

MINUTES

Meeting: Housing Committee

Date: Tuesday 20 July 2021

Time: 10.00 am

**Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk,
London, SE1 2AA**

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Present:

Siân Berry AM (Chair)

Tony Devenish AM (Deputy Chairman)

Elly Baker AM

Andrew Boff AM

Anne Clarke AM

Léonie Cooper AM

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

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks to the previous Chair of the Committee, former Assembly Member Murad Qureshi, and to all past members of the Committee.
- 1.2 The Chair highlighted the joint work of the Housing Committee and the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee on building safety, as reflected in the agenda papers.
- 1.3 The Chair noted the reply from Eddie Hughes MP, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing, to the Committee's recent letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local government in regards to bringing forward the abolishment of section 21 evictions. This letter would come to the next meeting of the Committee for formal noting.
- 1.4 Today's business would be about one of the most important issues facing London, how cities will tackle the climate emergency. With London's homes responsible for one third of our greenhouse gasses, the Chair explained it was important for the Housing Committee to consider how housing providers and the housing industry could tackle this issue.
- 1.5 Apologies for absence were received from Sem Moema AM, for whom Anne Clarke AM attended as a substitute.

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2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

- 2.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 2.2 Siân Berry AM and Anne Clarke AM drew attention to their interests in the report as Members of the London Borough of Camden in respect of agenda item 9, and in the context of the invited guest from that Borough, although this did not preclude them from participating in the discussion.

2.3 **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 Membership of the Committee (Item 3)

3.1 **Resolved:**

That the membership and chairing arrangements for the Housing Committee, as agreed by the London Assembly at its Annual Meeting on 14 May 2021, be noted:

Siân Berry AM (Chair)

Tony Devenish AM (Deputy Chairman)

Elly Baker AM

Andrew Boff AM

Léonie Cooper AM

Sem Moema AM

4 Terms of Reference (Item 4)

4.1 **Resolved:**

That the Committee's terms of reference, as agreed by the London Assembly at its Annual Meeting on 14 May 2021, be noted:

To examine and report on matters relating to housing in London and to lead on scrutiny of the Mayor's Housing Strategy.

Lead responsibility for scrutiny of:

Homes for Londoners Board; GLA Land and Property Company; Homes for Londoners Board (HfL); Barking Riverside Limited; Greenwich Peninsula Strategic Board.

5 Standing Delegations (Item 5)

5.1 Resolved:

That the following standing delegations to the Chair of the Committee be noted:

- (a) At its Annual Meeting on 1 May 2013, the Assembly agreed to delegate a general authority to Chairs of all ordinary committees and sub-committees to respond on the relevant committee or sub-committee's behalf, following consultation with the lead Members of the party Groups on the committee or sub-committee, where it is consulted on issues by organisations and there is insufficient time to consider the consultation at a committee meeting.**
- (b) At the Plenary Meeting on 6 June 2019, the Assembly agreed to delegate authority to Chairs of ordinary committees, sub-committees and working groups to agree, in consultation with the relevant party Group Lead Members and Deputy Chairs:**
 - (i) The detailed terms of reference for any investigation to be undertaken by the relevant committee, sub-committee or working group within its work programme as agreed by the GLA Oversight Committee, and any related project plans and arrangements for related site visits or informal meetings; and**
 - (ii) The topic and scope for any additional projects to be added to its work programme, where it is not practicable to secure prior approval from the GLA Oversight Committee and subject also to subsequent ratification by the GLA Oversight Committee.**

6 Minutes (Item 6)

6.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2021 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

7 Summary List of Actions (Item 7)

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

7.2 Resolved:

That the completed, outstanding and closed actions arising from previous meetings of the Committee, and the additional correspondence sent and received, be noted.

8 Mayor's Response to *5 Steps to Build on 'Everyone In' in London* Report (Item 8)

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

8.2 **Resolved:**

That the response from the Mayor of London to the Housing Committee's *5 Steps to Build on 'Everyone In' in London* report be noted.

9 Decarbonising London's Homes: The Challenge of Retrofitting (Item 9)

9.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to putting questions on decarbonising London's Homes and the challenge of retrofitting to the following invited guests:

- Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy;
- James Hardy, Head of Energy, Greater London Authority (GLA);
- Councillor Adam Harrison, Cabinet member for a sustainable Camden, London Borough of Camden;
- Susan French, Chief Executive of Barnsbury Housing Association and Vice Chair of the g320; and
- Bradley Tully, Senior Public Affairs Officer, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

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

9.3 During the course of the discussion, the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy agreed to provide the following additional information:

- Details of the current retrofitting programmes planned for the current Mayoral term and an assessment of the total number of homes within the programmes to be retrofitted;
- Details of how the figures for the Innovation Partnership of a £10 billion market and 150,000 jobs were derived;
- Whether any funding for retrofitting could be sought from within the unallocated grant from the Affordable Homes Programme; and
- An update on the progress made against the Retrofit Accelerator aims.

9.4 The Chief Executive of Barnsbury Housing Association and Vice Chair of the g320 agreed to provide more detail on the 20 steps required to apply for the Green Homes grants.

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9.5 The Senior Public Affairs Officer, RICS agreed to provide:

- More details on the potential impact of rent control measures on the ability of private landlords to fund retrofitting;
- A rough estimate from RICS in regards to the skills gap, training and number of jobs required to be created; and
- The RICS Low Carbon Consumer Guide and further information about RICS guidance in terms of planning decisions and rules for retrofitting in conservation areas.

9.6 **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 discussion.**

10 Housing Committee Work Programme (Item 10)

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

10.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the work programme and additional activity undertaken since its last meeting, namely the informal briefing with the Women Leaving Prison initiative and the Committee's survey on housing during the pandemic, be noted; and**
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree the Affordable Housing Monitor for publication.**

11 Date of Next Meeting (Item 11)

11.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, 19 October 2021 at 10.00 am in the Chamber, City Hall.

12 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 12)

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

13 Close of Meeting

13.1 The meeting ended at 12.07 pm.

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Chair

Date

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