

MAYOR OF LONDON

Date: 24 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

I am delighted to confirm your appointment as Chair of the Independent Review of London's Adaptation to Climate Change (the Review) Review. I attach an information brief on the Review and the draft Terms of Reference. Please sign, date and return a copy of this letter to [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk), Head of Climate Change, to confirm your acceptance of this appointment.

The UK Climate Change Committee's March 2023 report on progress in adapting to climate change has been unequivocal in its finding: the UK is not adequately prepared. London is experiencing this first hand – last year the city faced record breaking, 40°C weather, drought, wildfires and the busiest day for the London Fire Brigade since the blitz. The year before we saw devastating floods, leaving infrastructure damaged and people's homes destroyed. I am committed to ensuring that London adapts effectively to the climate risks it faces. My London Environment Strategy and London Plan already lead the way on this. However, more is needed – that is why I have commissioned this independent Review.

I want the Review to explore what is needed at national, regional and local levels to ensure all London stakeholders are clear on what they need to address to reduce climate impacts on people, infrastructure, the environment and the economy. The resulting output will not be a new strategy but will focus on actions that should be taken. The Review should provide recommendations which maximise the benefits for present and future Londoners, ensuring that London becomes a more prosperous, equal and thriving city through its adaptation. Social justice must be at the heart of climate change adaptation, to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable Londoners are met. Given the urgency of the challenge and the increasing impacts of climate change being seen in London, this will be a focused and time-bound Review to begin as soon as possible and aim to be completed by the end of 2023.

Your significant experience, both in the UK and globally, from a wide range of sectors in responding to climate change will be crucial to this process. You have championed environmental and climate action, and your work has protected nature and enhanced this country's resilience to climate change. Your commitment and your passion for this work is evident.

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As Chair, you will lead the Review process, working closely with the Greater London Authority's officers, and with support from a team of expert consultants. You will help set the scope for the Review and guide its work to provide high quality recommendations to advance London's adaptation at pace. A key part of the role will be convening experts from across sectors to benefit from their experience and to support the analysis of evidence to provide comprehensive recommendations for London's adaptation.

As Chair of the Review, it is expected that you will dedicate approximately [REDACTED] days to this work from the time of your appointment to the completion of the Review. You will be remunerated at a rate of £[REDACTED] per day.

This Review is critical to ensure London and Londoners can face the inevitable impacts of climate change in the best way possible. If we get this work right we can ensure London becomes a safer, more beautiful and liveable city through its adaptation to climate change. I wish you all the best in this pioneering role, which can provide a template for other cities both here in the UK and globally. I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Att.

I have read and understood the above letter and confirm my acceptance of this appointment.

Signature

Date

Independent Review of London's Adaptation to Climate Change – Brief

Date: 04 May 2023

Overview

Following a further year of accelerated climate impacts on London in 2022 the Mayor of London is commissioning the Independent Review of London's Adaptation to Climate Change (the Review) to explore how London can be better adapted to climate change impacts.

The Review will explore the actions needed at national, regional and local levels to ensure we can reduce the climate impacts on people, infrastructure, environment and economy in London. The resulting output will not be a new strategy but will focus on actions, similar to the approach of the Skidmore 'Mission Zero' Review. The Climate Change Committee's March 2023 report to the UK Government 'Progress in adapting to climate change' highlights how inadequate the current National Adaptation plan is and how underprepared for climate change impacts the UK is, including its cities and built environment¹. At the launch of the latest IPCC report² UN Secretary General Guterres highlighted the need to scale up finance and capacity for adaptation noting that 'adaptation and mitigation must be pursued with equal force and urgency'.

This briefing sets out the proposed approach to setting up a London Review- this will be refined with the appointed Chair. The proposal has been developed in discussion with relevant parts of the GLA group including the Mayor's Policy Delivery Unit, London Resilience, Planning, Infrastructure and Housing Units, and with the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross and the Mayor's Chief of Staff, David Bellamy.

The Review would be led by an independent Chair supported by pro bono consultancy. It is proposed the Review runs until December 2023. COP28 is an opportunity to highlight the Review and possibly key findings. The Review would be supported internally by the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience teams at City Hall.

Background

While the GLA has a legal duty to take account of climate change in undertaking its functions, it does not have the requisite powers to directly deliver many of London's required climate adaptation solutions. The UK's Climate Change Committee set out a series of adaptation risks that are not suitably managed and has criticised the lack of national leadership or programme of investment required to meet the UK's adaptation needs³. Many of these identified risks are applicable to London.

¹ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/progress-in-adapting-to-climate-change-2023-report-to-parliament/>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

³ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2023/02/01/a-lack-of-leadership-is-preventing-essential-investment-to-prepare-the-uk-for-climate-change/>

The need for a London Climate Change Adaptation Review

The Mayor of London has identified a time limited, independent Review as a necessary next step to advance London's adaptation to increasing climate change impacts.

This Review will act as a 'stocktake' of London's current adaptation actions, evaluate these actions and make a clear set of recommendations to guide London's preparation for climate hazards and will identify main areas of concern and actions needed to rectify them. Its findings will focus decision makers across London and nationally on the need to prepare for climate hazards and to ensure policies and budgets integrate climate considerations.

The GLA has been delivering a range of measures, these include the Mayor's green new deal funding which has invested £24m for grant programmes for green space and climate resilience. A further £1.8m climate resilient schools programme is supporting the most climate vulnerable schools, we have trained hundreds of borough officers in sustainable drainage (SuDS) delivery and published accompanying sector specific sustainable urban drainage solutions guidance. The Cool Spaces' Programme helps identify indoor and outdoor spaces, where Londoners can find some respite in hotter weather and we have undertaken care home audits to help manage heat risk. The London Plan requires new strategic development to manage water more effectively on-site and make consumption more efficient. The Mayor has also successfully lobbied Thames Water for more investment to reduce leakage and convened a roundtable on flash flooding which is resulting in local authorities committing to a first ever London wide surface water flooding plan.

This Review is needed now because despite these actions and achievements, the pace and severity of impacts is accelerating at an unprecedented rate. Heatwave and flooding events have exposed gaps in our ability to prepare and be sufficiently coordinated. In addition, since 2016 there has been far less progress globally on mitigation than would have been expected.

Principles guiding the Review

- The Review should consider representations from across sectors and communities in London including environment, transport, housing, health, business, insurance, local and regional government.
- The Review will focus on long-term adaptation and climate resilience.
- The Review will consider emergency response in so far as that sector needs to adapt to growing climate risk.
- The Review will consider the unequal distribution of climate impacts and capacity to respond/adapt.
- The Review will make recommendations to ensure London accelerates towards being better adapted to climate risk. These recommendations should be focussed on London broadly and not solely the GLA.
- The Review will not define climate resilience, nor will it set adaptation targets or standards for London although this is likely to be a recommendation for future work.
- The Review will not investigate the climate risks facing London as these are already well understood.
- The Review should be completed within six months from the appointment of the Chair.

Governance

The proposed Review will comprise an independent Chair, supported by pro bono consultants. An Expert Advisory Panel will provide advice to the Review and a GLA team will be set up to interface with the Review.

Chair

The Chair will be independent. The Greater London Authority will set out the guiding principles and scope of the Review, to ensure key objectives are met. The Chair will help to shape these, within the parameters set by the GLA (or Mayor).

Secretariat and technical support

The Chair will be supported by a small secretariat to provide administrative support and a technical/research team comprising pro bono support from three to four consultancies (including Bloomberg Associates). They will support in finalising the methodology, develop the approach for evidence gathering, support evidence gathering sessions, analyse evidence and draft the report.

Expert Advisors

The GLA will work with the Chair to identify a diverse and representative expert panel of between six and eight members. Their role will be to ensure that the Review takes account of wider climate change adaptation expertise and input. The Panel will act as a sounding board and provide advice, peer Review and challenge.

GLA Project Management Group

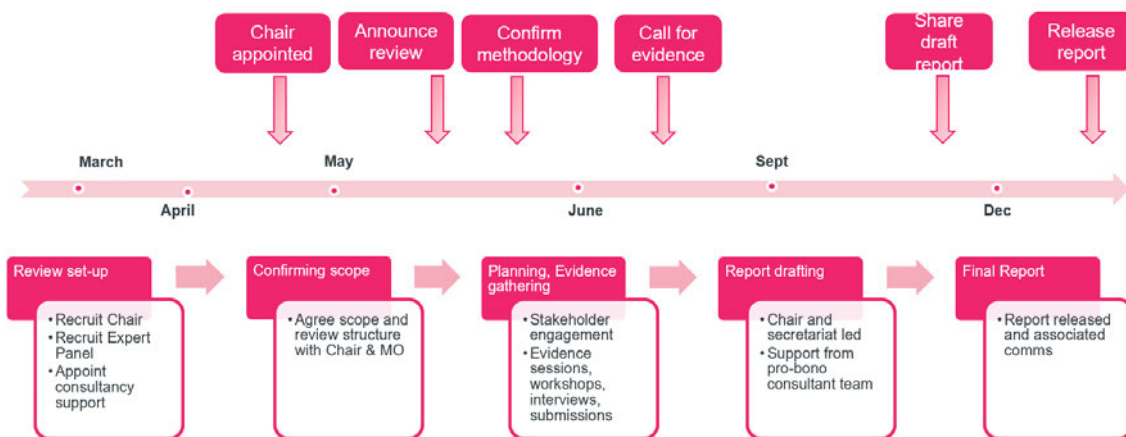
GLA officials are developing an approach to the Review, that enables it to deliver in a similar timeframe to Chris Skidmore's 'Mission Zero: Independent Review of Net Zero'. A project group comprising officials from the climate change adaptation and resilience teams and procured external short-term support will drive forward the Review.

Interaction with the Mayor's Office

The Chair will meet with Shirley Rodrigues, London's Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Fiona Twycross, London's Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, and David Bellamy, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, at regular intervals to discuss the Review and its progress. The process for meetings and updates will be set out in the initiation phase of the Review, indicatively May 2023.

Timeline

An indicative timeline is set out below. The Chair will discuss and agree the approach and timeline with the Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayors.



Proposed key dates:

May 2023: Announcement of the Climate Change Adaptation Review for London and Chair. Method of announcement is TBC.

December 2023: Review completion and publication of recommendations

The Review should conclude by December. The Review would provide an important evidence base and list of recommendations for an updated London Plan and London Environment Strategy following the 2024 election. COP28 is an opportunity to highlight the Review and possibly key findings.

Workstream	May '23	Jun '23	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24
Project start up	Chair Appointed	Workplan developed								
Research and evidence gathering		Stakeholder list Literature Review Design workshops + consultation Workshops interviews								
Analysis of evidence					Compile Findings					
Recommendation testing						Recommendation testing				
Report finalisation							Report writing & finalisation			