

MINUTES

Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)

Date: Thursday 17 November 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

Place: Chamber, City Hall,
Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/whole-assembly

Present:

Dr Onkar Sahota AM (Chair)

Andrew Boff AM (Deputy Chair)

Marina Ahmad AM

Shaun Bailey AM

Elly Baker AM

Siân Berry AM

Emma Best AM

Hina Bokhari AM

Anne Clarke AM

Unmesh Desai AM

Tony Devenish AM

Len Duvall AM

Peter Fortune AM

Neil Garratt AM

Susan Hall AM

Krupesh Hirani AM

Joanne McCartney AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Keith Prince AM

Caroline Russell AM

Sem Moema AM

Zack Polanski AM

Nick Rogers AM

Sakina Sheikh AM

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

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Léonie Cooper AM.

1.2 The Chair, on behalf of the Assembly, welcomed pupils from Cyril Jackson Primary School, Tower Hamlets who were observing the meeting from the public gallery.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Assembly 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 Question and Answer Session: Proposed Revision to the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy (Item 3)

Part A:

3.1 The Chair explained that the principal purpose of the meeting was for the Assembly formally to receive and, in accordance with Section 42B of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended), consider the Mayor's proposed revision to his Transport Strategy.

3.2 The Assembly received an oral statement from the Mayor and Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Transport, regarding the proposed revision to the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

3.3 A transcript of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's statement is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Part B:

3.4 The Chair invited the Chair of the London Assembly's Transport Committee, Siân Berry AM, to present the Committee's response to the Mayor's proposed revision to his Transport Strategy, advising that the Transport Committee had submitted a further response to the consultation on the proposals which had been circulated separately to the published agenda.

3.5 A transcript of the statement by the Chair of the London Assembly's Transport Committee is attached at **Appendix 2**.

Part C:

3.6 The Assembly then put questions to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Transport on the proposed revision to the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

3.7 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached at **Appendix 3**.

3.8 During the course of the discussion the Mayor undertook to:

- Write to the Government, jointly with the Transport Committee, regarding the potential to utilise revenues such as backdated Value Added Tax (VAT), noting the recent settlement between Uber and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC); and

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- Write to Assembly Members to confirm how issues with public transport in outer London will be addressed, noting the specific problems raised in relation to the frequent closure of Dagenham Heathway Station.

3.9 The Deputy Mayor for Transport agreed to:

- Share further detail around the data source which details that 75% of car journeys are unnecessary and could be undertaken by foot, cycle or a combined method; and
- Provide further information regarding ULEZ consultation responses which violated TfL's policy on workplace violence aggression and had been discounted.

3.10 During the course of the meeting, the Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to extend the meeting in order for the remaining items of business on the agenda to be considered.

3.11 The meeting adjourned at 4.29pm and reconvened at 4.42pm.

Part D:

3.12 At the start of the debate on the motion set out on the agenda, the Chair explained that, in accordance with Standing Order 4.2A and following informal discussions with Assembly party Groups, he had agreed to vary the time limits for speeches for the remainder of the meeting so that: the mover of each motion and amendment was permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes; the seconder of each motion and amendment was permitted to speak for up to 2 minutes; and any other Members contributing to the debate were permitted to speak for up to 2 minutes.

3.13 The Chair formally moved the motion on the agenda in his name, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the proposed revision to the Mayor’s Transport Strategy”

3.14 In accordance with Standing Order 2.7A, Nick Rogers AM requested that a recorded vote be taken for all amendments and the substantive motion.

3.15 Nick Rogers AM proposed, and Neil Garratt AM seconded, the following amendment to the motion in the name of the Chair, to add the wording set out in bold below and to delete the wording in strikethrough text:

“That the Assembly ~~notes the~~ **hereby resolves to reject the Mayor’s** proposed revision to the Mayor’s Transport Strategy.

That, whilst there are differing views within this Assembly on the merits of the proposed changes, this Assembly is not persuaded by the argument put forward by the Mayor’s office as to why information about the outcome of the public consultation has not been shared with the Assembly in advance of its consideration of the MTS proposal.

This Assembly urges the Mayor to recall that under Section 42b of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Assembly has statutory powers to reject revisions to Mayoral strategies.

This Assembly believes that transparency in decision making is always important, but in this instance the Assembly is not only conducting scrutiny but is exercising decision making powers.

This Assembly therefore asserts that it is reasonable that it would expect to have the best available information on the consultation responses in order to fulfil these responsibilities.

In the absence of this information, this Assembly rejects the revision and invites the Mayor to publish the report on the consultation responses before asking the Assembly to endorse his proposal.”

- 3.16 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM proposed, and Hina Bokhari AM seconded, the following amendment to the motion in the name of the Chair, to add the wording set out in bold below:

After “That the Assembly notes the proposed revision to the Mayor’s Transport Strategy” add:

“This Assembly believes that any expansion of ULEZ should be accompanied by a comprehensive scrappage scheme for small businesses, charities, low and lower-middle income households, and disabled people, and by a suitable transitional period to minimise the impact on them. This Assembly expresses its concern over the process by which this Strategy revision has been brought forward, in particular before the consultation responses are available, and believes that this must not set a precedent for future Strategies or amendments to Strategies.”

- 3.17 The Assembly then turned to debate the motion in the name of the Chair and the amendments proposed.
- 3.18 At 5.09pm the Deputy Chair, Andrew Boff AM assumed the Chair until 5.11pm, for the duration of the Chair, Dr Onkar Sahota AM’s participation in the debate.
- 3.19 At the conclusion of the debate and in accordance with Standing Order 2.7, a named vote was taken on the amendment in the name of Nick Rogers AM. The votes were cast as follows:
- For the amendment: Shaun Bailey AM, Emma Best AM, Tony Devenish AM, Peter Fortune AM, Neil Garratt AM, Susan Hall AM, Keith Prince AM, Nick Rogers AM, and Andrew Boff AM (Deputy Chair).
- Against the amendment: Marina Ahmad AM, Elly Baker AM, Siân Berry AM, Hina Bokhari AM, Anne Clarke AM, Unmesh Desai AM, Len Duvall AM, Krupesh Hirani AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Zack Polanski AM, Caroline Russell AM, Sakina Sheikh AM and Dr Onkar Sahota AM (Chair).

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With 9 votes being cast in favour and 14 votes being cast against, the amendment was not carried.

- 3.20 In accordance with Standing Order 2.7, a named vote was taken on the amendment in the name of Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM. The votes were cast as follows:

For the amendment: Hina Bokhari AM and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM.

Against the amendment: Marina Ahmad AM, Shaun Bailey AM, Elly Baker AM, Siân Berry AM, Emma Best AM, Anne Clarke AM, Unmesh Desai AM, Tony Devenish AM, Len Duvall AM, Peter Fortune AM, Neil Garratt AM, Susan Hall AM, Krupesh Hirani AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Zack Polanski AM, Keith Prince AM, Nick Rogers AM, Caroline Russell AM, Sakina Sheikh AM, Andrew Boff AM (Deputy Chair) and Dr Onkar Sahota AM (Chair).

With 2 votes being cast in favour and 21 votes being cast against, the amendment was not carried.

- 3.21 In accordance with Standing Order 2.7, a named vote was taken on the motion in the name of the Chair, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the proposed revision to the Mayor’s Transport Strategy”

The votes were cast as follows:

For the motion: Marina Ahmad AM, Elly Baker AM, Siân Berry AM, Hina Bokhari AM, Anne Clarke AM, Unmesh Desai AM, Len Duvall AM, Krupesh Hirani AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Zack Polanski AM, Caroline Russell AM, Sakina Sheikh AM and Dr Onkar Sahota (Chair).

Against the motion: Shaun Bailey AM, Emma Best AM, Tony Devenish AM, Peter Fortune AM, Neil Garratt AM, Susan Hall AM, Keith Prince AM, Nick Rogers AM, Andrew Boff AM (Deputy Chair).

With 14 votes being cast in favour and 9 votes being cast against, the motion was agreed.

- 3.22 It was explained that, under the provisions of Section 42B of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Assembly had not exercised its power to reject the revision to the Strategy. This concluded the Assembly’s consideration of the proposed revision.

4 Date of Next Meeting (Item 4)

- 4.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly was the Plenary meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Thursday 1 December 2022 in the Chamber, City Hall.

5 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 5)

5.1 There were no items of urgent business.

6 Close of Meeting

6.1 The meeting finished at 5.20pm.

Chair

Date

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