would be used only if absolutely required.
- 4.2 The establishment of such a delegation would not prevent any Committee meeting during the period of the operation of the delegation, nor would it prevent any Committee undertaking and/or determining matters within its own remit during that period.
- 4.3 Any use of delegated authority by the Chair, in consultation with relevant other Members, would be governed by the existing procedure related to delegated actions, which requires prior consultation with the Legal and Finance Services.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under S. 54(1) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 as amended (the GLA Act) the Assembly may arrange for “any of the functions exercisable by it to be discharged on its behalf by a committee or sub-committee or single member of the Assembly”. Where a Committee has a delegated power to discharge Assembly functions then, under S. 54(3) and unless otherwise directed by the Assembly, the committee may delegate the function to a sub-committee or single member.
- 5.2 Under S. 54(5) where arrangements are in place for the delegation of functions to committees, single members or staff, the Assembly or a Committee which has made those arrangements may still exercise those functions if it requires.

6. Financial Implications

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

List of appendices to this report: None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None.
Contact Officer: Rebecca Arnold Telephone: 020 7983 4421 E-mail: rebecca.arnold@london.gov.uk