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Title: **Interim Submission - Consultation on the proposed relocation of City Hall to The Crystal**

Executive Summary

To agree an initial submission on behalf of the London Assembly to the Mayor in response to the consultation exercise on the proposed relocation of City Hall to The Crystal.

Decision

To agree an initial submission on behalf of the London Assembly to the Mayor in response to the consultation exercise on the proposed relocation of City Hall to The Crystal.

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date: 3/08/2020



(Agreed by email – 31/07/20)

Printed Name Len Duvall AM

Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Notes:

1. The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

Background and proposed next steps:

At its Annual Meeting on 15 May 2020, the Assembly resolved:

"That, in relation to urgent matters only, a general delegation of authority in respect of the Assembly's powers and functions (apart from those that cannot under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 be delegated) be given to the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman of that Committee, party Group Leaders, Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM and any relevant committee Chair(s), from the close of the meeting until 31 August 2020."

Further to consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Assembly, the Deputy Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee, party Group Leaders and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, approval is sought to send the letter attached at Appendix 1 to the Mayor detailing the London Assembly's initial submission to the consultation exercise on the proposed relocation of City Hall to The Crystal.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision

Signed by Committee Services

Date 03/08/2020



Print Name: Davena Toyinbo

Tel: 07521 266519

Financial implications NOT REQUIRED

NOTE: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signed by Finance N/A Date

Print Name N/A Tel:

Legal implications

The Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal



Date 03/08/2020

Print Name

Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Tel: X 4399

Supporting detail/List of Consultees:

Chair and Deputy Chairman of the London Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee, party Group Leaders and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Public Access to Information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 – Deferral**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO**

Until what date: N/A

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form - NO

Lead Officer/Author

Signed

R.Arnold

Date: 03/08/20
(via email)

Print Name

Rebecca Arnold

Tel: X 4421

Job Title

Countersigned by
Assistant Director on
behalf of Executive
Director



Date: 03/08/20

Print Name

PP Rebecca Arnold

Tel: X4399

Chair of the London Assembly



Navin Shah AM
Member for Brent and Harrow

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The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA
Telephone: 020 7983 4000
Web: www.london.gov.uk

31 July 2020

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Sent by email

Dear Sadiq,

Consultation on the proposed relocation of City Hall to The Crystal

This letter comprises an initial submission by the London Assembly in response to your consultation exercise on the proposed relocation of City Hall to The Crystal.

This is not the full Assembly response. Our full response will be provided by the end of the extended deadline, subject to the response we receive to this initial submission.

We are grateful for the extension to the deadline for our response although I have to say that Members were surprised that not everyone was afforded this additional time. That does not seem proper or fair to us, given that a lot of important information, including the results of staff surveys, is not yet available.

I should emphasise also that this submission is based on a strong consensus across all party groups on the London Assembly.

The London Assembly fully understands the scale of the financial challenges facing London and London government. We will play a full part in finding solutions to these problems.

As such, and noting the Chief Officer's stated commitment to looking at alternatives, I write to ask you immediately to work with the Assembly in commissioning and undertaking an assessment of the option of locating the London Assembly and Secretariat on the first floor of the LFC's Union Street headquarters (at 169 Union Street, Southwark).

We are dismayed that no other options than the move to Crystal have been put forward to date for our consideration, when clearly there are a number that exist that may offer cost-effective and viable alternatives. On behalf of the Assembly, I wish to register serious concern that the fact that an entire floor of an existing building within the GLA Group is apparently available for a new tenant was not included as an option with your consultation proposals. This appears to be an extraordinary omission. Had this option been made known to you and your team, for example through the Collaboration Board's work on estates? If it was known that this option existed, we will obviously be asking further questions.

Either way, Union Street is a building already leased and used by the GLA Group, it has meeting room facilities (and indeed it was used for many years for formal meetings of LFEPA), it is close to Palestra, close to major transport hubs and is centrally located. If the length of its lease or the cost of its space were prohibitive issues, then continued use of its space by the GLA would presumably have been ended as part of the current proposals to make savings through changes to the GLA's accommodation. As leaving Union Street is not proposed, we must assume that it is a viable option.

The Assembly, through its Executive Director, expects to be fully involved in urgent work to assess the potential use of the first floor of the Union Street building by the London Assembly and its Secretariat from late 2021 onwards. We also expect to then be able to review the detailed assessment of the Union Street option.

We request that an initial assessment is provided well before Friday 14 August, in order that it can inform our full response to the consultation.

Please be advised that we are in the process of considering other alternative proposals. This is because there are serious concerns within the Assembly regarding the viability of the proposal for use of The Crystal for its operations.

We understand the pressures of time arising from the presentation of alternative options, and we are bringing forward the option of using the first floor at Union Street now in order not to cause unnecessary delay. However, it appears to be the case that proper engagement with the London Assembly on the issue of its own accommodation before now would have elicited a range of potential options earlier. This would have avoided any issues that may now arise as a direct result of not working in partnership with us from the start.

Finally, we would also like a full update on progress in the discussions with the landlord of City Hall, St Martins, well before Friday 14 August.

We further request that:

- (a) the option of continued use by the London Assembly of the Chamber and meeting rooms at City Hall following any exit by the GLA from the building is put forward immediately, as part of those discussions, with a view to establishing whether that is a possibility, regardless of where the Assembly's office space is then located; and
- (b) the Landlord is asked to confirm the charges they would levy, including details of any months where rent would not be charged and any changes to the current fees and charges, for the continued use of City Hall by the GLA for the period January 2022-December 2026.

Update on these two matters should be included within the progress update given latest by 14 August, as requested above.

Yours sincerely



Navin Shah AM
Chair of the London Assembly