

Subject: People's Question Time

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Assistant Director, External Relations

Date: 20 July 2016

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 This report updates and consults the Committee on the proposals for the 33rd People's Question Time (PQT).

2. Recommendations:

2.1 **That the Committee notes and comments on the proposals for People's Question Time, on Thursday 3 November 2016 contained in this report, particular views are sought on: (i) the geographical area; (ii) the Chair of the event and (iii) the proposed agenda.**

2.2 **That the Committee provides any views, ideas or suggestions on further ways to improve People's Question Time as a consultative event.**

2.3 **That the Committee considers the Mayor's view that the current stage design could be improved and made to feel more accessible and open.**

2.4 **That the Committee notes the future plans for PQT locations and chairs, subject to further research into venues and formal consultation with the Assembly.**

3. Background

3.1 The purpose of this report is to update and consult the Assembly on plans for People's Question Time in the **London Borough of Brent on Thursday 3 November 2016**. This will be the 33rd PQT the GLA has held.

3.2 People's Question Time is one of the statutory requirements under the GLA Act 1999. It is a joint event between the Mayor and the Assembly. PQTs are organised and funded by the Events for London team within the External Relations Unit, who working closely with the External Relations marketing and creative teams, the London Assembly External Relations team, the Assembly Secretariat and the Mayor's Office.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 Chair, time and date

The proposed chair of this PQT event will be Navin Shah, Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow. The meeting will be held from **7pm – 9pm on Thursday 3 November 2016**.

4.2 PQT venue

The Events for London Team has identified **Brent Civic Centre**, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ as the preferred venue. The venue has a capacity of up to 750 people and has acceptable local transport links.

4.3 Agenda

Previous agendas for this event have run as follows:

1. Growing London's economy
2. Housing
3. Transport & Environment
4. Policing & Community Safety
5. Other issues

The Mayor would like to amend the agenda for this PQT to the following which he feels addresses the issues of Londoners in a more direct manner:

1. Transport
2. Safety
3. Air quality & environment
4. Housing
5. Growing London's economy
6. Other (e.g. Culture, Education)

4.4 Public Engagement

The Events for London team will work with the London Borough of Brent to target specific groups within the area to enable the GLA to further leverage their established consultation networks.

4.5 Targeted use of such local networks and a number of other marketing and promotional initiatives, using both traditional marketing techniques (such as posters, leaflets and local press) and digital marketing techniques will ensure that PQT continues to reach out to potential new audiences, whilst continuing to ensure audiences reflect the host borough and London's diversity.

4.6 We will continue to use the online ticket booking system Eventbrite to provide an easy to use accessible system to obtain tickets as well as offering postal and phone booking systems for those without internet access.

4.7 There is a fully staffed Public Liaison desk located in the front foyer of the event which allows those who haven't had a question answered to submit a question or ask for advice on City Hall matters

4.8 Assembly Consultation

We continue to address the Committee's previous concerns regarding the lack of consultation with Assembly Members on venue choices; Navin Shah AM as chair of the event has been consulted on the choice of date and venue and has confirmed he is happy with both.

4.9 **Accessibility**

In selecting Brent Civic Centre as the proposed venue, the Events for London Team will undertake an accessibility audit, to ensure that the event is accessible to all.

- This venue is situated in Wembley;
- The venue is not situated on a road which has a steep gradient;
- There is a bus stop within 150m (164yds) of the venue;
- The nearest mainline station is Wembley Central;
- The nearest underground station is Wembley Park; and
- There is a lift for public use.

As with all PQT events, there will be access facilities such as British Sign Language and palantypist translation. The PQT programme will be available, on request, in alternative formats.

4.10 **Feedback**

The Events for London team encourages people to complete feedback forms at the end of the event; the resulting data is compiled as an evaluation report. E-flyers including an online feedback survey are also sent out post event.

4.11 **Strategy Implications**

PQT is an important part of the consultation calendar providing an excellent forum for Londoners to communicate with the organisation on the issues that are important to them. The consistency of delivering this event twice a year means that it contributes to establishing the GLA as an organisation that is listening to Londoners. As already indicated PQT is a corporate and joint statutory responsibility for the Mayor and Assembly.

4.12 **Stage Design**

The Mayor and his team feel that there could be improvements made to the current stage set up. The Events for London team will investigate options and return to the Committee with some proposals closer to the event for comment.

4.13 **Future Dates and Locations**

The Events for London team has carried out research into PQT locations since 2000 and identified 6 London boroughs which have never hosted a PQT. These were presented to the new mayoral team alongside boroughs which have not hosted a PQT for a significant period of time.

The table below outlines the recommended borough, chair and date period for the forthcoming PQT events during this mayoralty.

Borough	Date	Chair
Brent	November 2016	Navin Shah AM
Sutton	March 2017	Steve O'Connell AM
Barking and Dagenham	November 2017	Unmesh Desai AM
Hounslow	March 2018	Tony Arbour AM
Islington	November 2018	Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Bexley	March 2019	Gareth Bacon AM

Enfield	November 2019	Joanne McCartney AM
Greenwich	March 2020	Len Duvall AM

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Twice in every financial year, the Mayor and the Assembly must hold and attend a meeting that will be open to all members of the public, called “the People’s Question Time” (“PQT”). The purpose of PQT is to afford an opportunity to members of the public to put questions to the Mayor and Assembly members, and to enable them to respond. Section 48 of the GLA Act 1999 sets out various requirements for the meeting:

- The Mayor approves the form of the PQT meeting, and can make formal procedures about how it is to be held, following consultation with the Assembly about them. These procedures can regulate how the public can put questions, and could include provisions for suppressing or preventing disorderly conduct or other misbehaviour at the meeting, including a power of exclusion.
- Members of the public who attend or speak at PQT do so subject to, and in accordance with, those procedures.
- The Mayor decides the date of PQT meetings, following consultation with the Assembly, the date of which must not be less than one month before or one month after the State of London Debate.
- The Mayor must decide the venue for the meeting not later than one month prior to the date on which the PQT is to take place.
- The Mayor must give adequate notice of the date and place of the meetings to members of the public at least one month prior to it taking place.
- Following consultation with the Assembly the Mayor may appoint any person to preside at the PQT meeting, whether or not that person has a connection with the GLA.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 For 3 November 2016 it is envisaged that the costs for the event will be up to £25,000, which can be met from the existing PQT budget, which is managed by the Events for London Team within External Relations.

List of appendices to this report:

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

None

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