

MINUTES

Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)
Date: Thursday 13 December 2018
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Copies of the minutes may be found at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/whole-assembly>

Present:

Tony Arbour AM (Chairman)	Nicky Gavron AM
Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair)	Susan Hall AM
Gareth Bacon AM	David Kurten AM
Shaun Bailey AM	Joanne McCartney AM
Sian Berry AM	Steve O'Connell AM
Andrew Boff AM	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Leonie Cooper AM	Keith Prince AM
Tom Copley AM	Caroline Russell AM
Unmesh Desai AM	Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Tony Devenish AM	Navin Shah AM
Andrew Dismore AM	Fiona Twycross AM
Len Duvall AM	Peter Whittle AM
Florence Eshalomi AM	

1 Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements (Item 1)

- 1.1 There were no apologies for absence.
- 1.2 The Chairman provided an update on the Assembly's recent work, including the Environment Committee's 'Farming in London's Greenbelt' report, the Police and Crime Committee had published its verdict on the Mayor's new Violence Reduction Unit, and the Transport Committee summoning of the Mayor to appear before it on 21 December 2018 to answer further questions about the delay to the opening of Crossrail.
- 1.3 The Chairman announced that Peter Whittle AM and David Kurten AM had disbanded the Assembly's UKIP Group and had formed a new Group called the 'Brexit Alliance Group' with immediate effect, with Peter Whittle AM as the leader.
- 1.4 Shaun Bailey AM raised a point of order in relation to the Mayor's press release stating that he had published the Culture Strategy, prior to consideration of the Strategy by the Assembly.
- 1.5 Gareth Bacon AM expressed concern that the publication of the Strategy prior to the Assembly's consideration appeared to be in contravention of Section 42B (4) of the GLA Act, which stated that "the Mayor must not publish the strategy (or, in the case of the housing strategy, submit the draft to the Secretary of State) if, within the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the copy is laid before the Assembly, the Assembly resolves to reject the draft."
- 1.6 The Mayor undertook to ensure that press releases indicated where matters were subject to the Assembly's consideration.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

- 2.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 2.2 **Resolved:**

That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 The Mayor's Draft Culture Strategy (Item 3)

Part A:

- 3.1 The Chairman explained that the principal purpose of the meeting was for the Assembly formally to receive and, in accordance with Section 42B of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended), consider its response to the Mayor's draft Culture Strategy.
- 3.2 The Mayor made an opening statement, the transcript of which is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Part B:

- 3.3 Susan Hall AM, as Chairman of the Economy Committee, presented the Committee's formal response to the Draft Culture Strategy. A transcript of the statement of the Chairman of the Economy Committee is attached at **Appendix 2**.

Part C:

- 3.4 The Assembly put questions to the Mayor on the draft Culture Strategy.
- 3.5 A transcript of the question and answer session is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- 3.6 Justine Simons OBE, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Shonagh Manson, Assistant Director, Culture and Creative Industries and Simon Cooper, Sports Manager, were also in attendance for the receipt of the Mayor and Chairman of the Economy Committee's statements and for the duration of the question and answer session.
- 3.7 During the course of the question and answer session the following commitments were made:
- The Mayor undertook to provide:
 - (a) A list of Night Time Champions that the Night Czar has met and a map of locations where the Night Time Champions are based;
 - (b) The date of the soft launch of the Good Work Standard;
 - The Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries undertook to provide:
 - (a) The average amount that is awarded through the Culture Seeds project;
 - (b) The target date by which visitor numbers to the Museum of London would have doubled; and

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- The Assistant Director, Culture and Creative Industries undertook to provide an update on the progress on the piece of work around the Greater London Authority's (GLA) procurement, powers and approach to how both of those are handled, in the context of the Diversity and Inclusion Action Standard.

Part D:

3.8 The Chairman moved the motion set out on the agenda in his name, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the draft Culture Strategy.”

3.9 Shaun Bailey AM proposed and Andrew Boff AM seconded, the following amendment to the motion:

“That the word **“notes”** be replaced with **“hereby resolves to reject”** and the word **“Mayor’s”** be added before draft Culture Strategy, and the following words be added after “the draft Culture Strategy:”

“The Assembly notes with concern the lack of key performance indicators, a lack of specific and measurable targets, and proper timescales with which the London Assembly can effectively measure the Mayor’s progress against and use to hold him to account.

The Assembly recommends that the Mayor revises his draft Culture Strategy to insert key performance indicators, specific and measurable targets and clear timescales.”

3.10 Following debate, with eight votes being cast in favour and 17 against the amendment was not carried.

3.11 With 18 votes being cast in favour, the substantive motion in the name of the Chairman, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the draft Culture Strategy”

was carried.

3.12 Under the provisions of Section 42B of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Assembly was deemed to have not rejected the Mayor’s draft Culture Statement.

4 Date of Next Meeting (Item 4)

4.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly was the Mayor’s Question Time meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Thursday 20 December 2018 in the Chamber, City Hall.

5 Any Other Business the Chairman Considers Urgent (Item 5)

5.1 There were no items of urgent business.

6 Close of Meeting

6.1 The meeting ended at 12.06 pm.

Chairman

Date

Contact Officer: Lorena Alcorta, Principal Committee Manager; Telephone: 020 7983 4425;
Email: lorena.alcorta@london.gov.uk; Minicom: 020 7983 4458