

MAYOR OF LONDON

Gareth Bacon AM

Chairman
Budget and Performance Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Date: 12th January 2017

Dear Gareth,

Budget and Performance Committee – 10 January

Further to my attendance at your Committee, I set out below the position on additional information you have requested in your letter dated 11 January and in your earlier letters to the functional bodies following your meetings with them on 4 and 5 January.

TfL

TfL are writing separately to you as soon as possible setting out the comparison of their Capital Programme in their Business Plans agreed in March 2016 and December 2016. I have stressed the importance of this being received urgently. TfL will write to you shortly setting out the equivalent information in future years to that set out in paragraph 6.11 of my Consultation Document. TfL will also write to you again setting out the detail of savings in their recent press release on contractors.

MOPAC

Information on the total number of staff posts to be deleted will follow from MOPAC.

LFEPA

The Marauding Terrorism Fire-arms Attack (MTFA) interim response for the capital has since 2011 been undertaken by volunteers. There is a Fire Rescue Service National Joint Council work stream between national employers and the staff representative bodies, which is dealing with MTFA. These talks are productive and ongoing but have no definitive end date.

In anticipation of those talks concluding that MTFA is part of a firefighter's role and volunteers are therefore not required, a LFB Project Board has been meeting since August 2016. The aim of the Board is to ensure a more resilient MTFA response could be implemented as quickly as possible to improve the safety of our staff and the public in the event of such an attack. Some early consultation with London region Fire Brigade Union has also recently been undertaken to try and ensure that once the national position is resolved a hopefully mutually agreed plan can be implemented quickly. This issue is to be discussed further at the National Joint Council meeting in February.

I wrote to the Home Secretary on 14 November stressing the importance of an agreement being reached, and in reply she thanked me for my offer of assistance. I will speak to the Fire Commissioner to get an update on negotiations and determine if there is anything I can do to help progress matters.

With regard to funding for the MTFA capability Lord Harris in his recommendations stated that the "Home Office should give consideration to supporting the costs associated with increased MTFA capability, or at least match-funding the provision with the LFB/Mayor". Officers are aware there will be an increase in the national MTFA funding for FRS but it is unclear at this time if there will be any additional funding for London Fire Brigade or whether this would meet the additional costs.

GLA

In staffing the new viability team, we have to take care to avoid creating an in-house team that, over time, would inevitably become more distant from the latest market developments and tactics. Instead, we have decided to establish a small strategic team and provide them with the funding to commission external expert advice as required. Therefore, the GLA has appointed two viability experts who will take up their posts later this month. A support officer is the third member of the team.

I will arrange for a reply to be made as soon as possible on your questions on the Environment and Children and Early Years budgets.

Other letters direct to Functional Bodies

In respect of your letter to TfL of 4 January, your letter to MOPAC of 5 January and your letters to LLDC and OPDC of 6 January, I have emphasised that they are to ensure that a reply is made as soon as possible and no later than your deadline of 18 January.

Yours sincerely,



PP

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Cc: David Bellamy, Chief of Staff
Martin Clarke, Executive Director of Resources, GLA
David Gallie, Assistant Director – Group Finance, GLA
Lucy Pickering, Scrutiny Manager, Assembly