

MDA No.: 1344

Title: Confirmation Hearing for the office of Chair of OPDC

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the Assembly's Standing Orders and the provisions of Schedule 4A to the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Chair of the Assembly has delegated authority to: (i) decide whether to hold a confirmation hearing for the Mayor's candidate for appointment to the office listed in Section 60A(3) of the Act; and (ii) to request that the Mayor's candidate for appointment produce, under paragraph 6(4) of Schedule 4A of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), documents that relate to his or her proposed appointment.
- 1.2 The Chair of the London Assembly received a letter from the Mayor on 13 October 2021 indicating his intention to appoint Liz Peace CBE to the office of Chair of Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC). A copy of the letter from the Mayor is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.3 Following receipt of the letter and informal consultation with party Group Leaders, the Chair of the London Assembly has decided to hold a confirmation hearing in relation to this proposed appointment to the office of Chair of OPDC, and to ask the candidate to provide a CV and supporting statement. Copies of the Chair's letters to the Mayor and Liz Peace CBE are attached at **Appendices 2 and 3**.

2. Decision

- 3.1 **That the Chair of the London Assembly agreed to:**
 - (a) **Hold a confirmation hearing in relation to the Mayor's proposed appointment of Liz Peace CBE to the office of Chair of OPDC; and**
 - (b) **Ask the candidate to provide a CV and supporting statement.**

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:



Printed Name: **Andrew Boff AM, Chair of the London Assembly**

Date: **21/10/21**

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The exercise of delegated authority agreeing to hold a confirmation hearing in respect of the proposed appointment of Liz Peace CBE as Chair of OPDC will be formally noted at the London Assembly's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): L. Harvey

Printed Name: Lauren Harvey, Senior Committee Officer

Date: 20/10/2021

Telephone Number: 020 7983 4383

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

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

Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name:

Date:

Telephone Number:

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the London Assembly has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal):



Printed Name: Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer pp Rebecca Arnold, Assistant Director, Committee & Member Services

Date: 20/10/2021

Telephone Number: 020 7983 4421

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Léonie Cooper AM, Deputy Leader of Labour Group
- Susan Hall AM, Leader of GLA Conservatives Group
- Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Leader of London Assembly Liberal Democrat Group
- Caroline Russell AM, Leader of City Hall Greens Group

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 **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

If yes, until what date:

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

Signature: L. Harvey

Printed Name: Lauren Harvey

Job Title: Senior Committee Officer

Date: 20/10/2021

Telephone Number: 020 7983 4383

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: *Joanna Davidson*

Printed Name: Joanna Davidson, Interim Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 21/10/2021

Telephone Number: 07813 796175

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly

Andrew.Boff@london.gov.uk

Date: 13 October 2021

Dear Andrew,

Reappointment – Chair of Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

I write to give notice to the London Assembly of my intention to reappoint Liz Peace CBE as Chair of OPDC, when her current term ends on 30 November 2021.

I propose to reappoint Liz Peace up to November 2024 to ensure first and foremost that OPDC benefits from continuity of leadership. Liz has been the Chair of the Board since 2017, during which time she has steered the organisation through some difficult challenges. The corporation is now at a critical juncture, with a revised regeneration strategy and Local Plan modifications due to be considered by the Planning Inspector in the coming weeks, and engagement with government over land and funding reaching a key stage shortly. A change in leadership at this point would risk destabilising these critical engagements. Liz has also established an excellent working relationship with David Lunts and his senior team, which I am keen should not be disrupted.

Liz has first-class networks across government, industry, OPDC's local boroughs and other stakeholders, following a long and very successful career in the civil service, property and regeneration, including 13 years as Chief Executive of the British Property Federation. Her profile, senior contacts and influence are an important asset for OPDC and a change of leadership at this point would undermine the confidence of the project with external partners and influencers.

It is clear that Liz enjoys the confidence of her Board members and has proved a highly effective and facilitative chair, with a strong working relationship with me and my team, as well as a wide range of external stakeholders.

Finally, there is more work to do to achieve greater diversity across senior positions in the property and planning sectors. For too long, it has been male-dominated and far from representative of our city. Liz is committed to ensuring that this should change, and be an exemplar for other women, a role she has taken to heart as a mentor and sponsor on my 'OurTime' programme.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I hereby give the required 21 days' notice from receipt of this letter for the Assembly to consider my proposed reappointment and convene a meeting of the Confirmation Hearings Committee to make a recommendation about it if appropriate. Liz's correspondence address is Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, 1st floor, Brent Civic Centre, 32 Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ and her email address is [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small number '2' written below the name.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

City Hall

The Queen's Walk

More London

London SE1 2AA

Tel: 020 7983 4000

www.london.gov.uk

LONDON ASSEMBLY



Andrew Boff AM
Chair of the London Assembly

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

22 October 2021

Dear Mr Mayor,

Proposed Appointment to the Office of Chair of OPDC

Thank you for your letter dated 13 October 2021, in which you advised of your proposed appointment of Liz Peace CBE to the office of Chair of Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation.

I write formally to confirm that I have decided to hold a Confirmation Hearing in respect of the proposed appointment. The Confirmation Hearings Committee will meet on Monday, 1 November 2021, at 10.00am in the Chamber, City Hall. Your letter will be included in the agenda papers for the meeting.

As you know, in advance of the Hearing the Assembly requests that you provide an up-to-date summary of the role and responsibilities of the relevant office, together with a summary of key issues and priorities for the relevant organisation.

A notice in relation to the meeting has been sent to the nominee in accordance with Schedule 4A of the GLA Act 1999.

The Committee's recommendation regarding this appointment will be sent to you following the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff', written over a light grey background.

Andrew Boff AM
Chair of the London Assembly

LONDON ASSEMBLY

City Hall

The Queen's Walk

More London

London SE1 2AA

Tel: 020 7983 4000

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Andrew Boff AM
Chair of the London Assembly

Liz Peace CBE

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

1st Floor, Brent Civic Centre

32 Engineers Way

Wembley

HA9 0FJ

22 October 2021

Dear Liz,

Confirmation Hearings Committee – 1 November 2021, 10am, City Hall

Further to the Mayor's notification to the Assembly of his proposal to appoint you to the office of Chair of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, I am writing to advise that, in accordance with Schedule 4A of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), I have determined that the London Assembly will hold a Confirmation Hearing in relation to your proposed appointment.

It is requested, therefore, that you attend a meeting of the Confirmation Hearings Committee on Monday, 1 November 2021. The meeting will take place in the Chamber at City Hall and will be held in public. The meeting will begin at 10.00am. The hearing will last no longer than two hours.

The Authority's Head of Paid Service has issued a statutory notice to you in relation to this meeting (please see attached). I have also enclosed, for your information, a copy of the Mayor's letter to me.

I am also writing to request that you provide to the Committee in advance of the meeting a CV with any relevant details. In advance of the meeting you may also wish to provide a supporting statement or any other details which may be of interest to the Committee in relation to your appointment to this office. Please note that information provided will be made public. (Information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 is only exempt from publication if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.)

Questions and supplementary questions to you will relate to the following areas:

- whether the candidate is qualified for the position;
- whether the candidate has the time and capacity for the position;
- whether the candidate is fit (independent and impartial) for the position; and
- key responsibilities and issues for Transport for London for the future.

Please also note that, at the agenda's standing item *Declarations of Interests*, the Chair may invite you to declare any relevant interests in terms of the business of the meeting and regarding the (proposed) appointment.

If there is anything else in relation to this session that you wish to discuss, please contact Lauren Harvey, Senior Committee Officer, by telephone on 020 7983 4383 or by email: lauren.harvey@london.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Boff AM
Chair of the London Assembly

**SCHEDULE 4A TO THE GLA ACT 1999
CONFIRMATION HEARINGS**

**NOTICE REQUESTING ATTENDANCE AT PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LONDON ASSEMBLY'S CONFIRMATION HEARINGS COMMITTEE**

To: Liz Peace CBE
Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)
1st Floor
Brent Civic Centre
32 Engineers Way
Wembley
HA9 0FJ

1. The Confirmation Hearings Committee is an opportunity for Assembly Members to put questions to you, Liz Peace CBE, on the Mayor's proposal to appoint you to the office of Chair of OPDC.
2. You are requested to attend a meeting of the Confirmation Hearings Committee for the purposes of giving evidence on the matters described in paragraph 1 above on the time, date and location set out in paragraph 3 below.
3. The meeting of the Confirmation Hearings Committee which you are requested to attend to give evidence will be held –
 - On Monday 1 November 2021
 - Commencing at 10.00am
 - In the Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA
4. The attached covering letter from the Chair of the Assembly requests that you provide a CV, a supporting statement if you would wish and any other information that the Committee would be interested in in relation to your appointment to this office. This request is made under paragraph 6(4) of Schedule 4A of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended).

Signed: 

Mary Harpley
Head of Paid Service
Greater London Authority

Dated: 21/10/2021