

Subject: Motions

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 10 February 2016

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 **Murad Qureshi AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

“This Assembly notes the response from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to the Chair of the Assembly regarding the cuts to the solar Feed in Tariff and the motion passed by the Assembly on 4 November 2015.

This Assembly believes the decision to press ahead with cuts to the FiT is a short sighted decision which will seriously hamper efforts to make London a global leader on solar power.

The Assembly further notes:

- The UK is the only member of the G7 to increase fossil fuel subsidies whilst simultaneously attacking the renewables sector¹;
- London has the lowest amount of installed solar power capacity of any region in the UK²;
- The Mayor’s statement in the London Infrastructure Plan that there will be “up to a 20 per cent increase in (energy) demand in the capital by 2050”³; and

¹ [The Guardian: UK becomes only G7 country to increase fossil fuel subsidies](#) 12.11.15 (Accessed 14.1.16)

² [London Assembly Report “Bring Me Sunshine”](#) 23.10.15 (Accessed 14.1.16)

³ [The London Infrastructure Plan 2050 \(Consultation\) p.3](#) (Accessed 15.1.16)

- Analysis by the Solar Trade Association shows that almost 1,800 jobs have been lost in the UK solar industry, with many thousands more expected to go⁴.

This Assembly was disappointed the Mayor failed to take a leadership role and stand up for London, by taking forward the Assembly's suggestion of leading a delegation to meet with the Secretary of State.

The London Assembly represents the views and interests of over 8.5 million Londoners. The Secretary of State's decision to shun London's democratic institutions by refusing to meet a cross-party delegation of Members and entrepreneurs, sends the strongest message possible that the future sustainability of London's energy supply and its renewables industry are a matter of worryingly low priority to the Government. Although the Government has now made its decision, this Assembly asks that the Mayor consider this request again, so to impress on the Secretary of State the likely impact of these changes."

- 3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name of Darren Johnson AM and will be seconded at the meeting:

"This Assembly welcomes the construction of sections of high quality cycle superhighway in central London. We also welcome the Mayor's recent comments urging his successor to complete the three Mini Hollands currently in train⁵.

Encouraging more journeys to be made by bicycle could help London's transport network to cope with the pressures of a growing population. It could also help improve the health and wellbeing of Londoners and go some way to cleaning up our polluted air.

We therefore call on the Mayor to work with the Assembly to ensure his successor builds on the consensus on cycling programmes that has been achieved within the Assembly in recent years, with a view to continuing these programmes in his or her Mayoralty."

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

"This Assembly recognises the important contribution that London's front garden plant cover provides for flood protection, wildlife habitats, shade and cooling during heatwaves⁶, the alleviation of air pollution, the character and identity of our streets, and for our wellbeing.

However, the Assembly is concerned by the findings in the Royal Horticultural Society report 'Green Grey Britain'⁷ that half of all London's front gardens are now paved over, marking a 36% increase in the past ten years, with five times as many front gardens with no plants compared to ten years ago. We are also concerned with the use of narrow grilles which allow driveways to be covered with impermeable surfaces, putting further pressure on the drainage system⁸.

⁴ [Solar Trade Association Press Release](#) 30.11.15 (Accessed 15.1.16)

⁵ The Mayor made this comment at the 16th December 2015 session of Mayor's Question Time. "I hope very much that any future Mayor would want to continue with this work. On Mini Hollands, I think it is vital we deliver the ones that are currently in train."

⁶ <http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/London%20Garden%20City%20-%20full%20report.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities/pdf/Greener-Streets/greening-grey-britain-report>

⁸ In https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7728/pavingfrontgardens.pdf

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor and the Government to review the permeable ‘solutions’ element of the permitted development regulations, including the use of grilles, and to consider promoting lawns, flower beds, rain gardens and other vegetation over other permeable options such as permeable block paving, porous asphalt or concrete.”

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

“This Assembly notes that the cost of childcare is one of the most serious issues facing Londoners. With many nurseries charging a registration fee and expecting one month’s fees in advance, a parent starting a child at nursery fulltime can expect to pay over £1,200 before they even begin. These initial costs alone can prevent parents from being able to return to work.

This Assembly believes that the GLA should set an example in its role as an employer and that greater efforts should be made to adopt family friendly employment practices, such as offering more part-time and flexible roles, to ensure that the barriers that many parents face upon returning to the workplace are reduced. The Mayor would then be in a position to lobby London businesses to make every effort to assist parents within their workforce, pointing to the GLA as a model of best practice.

This Assembly further notes that loan schemes already exist for GLA staff for tenancy deposits, travel season tickets, bicycle purchase and gym membership as part of the wider package of staff benefits yet there is no help for parents with the initial costs of childcare.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to establish a loan scheme to help GLA staff with initial costs of childcare registration up to the value of £1,500 and encourage the rest of the GLA group and other city employers to take similar steps to ensure they fully support employees with caring responsibilities.”

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

“The Assembly notes the latest revelations about the procurement process for design services for a proposed pedestrian bridge linking South Bank to Temple.

The Assembly regrets that the Mayor has described his publicly funded trip to San Francisco in early February 2013 as merely a private trip. Furthermore, the Assembly expresses its concern that the Mayor was willing to attend meetings seeking sponsorship for one specific design when TfL had not even started the procurement process for the design of the bridge.

The Assembly urges the Mayor to fully comply with any outstanding and further inquiries by the GLA Oversight Committee and to ensure that all Mayoral Questions relating to the Garden Bridge are promptly answered.

The Assembly reiterates that there is no case for any TfL funding to be allocated to the Garden Bridge Trust and urges TfL to now enter into discussions to ensure that existing public money allocated to the project is fully recovered as quickly as possible.”

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

“This Assembly notes that complaints against private landlords in London have risen by 47% since 2008⁹ and that nearly a third of privately rented homes in London fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard – by far the worst standards of any housing tenure in Greater London.¹⁰

This Assembly therefore regrets the Mayor's failure to give his support to an amendment to the Housing & Planning Bill that would have made it a legal requirement for landlords to ensure that the homes they let out are fit for human habitation.

This Assembly believes that at a minimum, homes should be fit for human habitation. We therefore call on the Mayor to reconsider his opposition to this most basic of requirements and to support statutory measures to improve standards in London's private rented sector.”

List of appendices to this report: None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
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List of Background Papers: None.

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⁹ ‘Rent reform: Making London's private rented sector fit for purpose’, London Assembly Housing and Regeneration Committee, June 2013, p.23

¹⁰ Housing in London database, London Data Store