

Subject: London's Green Recovery from COVID-19

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 24 February 2021

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides background information for the Environment Committee meeting on London's green recovery from COVID-19. The meeting will explore the priorities for London's green recovery, the role of the London Environment Strategy and the steps the Deputy Mayor is taking to deliver the Green New Deal.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests and notes the subsequent discussion.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the meeting.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Environment Committee will undertake an investigation to understand the priorities for London's green recovery and progress to date on the Green New Deal. The meeting will explore the impact of COVID-19 on London's environment, the Mayor's progress to date in delivering the London Environment Strategy and specific environment initiatives since the pandemic, and the impact of the Green New Deal.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The investigation will explore what London's green recovery should look like by:
- Questioning key environmental stakeholders on what they expect the Mayor to prioritise and deliver with regard to his Green New Deal and specifically the £10 million investment already announced;

- Scrutinising the work to date on the Mayor's Green New Deal, including the timescales and expected impact of the Mayor's recent announcement of £10 million additional investment in energy efficiency, reduced emissions and green jobs; and
- Reviewing progress on the delivery of the Mayor's Environment Strategy at the end of this Mayoral terms, and asking what priorities are right for the future, using three areas as exemplars: (air pollution; cold and damp homes; access to green spaces).

- 4.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has raised the importance of environmental issues to Londoners. For example, the pandemic has resulted in a noticeable difference in air quality, as well as a greater appreciation of green spaces. This creates opportunities for policy makers to re-evaluate environmental policies and pursue them in a way that may not previously have been possible.
- 4.3 As part of London's recovery programme, the Mayor – through the work of the London Recovery Board – has established a Green New Deal Recovery Mission, which will be a key driver for future environmental work in the capital. It is not yet known exactly how the Mayor is ensuring that the governance and content of the recovery programme best enables the common goal of a green recovery.
- 4.4 As an initial step towards meeting the ambitious goal of doubling the size of London's green economy in less than a decade, the Mayor announced in November 2020 £10 million of new investment in green projects. However, there is currently limited information about the timescales and expected impacts of this work.
- 4.5 The Mayor's Environment Strategy, and its associated delivery plans, are a key driver for environmental work in the capital but it is unclear at this stage what role they will play in the Green New Deal Mission.
- 4.6 The meeting provides an opportunity to explore the role of the Strategy and its delivery plans in the context of the Green New Deal Mission.
- 4.7 The meeting will comprise of the following panels:

Panel One:

- Jeanne Capey, London Regional Director, Environment Agency;
- London Environment Directors' Network (TBC);
- Caterina Brandmayr, Head of Climate Policy, Green Alliance UK; and
- Green New Deal UK (TBC).

Panel Two:

- Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment, Greater London Authority (GLA);
- Elliot Treharne, Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Energy, GLA;
- Peter Daw, Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Energy, GLA; and
- Mayor Philip Glanville, Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee, London Councils.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None.
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