

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly
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Our ref: MGLA120723-1771

Date: 25 August 2023

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting on 6 July 2023 – Motions

Thank you for your letter setting out the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 6 July 2023. Further to my response to motions 2 and 6, please see my reply to motion 1 below.

Motion 1 – Action needed to avert complete climate disaster

First, I would also echo the call made by the UN Secretary General that so much more needs to be done on all levels and on all fronts. Action needs to start now if we are to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees and avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change; glimpses of which we are now starting to see on a regular basis across the world. This is also the message I am sending whenever I talk about the climate, the air quality and/or the biodiversity crises, and indeed the reason why I brought forward London's Net Zero target from 2050 to 2030.

Thank you also for recognising the importance of my Net Zero 2030 target, the London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and my climate budget in leading by example and setting London on the path to net zero. I intend to continue to do everything I can to meet our Net Zero by 2030 target whilst encouraging others to do the same. We all have a role to play, and I will continue to work with the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as individuals, to ensure that London continues to lead by example.

The Assembly calls on the Mayor to ensure his entire policy programme is consistent with the ambition of his 2030 Net Zero target.

- I recognise that my Net Zero target cannot be delivered by one team or directorate or addressed in one policy area, but that responsibility for net zero sits across my entire organisation and the policy programme that we develop and deliver. That is why I introduced the climate budget process that sets out the climate aspirations of not only the Greater London Authority (GLA) but the GLA Group as well, and with that comes a process of engagement across those organisations and their respective directorates, to understand their individual roles and responsibilities in achieving net zero.

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- I am now building on this momentum by developing a process that integrates climate considerations into the GLA decision-making process. I am piloting the approach this year across the various GLA directorates. This will help ensure that my policy programme will always consider climate change and my net zero target, as relevant, during its design and development.

We call on the Mayor to join this Assembly in lobbying central Government to ensure that the right framework is in place to enable a just transition to a sustainable economy, including making sure. London has enough funding and devolved power to facilitate a green transition, and getting businesses on board who can assist with making the transition a reality.

- I welcome your motion to lobby central government on enabling a just transition to a sustainable economy and I have been engaging with the Government through a range of channels on this very issue since becoming Mayor.
- I am continuing to ask the Government to devolve the powers and funding that I need to increase the pace and scale of the action I can take directly to reach net zero by 2030.
- I am currently working with Mayors from across the country to ask that the Government provides a funding settlement for the GLA and the other Combined Authorities like that agreed with West Midlands and Greater Manchester Combined Authorities.

We also call on the Mayor to urgently explore whether any further examples of good practice from other C40 Cities can be used in London, for example converting legacy district heating systems from fossil fuels, as has been done in Vancouver, or using procurement to promote Climate Positive industrial spaces, as has been done in Sydney."

As chair of the C40 Cities, I am working closely with my fellow cities to ensure that knowledge, expertise and a successful climate programme are identified and shared across the network in recognition of the benefit that this can bring to cities and our battle against the climate emergency.

- London is a member of numerous C40 Accelerators and Networks in which we are actively learning as well as sharing our expertise with other cities. The development of the predecessor to my Retrofit Accelerator programme – Workplaces, was initially informed by learnings from C40 city experiences in supporting the development of energy efficiency projects in the public estate, and my Business Climate Challenge was also informed in the pilot phase by learnings from New York City. We have also worked closely with Oslo in the Climate Budget Network to develop our climate budget approach in London.
- London's heat networks are exploring some exciting approaches and looking to make use of a range of recoverable waste heat sources as part of their contribution to decarbonising heat supply in London and helping us get to Net Zero by 2030. Examples of recoverable waste heat sources include data centres, sewage treatment works, the London Underground, rivers and aquifers, and the four locations that house London's Energy Recovery Facilities.
- As I continue to develop the programmes and projects that London needs to mitigate and adapt to climate change, I will encourage my officers to continue to search across the C40 Cities network for transferable climate programmes that can help us tackle the climate crisis.

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My response to the remaining motions 7 and 8 will follow.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London