

# MINUTES

**Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)**  
**Date: Wednesday 7 September 2016**  
**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:**

Tony Arbour AM (Chairman)	Florence Eshalomi AM
Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair)	David Kurten AM
Shaun Bailey AM	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Sian Berry AM	Keith Prince AM
Andrew Boff AM	Caroline Russell AM
Leonie Cooper AM	Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Tom Copley AM	Navin Shah AM
Unmesh Desai AM	Fiona Twycross AM
Tony Devenish AM	Peter Whittle AM
Nicky Gavron AM	

## **1 Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements (Item 1)**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Gareth Bacon AM, Kemi Badenoch AM, Andrew Dismore AM, Len Duvall AM, Joanne McCartney AM and Steve O'Connell AM.

## **2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)**

- 2.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

### **2.2 Resolved:**

- (a) That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 3, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests; and**
- (b) That Florence Eshalomi AM's, Keith Prince AM's, Caroline Pidgeon AM's and Fiona Twycross AM's declarations of non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 6, arising from being passengers of Southern Railway, be additionally noted.**

## **3 Minutes (Item 3)**

### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the 6 July 2016 (Plenary) meeting and 20 July 2016 (Mayor's Question Time) meeting be signed by the Chairman as correct records.**

## **4 Question and Answer Session - London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (Item 4)**

### **Part A:**

- 4.1 The Chairman noted that this was likely to be the last occasion on which Ron Dobson CBE QFSM appeared before the Assembly prior to his retirement as Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Planning, and placed on record the Assembly's thanks for the Commissioner's service and his work in keeping Londoners safe.
- 4.2 The Assembly then received opening statements from the Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), Dr Fiona Twycross AM, and the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Planning, Ron Dobson CBE QFSM as set out at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 The Assembly put questions to the Chair of LFEPA and the Commissioner on Fire and Emergency Planning in London.

4.4 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached as **Appendix 2**.

4.5 During the course of the question and answer session, the Chair of LFEPA and Commissioner undertook to:

- provide details of the number of smoke alarms provided to landlords by the London Fire Brigade to prevent fires in the private rental sector;
- provide data in relation to the increase in the number of fires caused by electrical problems in private rented accommodation and details of the London Fire Brigade's campaign in relation to the prevention of electrical fires;
- provide a briefing note on the arrangements for the appointment of an interim Commissioner, including confirmation that the exercise had not incurred any fees in relation to recruitment consultancy;
- write to the Assembly in due course confirming the employment costs for the interim Commissioner;
- update the Assembly following discussions between the Commissioner, the Director of Finance and Contractual Services, LFEPA and officers from Transport for London regarding progressing exploration of the use of alternative /energy efficient technologies for fire engines.

4.6 The written answers provided following the meeting are attached as **Appendix 3**.

**Part B:**

4.7 The Chairman formally moved the motion set out on the agenda, namely:

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

**4.8 Resolved:**

**That the answers to the questions asked be noted.**

## **5 Petition (Item 5)**

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

5.2 Caroline Pidgeon AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

“We, the undersigned demand that the Mayor of London and Transport for London guarantee that the installation of pedestrian crossings and if necessary signalisation at Charlie’s Brown’s Roundabout, be fully funded and implemented within the next two years.”

5.3 **Resolved:**

**That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor of London, as Chairman of Transport for London, for a response.**

## 6 **Motions (Item 6)**

6.1 Caroline Russell AM moved and Sian Berry AM seconded the following motion:

**“This Assembly notes proposals for a Diamond Jubilee Bridge, a pedestrian and cycle crossing between Battersea and Fulham, for which planning permission and Mayoral consent have been granted.**

**“The Assembly notes that a crossing in this location could encourage more walking and cycling, reduce overcrowding on cross-river bus services and by providing a link from Battersea to Imperial Wharf station could reduce pressure on Clapham Junction station.**

**“The Assembly acknowledges the significant public support for the scheme and the absence of any ongoing liability. Transport for London is working with Wandsworth Council to assess the costs and benefits, and to explore opportunities to secure the outstanding funding needed.**

**“The Assembly calls on the Mayor to appoint TfL as the delivery agent and to make representations to the government for financial support or underwriting to help the scheme progress, providing the economic case is confirmed.”**

6.2 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Caroline Russell AM was agreed (with 6 votes cast in favour and 0 votes cast against).

6.3 Florence Eshalomi AM moved and Fiona Twycross AM seconded the following motion:

**“This Assembly notes that, in July, an emergency timetable was introduced by Govia Thameslink Railway, which resulted in 341 services being cut. This follows months of delays and cancellations to their services.**

**It is beyond doubt that Govia Thameslink Railway is failing to provide an adequate service, and it must now be considered to be in breach of its franchise agreement.**

**“This Assembly welcomes the fact that, in January 2016, the Department for Transport announced proposals that would see the transfer of rail services that operate mostly or wholly within the Greater London boundary to TfL when the current franchises are due for renewal.**

**“This decision followed the London Assembly Transport Committee’s report *Devolving Rail Services to London: Towards a South London Metro*, which recommended reform of London’s rail services.**

**“This Assembly further notes the Mayor’s manifesto commitment to “push for TfL to take over responsibility for more commuter routes”, and his recent offer to the Department for Transport to put a senior TfL team in charge of the Govia Thameslink Railway Southern franchise, which was subsequently rejected by the Rail Minister, Paul Maynard MP.**

**“This Assembly therefore calls on the Government to reconsider its decision not to strip Govia Thameslink Railway of its franchise, pass day-to-day management of the franchise to TfL, and urgently re-tender the franchise so that London metro services are passed permanently to TfL.”**

- 6.4 Andrew Boff AM moved, and Keith Prince AM seconded, the following amendments to the motion:

In the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, remove “This decision” and replace with “These proposals”.

In the fifth paragraph, remove “further” between “Assembly” and “notes” and insert “with approval” after “notes” and before “the Mayor’s”.

In the fifth paragraph, remove “and” before “this recent” and replace with “but notes with dismay”.

In the fifth paragraph, insert “misconceived” between “recent” and “offer”.

In the sixth paragraph, remove “reconsider its decision not to”.

In the sixth paragraph, remove “pass day-to-day management of the franchise to TfL, and urgently re-tender the franchise so that London metro services are passed permanently to TfL” and replace with “as soon as is practicable in order to devolve control of London’s mainline rail to Transport for London as speedily as possible, while making clear that Transport for London should then contract out those services – as it does with the very successful London Overground – rather than seek to run the services itself. This Assembly further calls on the Mayor to listen to those within TfL who are extremely concerned about his seeming desire for TfL to run the Southern franchise and to stop acting in such a way as to put at risk the chances of significant devolution on London’s mainline rail.”

- 6.5 Upon being put to the vote, the amendments to the motion, was lost (with 7 votes cast in favour and 12 votes cast against).

6.6 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Florence Eshalomi AM was agreed (with 14 votes cast in favour and 5 votes cast against).

6.7 Caroline Pidgeon AM moved and Jennette Arnold AM seconded the following motion:

**“This Assembly notes with concern that discrimination against assistance dog owners is widespread, with three quarters of those owners surveyed by Guide Dogs for the Blind reporting that they had been refused access to services at some point because they had an assistance dog with them. This Assembly also notes evidence collected by BBC London Television on the prevalence of this problem in London in 2014.**

**“This Assembly further notes that while owners of assistance dogs are entitled by law to access goods and services without discrimination, the law in practice is not effective with the worst offenders of this legislation being private hire drivers, with a small minority of offending drivers having a devastating effect on assistance dogs owners.**

**“This Assembly backs the Guide Dogs for the Blind campaign to ensure that there are far more effective sanctions against drivers who refuse access, noting that the average fine currently imposed is a modest £195.**

**“This Assembly urges the Chair of the London Assembly to write to the Secretary of State for Transport expressing support for the penalty for refusing carriage to be amended to a level 4 fine, in keeping with offences such as ticket touting, so as to ensure that both drivers and magistrates are fully aware of the unacceptable nature of refusing access to assistance dog owners in London.”**

6.8 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of Caroline Pidgeon AM was agreed unanimously.

## **7 Changes to Committee Memberships (Item 7)**

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

### **7.2 Resolved:**

- (a) That, further to nominations received from the GLA Conservatives Group, Tony Arbour AM be appointed as a member of the Environment Committee to replace Tony Devenish AM;**
- (b) That Tony Devenish AM be appointed as a substitute member of the Environment Committee to replace Tony Arbour AM;**
- (c) That Keith Prince AM be appointed as a member of the GLA Oversight Committee to replace Shaun Bailey AM; and**

- (d) That Shaun Bailey be appointed as a substitute member of the GLA Oversight Committee to replace Keith Prince AM.

## **8 Petitions Update (Item 8)**

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

### **8.2 Resolved:**

**That the responses received to petitions presented at recent London Assembly (Plenary) meetings be noted.**

## **9 Appointments made by the Mayor under Section 67 of the GLA Act (Item 9)**

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

### **9.2 Resolved:**

**That the:**

- (a) appointment of Rajesh Agrawal as Deputy Mayor for Business, with effect from 4 July 2016 under Section 67(1) (a) of the GLA Act;**
- (b) appointment of Jules Pipe CBE as Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, with effect from 1 August 2016 under Section 67(1) (b) of the GLA Act;**
- (c) appointment of Justine Simons OBE as Deputy Mayor for Culture, with effect from 4 July 2016 under Section 67(1) (b) of the GLA Act; and**
- (d) the change in appointment of Jack Stenner as Mayoral Director, Political and Public Affairs, with effect from 1 July 2016 from an appointment under Section 67(1)(a) to an appointment under Section 67(1) (b) of the GLA Act.**

**be noted.**

## **10 Action Taken by the Chairman under Delegated Authority (Item 10)**

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

### **10.2 Resolved:**

**That the action taken by the Chairman of the Assembly, Tony Arbour AM, in accordance with the authority delegated to him, namely to nominate Len Duvall AM**

**as the Assembly's representative on the London Finance Commission for the remainder of the 2016/17 Assembly Year, be noted.**

## **11 Mayoral Commitments (Item 11)**

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

### **11.2 Resolved:**

**That the commitments made by the Mayor of London, during London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) meetings held between May and July 2016 be noted.**

## **12 Date of Next Meeting (Item 12)**

12.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly would be the Mayor's Question Time meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 14 September 2016 in the Chamber, City Hall.

## **13 Any Other Business the Chairman Considers Urgent (Item 13)**

13.1 There were no items of urgent business.

## **14 Close of Meeting (Item )**

14.1 The meeting closed at 12.15pm.

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Chairman

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Date

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