

# AGENDA

**Meeting** GLA Oversight Committee

**Date** Thursday 7 May 2020

**Time** 11.00 am

**Place** Virtual Meeting

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## Members of the Committee

Len Duvall AM (Chair)

Susan Hall AM (Deputy Chairman)

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Siân Berry AM

Steve O'Connell AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Keith Prince AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Navin Shah AM

Peter Whittle AM

Vacancy

In accordance with section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, this meeting has been called with less than five clear working days' notice in order to transact the business listed below, which the Chair has deemed urgent due to special circumstances relating to COVID-19.

Ed Williams, Executive Director of Secretariat, 6 May 2020

[Note: This meeting has been called in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. These regulations permit formal London Assembly meetings to be held on a virtual basis, with Assembly Members participating remotely, subject to certain conditions. The regulations apply notwithstanding any other legislation, current or pre-existing Standing Orders or any other rules of the Authority governing Assembly meetings, and remain valid until 7 May 2021. The meeting will be broadcast live via the web-link set out above. The regulations may be viewed [here](#).]

## Further Information

If you have questions, would like further information about the meeting or require special facilities please contact: Davena Toyinbo, Principal Committee Manager, Telephone: 0208 039 1285; Email: [davena.toyinbo@london.gov.uk](mailto:davena.toyinbo@london.gov.uk)

For media enquiries please contact Dominic Nutt; Head of Communications, Telephone: 020 7983 5769; Email: [dominic.nutt@london.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.nutt@london.gov.uk). If you have any questions about individual items please contact the author whose details are at the end of the report.

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Certificate Number: FS 80233

**Agenda**  
**GLA Oversight Committee**  
**Thursday 7 May 2020**

**1 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements**

To receive any apologies for absence and any announcements from the Chair.

**2 Declarations of Interests** (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

Contact: Davena Toyinbo; [davena.toyinbo@london.gov.uk](mailto:davena.toyinbo@london.gov.uk); 020 8039 1285

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- (a) Note the offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, as disclosable pecuniary interests;**
- (b) Note the declaration by any Member(s) of any disclosable pecuniary interests in specific items listed on the agenda and the necessary action taken by the Member(s) regarding withdrawal following such declaration(s); and**
- (c) Note the declaration by any Member(s) of any other interests deemed to be relevant (including any interests arising from gifts and hospitality received which are not at the time of the meeting reflected on the Authority's register of gifts and hospitality, and noting also the advice from the GLA's Monitoring Officer set out at Agenda Item 2) and to note any necessary action taken by the Member(s) following such declaration(s).**

**3 COVID-19** (Pages 5 - 8)

Report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

Contact: Gino Brand; [gino.brand@london.gov.uk](mailto:gino.brand@london.gov.uk); 07511 213765

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- (a) Note the report as background to putting questions to the invited guests on the Mayor's response to the crisis and the subsequent discussion; and**
- (b) Delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon AM MBE, to agree any output from the discussion at the meeting.**

#### **4 Date of Next Meeting**

The London Assembly's Annual Meeting, due to take place on Friday 15 May 2020, will decide which committees to establish for the 2020/21 Assembly Year and a timetable of meetings for those committees.

#### **5 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent**

# Subject: Declarations of Interests

**Report to: GLA Oversight Committee**

**Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat**

**Date: 7 May 2020**

**This report will be considered in public**

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out details of offices held by Assembly Members for noting as disclosable pecuniary interests and requires additional relevant declarations relating to disclosable pecuniary interests, and gifts and hospitality to be made.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table below, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests<sup>1</sup>;**
- 2.2 **That the declaration by any Member(s) of any disclosable pecuniary interests in specific items listed on the agenda and the necessary action taken by the Member(s) regarding withdrawal following such declaration(s) be noted; and**
- 2.3 **That the declaration by any Member(s) of any other interests deemed to be relevant (including any interests arising from gifts and hospitality received which are not at the time of the meeting reflected on the Authority's register of gifts and hospitality, and noting also the advice from the GLA's Monitoring Officer set out at below) and any necessary action taken by the Member(s) following such declaration(s) be noted.**

## 3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 Relevant offices held by Assembly Members are listed in the table overleaf:

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<sup>1</sup> The Monitoring Officer advises that: Paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct will only preclude a Member from participating in any matter to be considered or being considered at, for example, a meeting of the Assembly, where the Member has a direct Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in that particular matter. The effect of this is that the 'matter to be considered, or being considered' must be about the Member's interest. So, by way of example, if an Assembly Member is also a councillor of London Borough X, that Assembly Member will be precluded from participating in an Assembly meeting where the Assembly is to consider a matter about the Member's role / employment as a councillor of London Borough X; the Member will not be precluded from participating in a meeting where the Assembly is to consider a matter about an activity or decision of London Borough X.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Tony Arbour AM	
Jennette Arnold AM OBE	European Committee of the Regions
Gareth Bacon AM MP	Member of Parliament, Orpington; Member, LB Bexley
Shaun Bailey AM	
Siân Berry AM	Member, LB Camden
Andrew Boff AM	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Council of Europe)
Léonie Cooper AM	Member, LB Wandsworth
Unmesh Desai AM	
Tony Devenish AM	Member, City of Westminster
Andrew Dismore AM	
Len Duvall AM	
Florence Eshalomi AM MP	Member of Parliament, Vauxhall
Nicky Gavron AM	
Susan Hall AM	Member, LB Harrow
David Kurten AM	
Joanne McCartney AM	Deputy Mayor
Alison Moore AM	Member, LB Barnet
Steve O'Connell AM	Member, LB Croydon
Caroline Pidgeon AM MBE	
Keith Prince AM	Alternate Member, European Committee of the Regions
Murad Qureshi AM	
Caroline Russell AM	Member, LB Islington
Dr Onkar Sahota AM	
Navin Shah AM	
Peter Whittle AM	

[Note: LB - London Borough]

3.2 Paragraph 10 of the GLA's Code of Conduct, which reflects the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011, provides that:

- where an Assembly Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered or being considered or at
  - (i) a meeting of the Assembly and any of its committees or sub-committees; or
  - (ii) any formal meeting held by the Mayor in connection with the exercise of the Authority's functions
- they must disclose that interest to the meeting (or, if it is a sensitive interest, disclose the fact that they have a sensitive interest to the meeting); and
- must not (i) participate, or participate any further, in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; or (ii) participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting

UNLESS

- they have obtained a dispensation from the GLA's Monitoring Officer (in accordance with section 2 of the Procedure for registration and declarations of interests, gifts and hospitality – Appendix 5 to the Code).

3.3 Failure to comply with the above requirements, without reasonable excuse, is a criminal offence; as is knowingly or recklessly providing information about your interests that is false or misleading.

- 3.4 In addition, the Monitoring Officer has advised Assembly Members to continue to apply the test that was previously applied to help determine whether a pecuniary / prejudicial interest was arising - namely, that Members rely on a reasonable estimation of whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, could, with justification, regard the matter as so significant that it would be likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.
- 3.5 Members should then exercise their judgement as to whether or not, in view of their interests and the interests of others close to them, they should participate in any given discussions and/or decisions business of within and by the GLA. It remains the responsibility of individual Members to make further declarations about their actual or apparent interests at formal meetings noting also that a Member's failure to disclose relevant interest(s) has become a potential criminal offence.
- 3.6 Members are also required, where considering a matter which relates to or is likely to affect a person from whom they have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25 within the previous three years or from the date of election to the London Assembly, whichever is the later, to disclose the existence and nature of that interest at any meeting of the Authority which they attend at which that business is considered.
- 3.7 The obligation to declare any gift or hospitality at a meeting is discharged, subject to the proviso set out below, by registering gifts and hospitality received on the Authority's on-line database. The on-line database may be viewed here:  
<https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/gifts-and-hospitality>.
- 3.8 If any gift or hospitality received by a Member is not set out on the on-line database at the time of the meeting, and under consideration is a matter which relates to or is likely to affect a person from whom a Member has received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25, Members are asked to disclose these at the meeting, either at the declarations of interest agenda item or when the interest becomes apparent.
- 3.9 It is for Members to decide, in light of the particular circumstances, whether their receipt of a gift or hospitality, could, on a reasonable estimation of a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, with justification, be regarded as so significant that it would be likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest. Where receipt of a gift or hospitality could be so regarded, the Member must exercise their judgement as to whether or not, they should participate in any given discussions and/or decisions business of within and by the GLA.

## 4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The legal implications are as set out in the body of this report.

## 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>	
List of Background Papers: None	
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**Subject: COVID-19****Report to: GLA Oversight Committee****Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat****Date: 7 May 2020****This report will be considered in public****1. Summary**

- 1.1 The pandemic of COVID-19 spread to the United Kingdom (UK) in late January 2020. Following the outbreak of the disease in China. On 15 March 2020 the Government stated that everyone should avoid all "non-essential" travel and contact with others, avoid crowds, and work from home if possible. Those with symptoms, and their household, were asked to self-isolate. Pregnant women, people over the age of 70, and those with certain health conditions were asked to self-isolate for longer.
- 1.2 On 20 March 2020 all schools, restaurants, pubs, clubs, and indoor leisure facilities were ordered to shut, with some exceptions. On 23 March 2020, the Government imposed a lockdown on the whole population, banning all "non-essential" travel and contact with people outside one's home, and shutting almost all businesses, venues, facilities and places of worship. Police were given power to enforce the lockdown, and the Coronavirus Act 2020 gave the Government emergency powers not used since the Second World War.
- 1.3 On 16 April 2020 the UK-wide lockdown extended for "at least" three more weeks.<sup>1</sup> The Lockdown measures are due to be revised by no later than 7 May 2020. While reports say the UK Government could subsequently decide to relax the measures in some respects, while strengthening them in others;<sup>2</sup> there are also warnings the lockdown could be extended to June 2020.<sup>3</sup>
- 1.4 The Government has outlined five factors that must be met for the lockdown measures to be lifted:
- Confidence that the NHS can still provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment across the UK;
  - A fall in deaths to prove the UK is past the peak;
  - Reliable data that the infection rate has decreased to manageable levels;
  - Testing capacity and PPE is ready to meet supply for future demand; and
  - No risk of a second peak that overwhelms the NHS.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52313715>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/apr/16/coronavirus-uk-live-news-covid-19-lockdown-extension?page=with:block-5e9881408f0895d83068f5ab#block-5e9881408f0895d83068f5ab>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/uk-coronavirus-live-latest-updates-lockdown-cases-toll-a4416636.html>

1.5 London is dealing with an immense challenge in trying to tackle the pandemic of COVID-19. London is the hotspot for cases in the UK, accounting for 44% of confirmed cases.<sup>[1]</sup>

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to the invited guests on the Mayor's response to the crisis, and notes the subsequent discussion.**

2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon AM MBE, to agree any output from the discussion at the meeting.**

## **3. Background**

3.1 The Mayor has varying responsibilities and powers in relation to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting his usual responsibilities and powers. These range from direct control over the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and Transport for London (TfL) to limited control over health services and the economy.

3.2 The London Resilience Forum (LRF), chaired by Fiona Twycross, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience (DMFR), has statutory responsibility for preparing for and managing the strategic co-ordination around any major incident in London. The LRF is part of a wider London Resilience Partnership that includes members from private and public sector organisations, local authorities, the NHS, utilities and transport providers.<sup>4</sup>

3.3 Under the LRF, a London COVID-19 Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) has been established. The SCG is responsible for determining the strategic aim, objectives and priorities of the response to COVID-19 on behalf of London. The SCG has four co-chairs:

- a) John Barradell, City of London Corporation;
- b) Fiona Twycross, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience;
- c) Eleanor Kelly, London Borough of Southwark; and
- d) Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC) Laurence Taylor, Met Police.

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<sup>[1]</sup> [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/londons\\_economy\\_today\\_no211\\_260320.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/londons_economy_today_no211_260320.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london\\_resilience\\_partnership\\_strategy\\_2016.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_resilience_partnership_strategy_2016.pdf)

- 3.4 Public Health England is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct organisation with operational autonomy. It provides Government, local Government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific expertise and support. It is responsible for:
- Making the public healthier and reducing differences between the health of different groups by promoting healthier lifestyles, advising Government and supporting action by local Government, the NHS and the public;
  - Protecting the nation from public health hazards;
  - Preparing for and responding to public health emergencies;
  - Improving the health of the whole population by sharing information and expertise, and identifying and preparing for future public health challenges;
  - Supporting local authorities and the NHS to plan and provide health and social care services such as immunisation and screening programmes, and to develop the public health system and its specialist workforce; and
  - Researching, collecting and analysing data to improve understanding of public health challenges, and come up with answers to public health problems.<sup>5</sup>
- 3.5 The UK Government has announced an unprecedented package of support measures. The Mayor has considerably more limited resources and remit to provide targeted action for Londoners. Some examples of mayoral action taken include the temporary suspension of all road user charging schemes, the establishment of dedicated support funds, and the temporary suspension of rents across Transport for London's (TfL) estate.
- 3.6 The meeting will seek to examine the actions taken by, and options open to, the Mayor in responding to the COVID-19 epidemic in London. This meeting also offers the opportunity to scrutinise how effectively the Mayor is using his powers and the resources at his disposal to support the national response. The meeting will consist of two sections with the following objectives:
- **Public Health England** - To gain in-depth insight into London's coordinated response to COVID-19 between Public Health England, the Mayor, and other partner bodies, and the current and future challenges facing London; and
  - **COVID-19 and Resilience in London** - To examine the actions taken by, and options open to, the Mayor in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in London. This section has a particular focus on the effectiveness of resilience planning in supporting Londoners and adapting to new challenges of COVID-19.

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<sup>5</sup> Public Health England: [About us](#)

## 4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The following guests have been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the COVID-19 response:

### Public Health England

- **Professor Kevin Fenton**, Public Health England Regional Director for London and statutory health adviser to the Mayor and GLA.

### COVID-19 and Resilience in London

- **Fiona Twycross**, Deputy Mayor, Fire and Resilience and Co-Chair of the London Resilience Strategic Coordination Group; and
- **John Barradell**, Chief Executive of the City of London Corporation and Co-Chair of the Strategic Coordination Group (TBC).
- **Eleanor Kelly**, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Southwark and Co-Chair of the Strategic Coordination Group

4.2 The Committee will discuss the Mayor's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

## 5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

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### List of appendices to this report:

None

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
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