

Subject: Proposed Minor Changes to the GLA's Standing Orders

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

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 16 March 2016

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is to approve and adopt some proposed minor changes to the Greater London Authority's (GLA) Standing, to come into effect at the close of the meeting.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **To approve and adopt the minor revisions to the Greater London Authority's Standing Orders attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 and set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report, to come into effect at the close of the meeting.**

3. Background and issues for Consideration

- 3.1 In accordance with Section 36 of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Assembly may make the Standing Orders for the Authority, in consultation with the Mayor.
- 3.2 The GLA's current Standing Orders were approved at the Annual Meeting of the London Assembly held on 13 May 2015, following consultation with the Mayor of London. Since that time the opportunity has been taken to review some of the Standing Orders; proposed minor revisions are set out in the appendices to this report together with a summary set out below.

Standing Order 2.12 – Misconduct by the Public

- 3.3 Following a review arising from the disturbances at the 16 September 2015 Mayor's Question Time meeting involving a number of taxi drivers, consideration was given to internal security procedures.
- 3.4 One of the measures agreed by party Group Leaders was the preparation of a revised draft Standing Order, to set out the formal process to be followed by the Chair/Members in the event of significant disruption by members of the public at any formal Assembly/committee meeting. The proposed revised Standing Order 2.12 is set out in **Appendix 1** with the new text highlighted in bold.

Standing Order 3.19 - Assembly Consultation on the Mayor's Strategies and the Assembly's Power to Reject

- 3.5 At the London Assembly Plenary meeting on 10 February 2016, the Assembly was consulted on two separate sets of Minor Alterations to the London Plan, on changes to the Housing standards and changes to the Parking standards. The approach taken was to present both sets of Alterations to the Assembly concurrently at the same meeting, rather than hold two separate meetings to consider each set of Alterations. In doing so it became apparent that, for clarity, the Standing Orders in relation to Mayoral strategies could be revised to confirm, for the avoidance of doubt, the procedures for concurrent consideration of more than one set of proposed alterations to the London Plan.
- 3.6 Section 42B (3) of the GLA Act states that "before publishing the strategy the Mayor must lay a copy of the draft before the Assembly in accordance with the standing orders of the Assembly" and Standing Orders 3.19 require the Mayor to submit "a draft of the strategy". However, section 42B, and therefore the Authority's Standing Orders (which are based upon the legislation) is silent on the issue of multiple sets of alterations being considered at the same time.
- 3.7 Section 53(4) of the GLA Act states that the Assembly may determine its own procedures (subject to Section 53(5) which says it may do so subject to: "(e) any other provision made by or under this Act or under any other enactment (whenever passed) which regulates, or provides for the regulation of, the procedure of the Assembly..."") and can therefore decide itself how, procedurally, it handles its consideration of more than one set of proposed alterations.
- 3.8 The procedure adopted for the Assembly's consideration of two sets of Minor Alterations to the London Plan on 10 February 2016 allowed the Assembly both to consider all of the proposed alterations in one meeting but also to be able to reject one set of proposed alterations, if it so wished, without affecting the passage of the other set of alterations (noting that the Assembly retains the ability to reject all of the proposed revisions in full). The proposed revised Standing Order 3.19 is set out in **Appendix 2** with the new text highlighted in bold.

Other Minor Updates

- 3.9 It is proposed that this revision to Standing Orders also deals with the following administrative updates where references to committees or bodies no longer in existence had been retained in error from earlier versions:
- References to the Business Management and Administration Committee to be amended to the GLA Oversight Committee. (footnote of SO 1.2);
 - References to the Standards Committee to be deleted and instead, where relevant refer to the Monitoring Officer who has responsibility for implementing the GLA's Standards regime (SO 1.1, 3.18, 11.3 and 11.4); and.
 - References to the MOPC replaced with MOPAC (SO 9.4B, 9.4D, 9.5A and 9.5C).
- 3.10 It is proposed that all of the proposed amendments to Standing Orders are progressed at this time in order to ensure that the procedures for dealing with disruption at meetings at the consideration of proposed revisions to the London Plan are updated at the earliest opportunity, and that the full revised set of Standing Orders is then in place for the new London Assembly and Mayoral term which begins in May 2016.

Consultation on proposed changes to Standing Orders

- 3.11 At its meeting on 25 February 2016, the GLA Oversight Committee agreed the proposed changes to Standing Orders in principle and delegated authority to the Chair of the Assembly (i) to consult the Mayor of London about the proposed changes; and (ii) following consultation with the Mayor, to approve the final proposed revisions to the GLA's Standing Orders for consideration by the Assembly at its next appropriate meeting.
- 3.12 Accordingly, the Mayor has been consulted and the Mayor's Chief of Staff has confirmed by letter, dated 29 February 2016 (attached as **Appendix 3**), that he is content with the proposed changes to the GLA's Standing Orders.
- 3.13 It is therefore proposed that the revisions to Standing Orders be agreed and adopted, to come into effect at the close of the meeting.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Section 36 Greater London Authority Act provides that the Assembly, in consultation with the Mayor, may make Standing Orders of the Authority and the procedure of the Assembly, its committees and sub-committees shall be regulated by those Standing Orders.
- 4.2 The Standing Orders of the Authority may make provision regulating the procedure to be followed by any Member of the Assembly.
- 4.3 The Standing Orders may also make provision regulating the procedure to be followed by the Mayor or by the Assembly in discharging any functions of the Mayor or Assembly to the extent that the functions:
- consist of consultation, or any other interaction or relationship between the Mayor and the Assembly; or
 - are exercisable by the Mayor in relation to the Assembly or by the Assembly in relation to the Mayor.
- 4.4 Standing Orders of the Authority may make provision for any other matter for which provision by Standing Orders of the Authority is authorised or required by or under any provision of the GLA Act or another enactment, but are also subject to any other provisions of the GLA Act or other enactments which regulate the procedure of the Assembly or any procedure to be followed by the Mayor.
- 4.5 The Standing Orders of the Authority may make different provision for different circumstances.

5. Finance Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Proposed revisions to Standing Order 2.12

Appendix 2 – Proposed revisions to Standing Order 3.19

Appendix 3 – Letter from the Mayor's Chief of Staff dated 29 February 2016

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