

## LCSC meeting minutes – 11 March 2026

### Attendees:

- Ashok Sinha (chair)
- Ben Smith
- Julia Lamb
- Calum Handforth
- David Mooney
- Jo Blackman
- Syed Ahmed
- Venus Mullins
- Jacob Heitland
- Leonie Cooper
- Syed Ahmed

### Secretariat

- Nusrat Yousuf
- Megan Dalgarno
- Jon Emmett

### Apologies

- Brendan Curran
- Antonia Jennings
- Clover Hogan
- Charlie Wood
- Tayshan Hayden-Smith

### Chair's welcome

#### Climate Finance Taskforce update (Jacob Heitland)

- A new approach is needed to enable local authorities to take up climate finance and deliver net zero projects.
- There is currently an assumption that boroughs will use the Mayor's Zero Carbon Accelerator to develop projects, then move on to use the Green Finance Fund and Edge Fund to finance and deliver.
- However, this is not happening in practice because the user pathway is complex and unclear; procurement is complex; and cabinet bulk approval is needed for project portfolios – a big ask, and impossible for those without full net zero strategies. As a result, no local authorities have used the Edge Fund.
- Work is now needed to resolve these friction points over the development pathway. It must also be depoliticised, so the offer is attractive to councils from a public investment perspective regardless of upcoming election results.
- Jacob / the GF Taskforce is meeting with SDCL and London Treasury officers soon to explore this.

#### Welsh Future Generations Commissioner (Derek Walker)

##### Presentation:

- The Welsh Wellbeing of Generations Act sets out framework for the Commissioner's role to enhance wellbeing. SDG indicators set out evidence base, targets and milestones. Strategy sets out priorities based on evidence, including environment and health. Government initiatives must show how they

contribute to five principles ('ways of working'): Long-term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration, and Involvement.

- Commissioner's role / powers: advise, encourage, promote; research, scrutiny, investigation; write recommendations in reports to Welsh government; share and encourage good practice. More carrot than stick.
- Examples of positive impacts:
  - New motorway wasn't built; wider shift towards sustainable transport policy.
  - Improved recycling rates
  - Universal Basic Income offered to care leavers
  - New approach for GCSEs

#### Learnings:

- Legislation is important, but not enough.
- Independent scrutiny is vital
- Need to consider enforcement
- Comprehensive framework – legislation, targets, indicators, independent scrutiny (auditor general and Senedd committees)

#### Q&A

- Cities are required to put plans in place and deliver against them. These are shaped by the area's own priorities and politics.
- There has historically been cross-party support for the legislation, though one party didn't formally vote for it – though current political landscape .
- Integration is ensured by requiring initiatives to comply with all five 'ways of working', they can't pick and choose
- Citizen engagement in decision-making is happening, but not systematically. We need to listen to and act on legitimate concerns and bring people with us.
- Outcomes could be strengthened by setting out metrics more clearly and consistently, enabling more robust scrutiny. Better enforcement is also needed.
- Aiming to take integrated, practical action across public sector – e.g. 'Futures Hub' is bringing academics to support skills delivery.
- The value for money of the legislation is justified by the Auditor General, though not through quantitative data. Individual projects driven by the Commission (e.g. on healthcare) will have their own economic metrics.

#### Discussion

- Public accountability and clarity of key objectives are powerful.
- Boroughs have adopted some similar approaches, e.g. youth-led and citizens engagement, but not using a comprehensive framework.
- Engagement appears to be a strong theme – London / GLA could learn from this.
- Futures-thinking requires systems-thinking.

- Need to balance long-term thinking against messaging that connects with ordinary people's struggle to pay bills today.

## **London Assembly Environment Stocktake (Leonie Cooper)**

- The London Assembly Environment Committee convened a conference in February to gather input from ~80 environment stakeholders on their reflections and priorities for London's environment.
- A wide and rich range of feedback was received on numerous themes, and provided a conduit between Londoners, organisations and City Hall.
- Key points were raised with the Deputy Mayor at the 3 March Environment Committee meeting.
- A report may be published before the elections. Repeat events will be considered.

## **Resourcing update**

- The GLA is making efficiency savings resulting in proposals to make a number of staff redundant across the organisation, including within the LCSC secretariat. The proposals are set out here.

### **Actions:**

- Ashok: Write a joint letter with the Chairs of the London Climate Resilience Review and London Climate Readiness Partnership, requesting a meeting with the Mayor's Office, raising concerns over the potential impacts to the LCSC and London's environment, and offering to support.

## **Working group updates**

### **Housing and Planning**

- David Mooney met with Mete Coban, Tom Copley and Natan Doron to explore how to support nature while meeting government house-building targets.
- Options for working group activity on nature:
  - Set out what good looks like for boroughs (but could be done by LWT)
  - Guidance for using BNG (but could be done by GLA)
  - Encourage local authorities to take a 20-year view of viability assessments, not 6-7 years, in order for economics to stack up.
- The group will also take forwards work to unblock political and policy barriers on timber construction.

### **Climate comms**

- A series of events (including during LCAW) will be held to celebrate community groups and their successful environment projects, while connecting them with each other to amplify their voices and boost their reach.

- Youth-focused news outlets like NatGeo Kids have similar messaging and may support this work.
- Connect with the GLA and LCAW activity on youth / schools / community groups.

### **Sustainable growth**

- Calum and Jacob met with Laura Citron, CEO of London & Partners, to discuss a new institution which will aim to strengthen the development pathways for new (sustainable) infrastructure, from financing to delivery.
- Potential activity
  - What finance models could inform the new body.
  - How can the LCSC support local authorities to take advantage of financing opportunities.
  - Work with London Councils to explore how to set up the legal infrastructure for large projects – e.g. the managing entities for heat networks straddling multiple boroughs, transcending local approval processes and political cycles.

### **Actions:**

- Ask EBRD and C40 where else are project preparation facilities working well.
- Engage with TEC.