

MDA No.	1	2	6	6
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Title: Universal Basic Income (UBI)

Executive Summary

On 20 January 2021, the Economy Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree letters to the Government and London Councils seeking additional information to contribute to the Committee's investigation on UBI.

Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed to send letters requesting additional information from:

- London Councils, as attached at **Appendix 1**;
- HM Treasury, as attached at **Appendix 2**;
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), as attached at **Appendix 3**.

Also in consultation with Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed to write to the Leaders of the London boroughs of Islington and Richmond upon Thames, a copy of each is attached at **Appendices 4 and 5** respectively.

The letters will be reported back to the next appropriate meeting of the Committee for formal noting.

Decision

That the Chair, in consultation with the party Group Lead Members, agrees the Committee's letters to London Councils, HM Treasury, DWP and Leaders of the London boroughs of Islington and Richmond upon Thames, as attached at **Appendices 1-5** respectively.

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 24/02/2021

Printed Name

Léonie Cooper AM, Chair of the Economy Committee

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:

On 20 January 2021, the Economy Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree letters to the Government and London Councils seeking additional information to contribute to the Committee's investigation on UBI.

Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed to send letters requesting additional information from:

- London Councils, as attached at **Appendix 1**;
- HM Treasury, as attached at **Appendix 2**;
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), as attached at **Appendix 3**.

Also in consultation with Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed to write to the Leaders of the London boroughs of Islington and Richmond upon Thames, a copy of each is attached at **Appendices 4 and 5** respectively.

The letters will be reported back to the next appropriate meeting of the Committee for formal noting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision

Signed by Committee Services	L J Harvey	Date	16/02/2021
Print Name: Lauren Harvey		Tel:	x4383

Financial implications

NOT REQUIRED

Signed by Finance	N/A	Date
Print Name	N/A	Tel:

Legal implications

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

Signed by Legal



Date 22/02/2021

Print Name

Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Tel: X 4399

Additional information should be provided supported by background papers. These could include for example the business case, a project report or the results of procurement evaluation.

Supporting detail/List of Consultees:

Shaun Bailey AM (Deputy Chairman) and Caroline Russell 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 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

Dan Tattersall

Date:
22/02/2021

Print Name

Dan Tattersall

Tel: x1328

Job Title

Senior Policy Adviser

Countersigned by
Director

E. Williams

Date:
23.02.2021

Print Name

.....
Ed Williams

Tel: x4399

LONDON ASSEMBLY

City Hall

The Queen's Walk

More London

London SE1 2AA

Tel: 020 7983 4000

www.london.gov.uk



Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee

Cllr Georgia Gould
Chair of London Councils
(Sent by email)

19 February 2021

Dear Cllr Gould,

The London Assembly Economy Committee is exploring the potential role for Universal Basic Income (UBI) in London's economic recovery from COVID-19. This follows a motion being brought to the full Assembly in November and referred to the Economy Committee for in-depth consideration. The motion asks the Assembly to call on the Mayor to write to the Government calling for a fully evaluated basic income in the city, and for him to work with local authorities to help test UBI in London. The Committee has not yet voted on this motion, and is gathering further information before making that decision.

Our Committee is interested to examine the viability of calling for a pilot in London and the support that would need to be extended by relevant bodies for a pilot to be carried out. To that end, I would be very grateful if you were able to outline London Councils' willingness or unwillingness to support a pilot in London. We are aware, through correspondence with London Councils in January this year, that you do not have an organisational position on UBI and whether it offers an alternative to current welfare arrangements. However, in the exceptional circumstance of a post-pandemic recovery, we would like to know London Councils' views on UBI pilots, and whether you would be interested in supporting a pilot in order to gain a deeper understanding of the impact and feasibility of UBI. We would also be interested to hear any concerns you would have with supporting a pilot. Specifically, the Committee would be interested in knowing the answer to the following questions:

- Is London Councils supportive of UBI pilots to gather further information about the viability and effect of UBI?

- To what extent would you, as an organisation, be willing to be involved in providing support for the running and monitoring of a pilot in a London borough, if one was to take place?
- What concerns would you, as an organisation, have about supporting a UBI pilot in London?
- We know that a UBI pilot would require support from Government – primarily the Treasury for financial support and the Department for Work and Pensions to make temporary amendments to welfare arrangements. Would you anticipate any further support being required from additional sources to assist with the effective running of a pilot?
- Is carrying out a pilot feasible at the current time, given the effect of the pandemic on a wide range of organisations and services, including local authorities?

I would be grateful to receive a response to our findings and recommendations by 26 February 2021. Please send your response by email to the Committee's clerk Lauren Harvey (Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leonie Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee

City Hall

The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA
Tel: 020 7983 4000
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LONDON ASSEMBLY



Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
(Sent by email)

19 February 2021

Dear Minister,

The London Assembly Economy Committee is exploring the potential role for Universal Basic Income (UBI) in London's economic recovery from COVID-19. This follows a motion being brought to the full Assembly in November and referred to the Economy Committee for in-depth consideration. The motion asks the Assembly to call on the Mayor to write to the Government calling for a fully evaluated basic income in the city, and for him to work with local authorities to help test UBI in London. The Committee has not yet voted on this motion, and is gathering further information before making that decision.

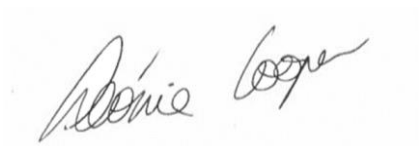
Our Committee is interested to examine the viability of calling for a pilot in London and the support that would need to be extended by relevant bodies for a pilot to be carried out. To that end we would be interested to understand the Treasury's position in supporting a UBI pilot. We are aware, from a recent debate in the House of Commons,¹ that the Treasury's current position is that UBI would not constitute an improvement to current welfare arrangements. However, in the exceptional circumstance of a post-pandemic recovery, the Economy Committee would be interested to learn whether there is appetite within your department to support a pilot in conjunction with a London borough so as to gain a deeper understanding of the impact and feasibility of UBI.

Would the Treasury be willing to provide the financial support required to assist a London borough council in order to run an effective UBI pilot? If not, why not?

¹ [Universal Basic Income](#), Volume 685: debated on Tuesday 1 December 2020

I would be grateful to receive a response to our findings and recommendations by 26 February 2021.
Please send your response by email to the Committee's clerk Lauren Harvey
(Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leonie Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'C'.

Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee

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LONDON ASSEMBLY



Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee

Will Quince MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Work and Pensions)
(Sent by email)

19 February 2021

Dear Minister,

The London Assembly Economy Committee is exploring the potential role for Universal Basic Income (UBI) in London's economic recovery from COVID-19. This follows a motion being brought to the full Assembly in November and referred to the Economy Committee for in-depth consideration. The motion asks the Assembly to call on the Mayor to write to the Government calling for a fully evaluated basic income in the city, and for him to work with local authorities to help test UBI in London. The Committee has not yet voted on this motion, and is gathering further information before making that decision.

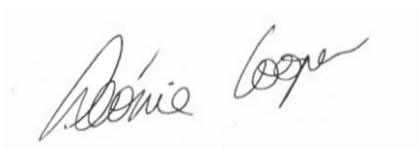
Our Committee is interested to examine the viability of calling for a pilot in London and the support that would need to be extended by relevant bodies for a pilot to be carried out. To that end we would be interested to understand the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) current position in supporting a UBI pilot. We are aware, from your contributions in the House of Commons¹ that the DWP's view is that UBI would not constitute an improvement to current welfare arrangements. However, in the exceptional circumstances of a post-pandemic recovery, the Economy Committee would be interested to learn whether there is any appetite within your department to support a UBI pilot in conjunction with a London borough so as to gain a deeper understanding of impact and feasibility of UBI.

¹ [Universal Basic Income](#), Volume 682: debated on Tuesday 13 October 2020

Would the DWP be willing to make the temporary amendments to the welfare system in a specific locality that would be required for an effective UBI pilot to be implemented? If not, why not?

I would be grateful to receive a response to our findings and recommendations by 26 February 2021. Please send your response by email to the Committee's clerk Lauren Harvey (Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

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Chair of the Economy Committee

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LONDON ASSEMBLY



Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee

Cllr Richard Watts
Council Leader of Islington London Borough Council
(Sent by email)

19 February 2021

Dear Cllr Watts,

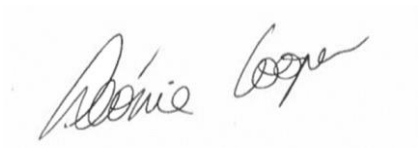
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Our Committee is interested to examine the viability of calling for a pilot in London and the support that would need to be extended by relevant bodies for a pilot to be carried out. The Committee is aware that, in December 2020, Islington Council passed a motion calling on the Government to support a trial of UBI in your borough.

In order to help the Committee understand in greater detail the Government's position in supporting UBI trials in London, we would be very grateful if you were able to provide to us any subsequent correspondence your council has had with the Government on this motion.

I would be grateful to receive a response to our findings and recommendations by 26 February 2021. Please send your response by email to the Committee's clerk Lauren Harvey (Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

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Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee

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www.london.gov.uk**Leonie Cooper AM**
Chair of the Economy Committee

Cllr Gareth Roberts
Council Leader of London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
(Sent by email)

19 February 2021

Dear Cllr Roberts,

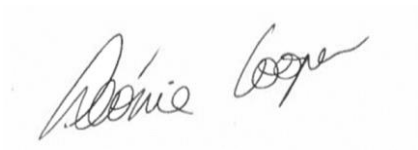
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Our Committee is interested to examine the viability of calling for a pilot in London and the support that would need to be extended by relevant bodies for a pilot to be carried out. The Committee is aware that, in January 2021, Richmond Council passed a motion calling on the Government to support a trial of UBI in your borough.

In order to help the Committee understand in greater detail the Government's position in supporting UBI trials in London, we would be very grateful if you were able to provide to us any subsequent correspondence your council has had with the Government on this motion.

I would be grateful to receive a response to our findings and recommendations by 26 February 2021. Please send your response by email to the Committee's clerk Lauren Harvey (Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

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Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee