

Subject: GLA Group Corporate Governance Framework Agreement

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

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 19 October 2016

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of its governance arrangements, the GLA and its functional bodies are signatories to a GLA Group Framework Agreement. The Agreement is an overarching commitment in relation to the culture and individual behaviours of the GLA Group and contains specific corporate governance commitments.
- 1.2 The Agreement has recently been updated and the Assembly is asked to sign up to the revised Agreement, subject to its approval by the Mayor.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly notes the report and agrees to sign up to the Greater London Authority Group Framework Agreement, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, subject to its approval by the Mayor.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The GLA has a range of rules and guidelines in place which can be viewed [here](#) . The key Governance documents are:
 - (a) The GLA Act 1999 (as amended) which established the GLA and subsequent legislation which impacts on its remit and responsibilities;
 - (b) The GLA's Standing Orders, which set out its decision making processes and scheme of delegation;
 - (c) The GLA's Scheme of Delegation of Functions to GLA Officers;
 - (d) The GLA Group Framework Agreement, which is the subject of this paper.
- 3.2 The GLA reports on its compliance with its governance arrangements through the preparation of an Annual Governance Statement for submission to the external auditor. This Statement is reviewed by the Audit Committee each year prior to its sign off by the Mayor and its inclusion in the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

4 GLA Group Framework Agreement

- 4.1 In 2009, following a review of the GLA's Corporate Governance, the Mayor and the Boards of the GLA's functional bodies signed up to a GLA Group Framework Agreement.
- 4.2 The Agreement is a voluntary but firm commitment by all parties to be open, transparent and accountable for their actions and behaviour. It is also a commitment to hold to specific Mayoral and London Assembly expectations for the group to interact in a way that enhances accountability and service provision to Londoners. It is a high level document that sets common principles that apply across the Group, with the methods of implementation left to each Functional Body to determine.
- 4.3 The Agreement was reviewed in 2016 in consultation with each functional body. It has been simplified and reflects good governance practice. The three to highlight are:
- (a) Gifts and Hospitality: The Agreement proposes a £25 threshold for the reporting of gifts and hospitality across the Group. It also proposes that all bodies regularly report acceptance of gifts and hospitality by senior staff and Members to the relevant audit body. The GLA currently publishes details of any gifts and hospitality accepted by Members and Executive Directors on its website on a quarterly basis. A regular report will be submitted to the Audit Committee on gifts and hospitality accepted by Members and Executive Directors and their direct reports;
- (b) Declaration of Interests: It is proposed that a common template Register of Interests form be adopted by all relevant bodies within the Group. The form covers both statutory and some non-statutory disclosures so that it meets the requirements of all organisations/boards. It is recommended that the GLA adopts this form as part of its approval of the overall updated Framework Agreement; and
- (c) Transparency: There are additional, enhanced transparency and openness requirements set out in Part B of the Framework Agreement, paragraphs 2-8.
- 4.4 The GLA has in place protocols and processes that address all of the other requirements of the Agreement.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

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

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Proposed GLA Group Framework Agreement.

Appendix 2 – GLA Group Register of Interests Form

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