



**Caroline Russell AM**  
**Chair of the Environment Committee**

Shirley Rodrigues  
Deputy Mayor, Environment and Energy  
Greater London Authority

(Sent by email)

10 March 2021

## **Preparing for London's Green Recovery**

Dear Deputy Mayor,

Thank you to you and your team for taking the time to attend the Environment Committee's meeting on 24 February and for your warm words regarding your interaction with the Committee over the last five years. We are grateful for the time you have given to answering the Committee's questions over that period to help us raise important environmental issues on behalf of Londoners.

As discussed at the meeting, there are a number of areas in which our Committee would like to seek further information. I would be grateful if you could respond **by Wednesday 17 March 2021** so that the next term of London Assembly Members can follow up the points raised, and the answers given, after the election.

There are four areas in which the Committee would like some further information:

- Green New Deal Fund
- Green New Deal Recovery Mission
- London Power
- Green spaces: key data on parks

### *Green New Deal Fund*

It was encouraging to hear that the guests, who participated in the meeting, described the intentions behind the initial £10 million investment package from the Green New Deal Fund, announced in November 2020, as a positive step.<sup>1</sup>

The Committee would welcome further details on the following areas of the Green New Deal Fund:

- Full details of the allocation of the initial £10 million package of investment announced in November 2020 for the Green New Deal Fund, along with the expected outputs and outcomes from that investment.
- Current plans, including the timing and likely content, for the subsequent two tranches of investment from the Fund of £20 million each.
- Full details of the number and types of jobs created to-date from the £10 million package of investment.

### *Green New Deal Recovery Mission*

We are mindful that the Green New Deal Recovery Mission remains in its early days and that its interaction with the eight other Recovery Missions is necessarily both under development and complex, due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19. With that in mind, we would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

- How the Green New Deal Recovery Mission is currently being planned to be taken forward, including the key milestones over the next couple of years, its governance framework and the latest version of the cross-cutting principles toolkit.
- How the action plans being established under the London Recovery Board (LRB) in respect of its Missions, including those relating to the Green New Deal Mission, will be integrated with the existing implementation plan for the Mayor's Environment Strategy.
- When the annual update on progress with delivery of the Environment Strategy will be published, noting that it has (understandably) been delayed due to the pandemic so that it can incorporate more recently agreed work on the Green New Deal Mission.

### *London Power*

The Committee is interested in monitoring the progress of one of the Mayor's flagship energy policies: London Power. We are grateful that quarterly monitoring reports are clearly displayed on the GLA's website, however, we have some outstanding questions on the objectives, expenditure and overall performance of London Power. We note that there will be an annual report published after the first full year of trading, which is welcomed.

We would be grateful if you could provide further information in the following areas:

- You mentioned that commercial confidentiality inhibited what information could be released on London Power. We are not seeking to challenge this statement, but it would certainly aid

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<sup>1</sup> GLA, [Mayor invests £10m in Green New Deal to secure thousands of green jobs](#), 19 November 2020

our understanding if you could set out what sort of information can and cannot be released publicly on the investment the GLA has made into London Power to date, over what period you expect that investment to deliver benefits for Londoners, and what those benefits are so that the Assembly can measure progress.

- You agreed to write to the Committee to explain the steps you are taking to increase the uptake of London Power. We would be grateful if you could include this information when you respond to the Committee's letter.

#### *Green spaces: key data on parks*

COVID-19 has put a sharp focus on the importance of green spaces for Londoners. With many people around the city with no access to a private garden, parks and green spaces in London have been a necessity for many people to get fresh air, exercise and, when permitted and abiding by COVID-19 regulation, to meet friends and family. The Committee is interested in the impact that COVID-19 has had on green spaces in the capital and specifically on London's parks. It is vital that our parks get the investment and support they need to be able to continue to provide a pleasant and relaxing environment for Londoners.

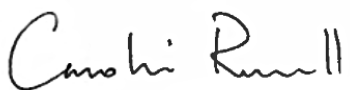
We are interested in seeing the key data for London's parks, specifically including their condition, costs of upkeep and repair, opening times, and other factors such as access to toilets and playgrounds.

You stated at the meeting that you would follow up the availability of this type of data with Parks for London and the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) database and report back to the Committee.

I would be grateful if you could respond to the Committee's letter **by Wednesday 17 March 2021**. Please copy in Davena Toyinbo, Committee Services Manager ([Davena.Toyinbo@london.gov.uk](mailto:Davena.Toyinbo@london.gov.uk)) to your response.

Finally, I would just like to thank you for your commitment and contribution to London's environmental agenda and in particular the progress you and your colleagues have made on clean air.

Yours sincerely,



**Caroline Russell AM**  
**Chair of the Environment Committee**

*Copied to:*

*Elliot Treharne, Joint Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Energy, GLA*  
*Peter Daw, Joint Interim Assistant Director, Environment and Energy, GLA*

## **Appendix**

### *Green New Deal Fund*

1. Full details of the allocation of the initial £10 million package of investment announced in November 2020 for the Green New Deal Fund, along with the expected outputs and outcomes from that investment.
2. Current plans, including the timing and likely content, for the subsequent two tranches of investment from the Fund of £20 million each.
3. Full details of the number and types of jobs created to-date from the £10 million package of investment.

### *Green New Deal Mission*

4. How the Green New Deal Recovery Mission is currently being planned to be taken forward, including the key milestones over the next couple of years, its governance framework and the latest version of the cross-cutting principles toolkit.
5. How the action plans being established under the London Recovery Board (LRB) in respect of its Missions, including those relating to the Green New Deal Mission, will be integrated with the existing implementation plan for the Mayor's Environment Strategy.
6. When the annual update on progress with delivery of the Environment Strategy will be published, noting that it has (understandably) been delayed due to the pandemic so that it can incorporate more recently agreed work on the Green New Deal Mission.

### *London Power*

7. You mentioned that commercial confidentiality inhibited what information could be released on London Power. We are not seeking to challenge this statement, but it would certainly aid our understanding if you could set out what sort of information can and cannot be released publicly on the investment the GLA has made into London Power to date, over what period you expect that investment to deliver benefits for Londoners, and what those benefits are so that the Assembly can measure progress.
8. You agreed to write to the Committee to explain the steps you are taking to increase the uptake of London Power. We would be grateful if you could include this information when you respond to the Committee's letter.

### *Green spaces: key data on parks*

9. Key data on park usage from Parks for London and the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) database.