

# MINUTES

**Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee**  
**Date: Thursday 11 December 2014**  
**Time: 10.00 am**  
**Place: Committee Room 5, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at [www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/oversight](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/oversight)

**Present:**

Len Duvall AM (Chair)  
Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)  
Jennette Arnold OBE AM  
John Biggs AM  
Andrew Boff AM  
Roger Evans AM  
Darren Johnson AM  
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

## **1 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Joanne McCartney AM and Valerie Shawcross CBE AM for whom John Biggs AM attended as a substitute Member.

## **2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)**

- 2.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

2.2 **Resolved:**

**That the list of Assembly Members' appointments, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.**

### **3 Minutes (Item 3)**

#### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee held on 20 November 2014 be signed by the Chair as a correct record**

### **4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)**

4.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

#### **4.2 Resolved:**

**That the completed and outstanding actions arising from previous meetings of the GLA Oversight Committee be noted.**

### **5 Action Taken Under Delegated Authority (Item 5)**

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat setting out recent correspondence issued by the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee under delegated authority.

#### **5.2 Resolved:**

**That the recent actions taken by the Chair of the Committee under delegated authority be noted.**

### **6 Head of Paid Service Oral Update (Item 6)**

6.1 The Committee received the oral update of the Head of Paid Service.

6.2 The Head of Paid Service advised the Committee of the Mayor's recent meeting with the Congress of London at which it was agreed that the Mayor and the Chair of London Councils would write jointly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Minister of State for Universities, Science and Cities, requesting a meeting on devolution and public service reform. The letter would also include suggested items for discussion, including a number of issues that the Assembly had previously commented on, such as skills, employment and welfare to work. The Head of Paid Service agreed to circulate the letter to Assembly Members in due course.

6.3 The Committee was also advised of arrangements for the New Year's Eve London firework

**Greater London Authority  
GLA Oversight Committee  
Thursday 11 December 2014**

display and the Head of Paid Service was joined by the Assistant Director, External Relations for the item. The Committee was informed that the decision to ticket the event had arisen from the emergency services' advice that the event in its previous format had become untenable due to the large numbers involved and so, after considering a range of options, the Mayor had taken the decision to make it a ticket-only display.

- 6.4 The cost of the ticket scheme would be covered by the ticket price, effectively making the decision cost-neutral to implement. Whilst an e-ticket provider had offered to support the event for free, it had been decided that the potential for fraud was too great and therefore a decision had been made to pay for hard-copy tickets with both a security hologram and the name of the purchaser printed on each ticket. As an additional security measure, tickets had been made available in limited batches and communications would be issued to warn against the re-purchase of tickets. Furthermore, the public would be advised that unless they attend with the appropriate identification, they would be refused entry to the event.
- 6.5 John Biggs AM commented that he felt the setting-up of ticket-only zones would inhibit access to large parts of London for those not interested in the firework display, and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM cautioned that sufficient consideration should be given to managing displaced crowds outside the ticketed zone.
- 6.6 In response to a question on whether the police would have cancelled the event had it been organised without ticketing, the Assistant Director, External Relations explained that whilst that had never been explicitly stated to her, cancelling the event in itself would not have necessarily prevented people visiting London for New Year's Eve and would likely have resulted in the police having to manage crowds without the assistance of the GLA's stewarding arrangements.
- 6.7 Darren Johnson AM suggested that there should be a subsequent evaluation of the event in the new year and proposed that a range of options be considered for future events, such as working in conjunction with London boroughs to spread the event over a wider area.
- 6.8 It was agreed that further consideration be given as to which Assembly committee would scrutinise the arrangements.
- 6.9 **Resolved:**
- That, subject to the comments made in the meeting and recorded above, the Head of Paid Service's update be noted.**
- 6.10 In accordance with Standing Order 2.2D, the Chair took the next five items in a different order than that set out on the agenda.

## 7 GLA Pay Award (Item 11)

- 7.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Service.
- 7.2 The Committee was informed of a further suggestion from Unison, submitted that day, proposing a 1.5% consolidated increase for 2014-15 backdated to 1 April 2014 and a further 1.25% consolidated increase for 2015-16 which Unison had estimated would equate to a 2.75% increase to basic salary over two years and which would cost the Authority £1.2 million to implement. Although the timing of the proposal had not allowed for detailed analysis, the Head of Paid Service stated that initial calculations had indicated a more significant cost to the Authority and that the proposal would impact on the GLA's budget position and ability to meet its savings targets; the Head of Paid Service was therefore not minded to recommend the proposal for consideration.
- 7.3 Andrew Boff AM was of the view that the current state of the economy would be unable to sustain generous pay increases and therefore he, and other Members in the GLA Conservatives, would support the 1% pay award suggestion, detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report. However, the Labour Group, Liberal Democrat Group and the Green Party Group Members on the Committee expressed a preference for the second option of 2.2% consolidated pay increase, set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

### 7.4 **Resolved:**

**That the GLA Oversight Committee recommends to the Head of Paid Service the proposal for a 2.2% consolidated pay increase payable from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016, as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report.**

## 8 Ebola Virus Disease Resilience (Item 7)

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 8.2 In attendance for this item were the following people:
- Sir Edward Lister – Chief of Staff, GLA;
  - Tom Middleton - Head of Governance & Resilience, GLA;
  - Dr Deborah Turbitt - Deputy Regional Director for Health Protection, Public Health England (PHE); and
  - Marc Beveridge - Regional Lead EPRR London, PHE.
- 8.3 A transcript of the discussion is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 8.4 **Resolved:**

**That the report and discussion be noted.**

## **9 Mayor's Mentoring Programme Update Report - Quarter 2 2014/15 (Item 8)**

9.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

9.2 In attendance for this item were the following people:

- Munira Mirza, Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture; and
- Amanda Coyle, Assistant Director of Health and Communities.

9.3 During the course of the discussion, the Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture was asked to provide the following additional information:

- Details of how the GLA would maintain an objective and fair-handed approach in administering European Social Fund monies so that GLA and non-GLA projects would be weighted equally;
- Confirmation that consideration be given to proactively and dynamically disseminating the project evaluation to young people; and
- Confirmation that the project evaluation would analyse the reasons for failed matches.

9.4 A transcript of the discussion is attached as **Appendix 2**.

### **9.5 Resolved:**

**That the report and discussion be noted.**

## **10 Shared Services Update (Item 9)**

10.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

10.2 In attendance for this item were the following people:

- Sir Edward Lister – Chief of Staff, GLA; and
- Martin Clarke – Executive Director of Resources, GLA.

10.3 During the course of the discussion, the Chief of Staff was asked to provide the following additional information:

- The updated schedule of shared services savings and efficiencies; and

- Details of the potential joint working arrangement between the London Pensions Fund Authority and Lancashire Council.

10.4 **Resolved:**

**That the report and discussion be noted.**

## 11 State of London Debate (Item 10)

11.1 The Committee received the report of the Director of Communications and External Affairs. In attendance for this item was the Assistant Director, External Relations, GLA.

11.2 During the course of the discussion, the Committee raised the following points:

- That the format of the meeting had become jaded over time;
- That the format lacked authority and gravitas;
- That in the past the event had been much larger and more involving;
- That, given that the Mayor appeared regularly on LBC Radio, the event in its current format had become routine; and
- That more work could be undertaken to involve established bodies, such as London borough young people's councils, and to engage Londoners.

11.3 The Committee also requested details of the tendering process for the event's official media partner. The Committee suggested that whilst it might be too late to influence the State of London Debate format under the current Mayoralty, the Assembly could draw on its experience to usefully present informed options for the next administration.

11.4 The Assistant Director, External Relations undertook to provide the Committee with details of the tendering process for the media partner and explained that, whilst acknowledging the Members' concerns and committing to working more closely with the Assembly for future events, attendance figures for the event remained high.

11.5 **Resolved:**

**(a) That, subject to the comments raised in the meeting and recorded above, the proposals for the 2015 State of London Debate be noted; and**

**(b) That the Committee reviews at a future meeting the format of the State of London Debate with a view to assisting the next Mayoral administration.**

## **12 Secretariat Quarterly Review, Quarter 2, 2014-15 (Item 12)**

12.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat. The Head of Scrutiny & Investigations in particular highlighted the Economy Committee's work on regulation and the Planning Committee's work on the Further Alterations to the London Plan.

12.2 Further, Andrew Boff AM praised the support and assistance he had received in undertaking his rapporteurship on access to health services for d/Deaf people on behalf of the Assembly's Health Committee.

12.3 **Resolved:**

**That the core Secretariat quarterly monitoring report for the second quarter of 2014-15 (July to September 2014) be noted.**

## **13 Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee (Item 13)**

13.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

13.2 **Resolved:**

**That the work programme for the remainder of 2014-15 be agreed.**

## **14 Date of Next Meeting (Item 14)**

14.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 5.

## **15 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 15)**

## **16 The Regeneration of Royal Albert Dock (Item 15a)**

15.1 The Chair, in accordance with section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, had agreed to accept Agenda Item 15(a) (The Regeneration of Royal Albert Dock) - which had been circulated under cover of a Supplementary Agenda for the meeting - as urgent business in order to allow the matter to be discussed at the earliest opportunity.

15.2 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

15.3 During the course of the discussion it was suggested that using the GLA Oversight Committee to clarify the process for work arising from similar motions agreed by the London Assembly would serve as a useful model in future.

15.4 **Resolved:**

**That the proposal to convene an informal meeting in January 2015 to discuss the Assembly's future work on Royal Albert Dock be agreed.**

## 17 Close of Meeting

16.1 The meeting ended at 12.17pm.

---

Chair

---

Date

**Contact Officer:** John Barry, Principal Committee Manager; Telephone: 020 7983 4425; Email: john.barry@london.gov.uk; Minicom: 020 7983 4458