

Subject: State of London Debate

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Director of Marketing

Date: 21 March 2013

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates and consults the Committee on the proposals for the 2013 State of London Debate (SOLD).

2. Recommendation:

2.1 That the Committee:

- (a) **Notes the proposals for the 2013 State of London Debate; and**
- (b) **Provides any views, ideas or suggestions on further ways to improve State of London as a consultative event.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended) (the GLA Act) states that the Mayor should once every financial year hold and attend an annual State of London debate, which shall be open to all members of the public. It must take place during April, May or June and at least seven days after the publication of the Annual Report relating to the financial year last ended.
- 3.2 The form and procedure of the debate is left open to the Mayor to determine. The format of the debate must give members of the public an opportunity to speak. The Mayor must announce and publicise the venue for the debate a month in advance of the date. The date booked to host the State of London Debate is Wednesday, 12 June, 7pm – 9.00pm at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.
- 3.3 The Annual Report 2013/14 will be published in early May 2013.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The 2013 State of London debate will be hosted at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster between 7.00pm and 9.00pm on Wednesday 12 June 2013.
- 4.2 An independent Chair will facilitate the plenary and it will include a question and answer session allowing members of the audience to question the Mayor directly on issues of concern to the audience.
- 4.3 The format of the event will be an evening with the Mayor on stage, discussion with the presenter for the first hour and questions from the floor in the second hour.
- 4.4 The event will be widely publicised and ticketed for those wanting to attend. The Marketing team are currently investigating the various opportunities for members of the public to engage.
- 4.5. Strategy Implications

SOLD has a direct link to the GLA corporate plan section II – Listening to Londoners encouraging the fullest participation and engagement by all London’s communities in developing the policies and strategies to improve London. It also links to the statutory requirement to deliver a State of London Debate by 30 June each year.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The GLA Act requires the Mayor to host a State of London Debate:
 - Section 47 of the GLA Act requires the Mayor to hold a State of London debate annually, with the debate open to all members of the public.
 - The form (including the appointment of a person to preside over the debate), and procedure for the debate shall be determined by the Mayor after consultation with the Assembly. The GLA Act does not set out the form and procedure of the debate other than the requirement that it must be set up in a way so as to provide members of the public the opportunity to speak.
 - Section 47(6) of the Act states that the Mayor may determine the date of the debate provided that it is held in April, May or June, and at least 7 days after the publication of the Mayor’s annual report.
 - At least one month prior to the date of the debate, the Mayor shall decide where the debate shall take place and shall notify the public of the date and the venue for the debate.

Annual Report

- 5.2 Section 46(1) of the GLA Act requires the Mayor to prepare an annual report as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year (31 March).

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The GLA has a budget up to £50,000. Any additional costs would be funded through sponsorship arrangements.

List of appendices to this report:

There are none.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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