



Zack Polanski AM

Chair of the Environment Committee

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

(Sent by email)

16 August 2021

Dear Sadiq,

Realising the opportunities from COP26

The Environment Committee held an investigation into London's engagement with COP26 at its recent meeting on 13 July 2021. Following that, I am writing on behalf of the Committee to ensure London proactively seizes the range of opportunities presented by COP26 being held in Glasgow in the autumn.

COP26 provides an historic moment for London to internationally showcase the progress being made towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2030, and to consider how the capital can make even stronger progress towards the targets you have put in place. It is also an opportunity to highlight the work of C40 Cities and show how action and engagement by cities across the world is crucial to addressing the impacts of the climate emergency.

The lead up to COP26, as well as cross-sector engagement from London during the event, provides the chance to encourage different parts of London's economy to make even bolder commitments. This includes business and finance sector investment in new and green technology, training for new green jobs, raising awareness of how investment can contribute to wider climate goals and incentivising positive changes like using cargo bikes or scrapping polluting vehicles as seen with ULEZ. London's Mayor has the convening power to mobilise

sectors and work closely with them to do more. Net Zero and decarbonisation in London will not only be achieved by the Mayor's action, but we need every industry in the city to reach net zero too. We know the climate change emergency exacerbates health and social inequalities, and it is important to work with business and financial institutions in London to ensure that plans are in place to mitigate this and protect Londoners. COP26 poses a unique opportunity for the Mayor to ensure that all relevant stakeholders in the city are aligned and working towards common goals.

The Committee is keen to know how COP26 presents opportunities for all Londoners to get involved the move to net zero, and the small changes that we can all make that will help drive this. This is an opportunity to inspire and mobilise everyone - individuals, local authorities, business, community groups etc - to do more. The committee would like to know how this opportunity will be used to best effect, and how you will use your convening powers to drive forward progress.

During the Committee investigation we heard that the GLA already has some plans in place for COP26, with others yet to be developed or confirmed. The Committee would like to see opportunities being used to raise the profile of London and its move to net zero. As such we request regular updates on the additional work you will be doing in the lead up to COP26 and during the event itself in November.

The Committee recognises there are opportunities COP26 brings for London to advocate for more ambitious policy change nationally and to seek more powers to enable targets in the capital to be met at pace. The Conference will shine a light on what needs to be done to reduce the social and health inequalities and improve community resilience. It is important that the Government puts in place appropriate measures to address emissions and resolve the serious health risks that Londoners face as a result of them. We would like to know more about how you will engage with the UK Government on these matters over the coming months and who you will be meeting with.

The Committee is pleased that it brings London the opportunity to advocate for more ambitious policy change nationally and to seek powers to enable targets in the capital to be met at pace. We would like to know more about how the Government will be engaging with you on these matters over the coming months.

We look forward to hearing from you by the 3rd of September by 17:00pm with your written response.

Yours,

Zack Polanski

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