

# MINUTES

**Meeting: Economy Committee**  
**Date: Tuesday 2 March 2021**  
**Time: 10.00 am**  
**Place: Virtual Meeting**

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

[www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/economy](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/economy)

**Present:**

Léonie Cooper AM (Chair)  
Shaun Bailey AM (Deputy Chairman)  
Unmesh Desai AM  
Susan Hall AM  
Murad Qureshi AM  
Caroline Russell AM

*Observer*

Siân Berry AM

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

- 1.1 The Chair explained that, in accordance with Standing Order 8.2, Siân Berry AM had been invited to attend the meeting as an observer and participate in the discussion with invited guests at Item 7.
- 1.2 In accordance with Government regulations, the meeting was being held on a virtual basis, with Assembly Members and guests participating remotely.
- 1.3 Before continuing with formal business of the Committee, the Chair extended thanks to Susan Hall AM and Caroline Russell AM who had also chaired the Economy Committee during the 2016-2021 term. The Chair also thanked Shaun Bailey AM for his work as Deputy Chairman of the Committee in the 2020/21 Assembly year, and Daniel Tattersall, Senior Policy Adviser, and team for supporting the Committee's work.

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- 1.4 Caroline Russell AM thanked Léonie Cooper AM for sitting as Chair of the Economy Committee for two years, and recognised the importance of the Committee's work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fiona Twycross, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience and former Assembly Member, was also thanked for chairing the Committee during the first year of the term.
- 1.5 The Clerk read a roll-call of Assembly Members who were participating. No apologies for absence were received.

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

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

2.2 **Resolved:**

**That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.**

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

3.1 **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

## **4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)**

- 4.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

4.2 **Resolved:**

**That the completed and outstanding actions arising from previous meetings of the Committee be noted.**

## **5 Action Taken Under Delegated Authority (Item 5)**

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

5.2 **Resolved:**

**That the recent action taken by the Chair of the Economy Committee under delegated authority, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, be noted, namely to agree:**

- (a) The Committee's letter to the Mayor as an output for the meeting on the changing nature of work after COVID-19, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report; and**
- (b) The Committee's letters to London Councils, the Government and London borough Leaders requesting additional information on Universal Basic Income, as attached at Appendices 2-6 of the report.**

## **6 Mayor's Responses to Committee Outputs (Item 6)**

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

6.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the response from the Mayor to its report, *Low pay and in-work poverty*, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted; and**
- (b) That the response from the Mayor to its report, *Has the Golden Goose become a Turkey? London's Christmas economy and COVID-19*, as attached at Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.**

## **7 Referred Motion and Universal Basic Income (Item 7)**

7.1 Following the Committee's meeting on 20 January 2021, the Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to the referred motion and discussion with the following invited guests:

- Simon Duffy, Director, Centre for Welfare Reform; and
- Alfie Stirling, Director of Research and Chief Economist, New Economics Foundation.

7.2 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 1**.

7.3 At the conclusion of the discussion, the following motion, which had been referred to the Committee by the London Assembly on 5 November 2020 under Standing Order 3.13, was put to a vote:

**“This Assembly notes that:**

- **Financial security is critical to a stable and thriving society.**
- **According to Trust for London close to a third of Londoners live in poverty, even before the coronavirus crisis our city had the highest poverty rates in the UK.**
- **A Universal Basic Income (UBI) could help alleviate poverty, opening the door to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach, and liberate people from the anxiety of job insecurity through a monthly income regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status.**
- **The existence of a UBI must be in addition to targeted welfare payments to those who have additional needs - such as for housing, for single parents, or for expenses incurred due to disabilities.**
- **A network of UBI Labs have been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus.**
- **There are many potential benefits to a UBI including:**
  - **More flexible workforce and greater freedom to change jobs;**
  - **Supporting a caring economy to value unpaid work;**
  - **Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality; and**
  - **Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy**
- **The current crisis has increased the risk of poverty for many Londoners. This is the right time to trial Universal Basic Income.**
- **520 elected representatives from every part of the UK have recently written to the Chancellor asking him to support pilots of Universal Basic Income in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.**

**This Assembly calls on the Mayor to:**

- **Write to the government calling for a fully evaluated basic income pilot in the city; and**
- **Work with local authorities to help test UBI in London.”**

- 7.4 With 3 votes being cast in favour and 2 votes being cast against, the motion was carried.
- 7.5 The outcome of the Committee's consideration of the motion would be reported to the next appropriate meeting of the London Assembly.

7.6 **Resolved:**

**That the report and subsequent discussion be noted.**

## **8 Review of the Mayoral Term (Item 8)**

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to putting questions to the following invited guests:
- Rajesh Agrawal, Deputy Mayor for Business;
  - Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement;
  - Justine Simons OBE, Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries;
  - Jules Pipe CBE, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills; and
  - Michelle Cuomo-Boorer, Assistant Director for Skills and Employment, Greater London Authority (GLA).
- 8.2 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 8.3 During the course of the discussion, the Deputy Mayor for Business agreed to provide the Committee with:
- The number of times the Business Advisory Board met during the 2020/21 year;
  - The amount of money that had gone through the London Economic Action Partnership to help small and medium-sized enterprises;
  - Examples of the assistance and help that had been provided to businesses;
  - Further information on how businesses in the Paddington and W2 area of the central activities zone (CAZ) were being supported;
  - The date that the final CAZ economic recovery report was due to be published;
  - A copy of the short-term Recovery Roadmap, published by the COVID Business Forum; and
  - A sector breakdown of the employers signed up to the Good Work Standard.

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- 8.4 The Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries agreed to provide the Committee with:
- An update on the Night Time Data Observatory, which had not been updated since 2017; and
  - Further information on how the GLA had worked with employers to improve the number of night-time economy workers who were paid the London Living Wage.

8.5 The Assistant Director for Skills and Employment, GLA, agreed to update the Committee on whether the Greener Jobs Alliance had been involved in the GLA's work on skills needed for a low-carbon, circular economy.

8.6 **Resolved:**

**(a) That the report and subsequent discussion be noted; and**

**(b) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the meeting.**

## **9 Date of Next Meeting (Item 9)**

9.1 The London Assembly's Annual Meeting, due to take place on 14 May 2021, would decide which committees to establish for the 2021/22 Assembly year and a timetable of meetings for those committees.

## **10 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 10)**

10.1 There were no items of business that the Chair considered to be urgent.

## **11 Close of Meeting**

11.1 The meeting ended at 12.58pm.

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Chair

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Date

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