

Subject: Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee 2012/13

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 21 March 2013

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of the proposed work for the meetings of the Committee in this Assembly Year (2012/13).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes its work programme for 2012/13, as set out in this report and identifies any additional issues it wishes to consider at future meetings.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The GLA Oversight Committee has the following overall functions:
- Management and administration of the budget of the Assembly and Secretariat, and overseeing the Assembly's scrutiny work programme;
 - Having oversight, on behalf of the London Assembly, of the Greater London Authority's (GLA) corporate governance policies and activities;
 - Maintaining a watching brief in respect of the activities of the senior officers appointed by the Mayor; and
 - Responding to consultations from the Head of Paid Service and scrutinising the Head of Paid Service function.
- 3.2 Additionally, it was agreed at the Annual Assembly meeting of 11 May 2012 that the GLA Oversight Committee's terms of reference include provision to scrutinise any actions or decisions taken by the Mayor on matters relating to education. The Committee can also scrutinise civil contingency arrangements in London, the provision of services to the public and the performance of utilities in London.
- 3.3 At the meeting of 20 September, a review of the funding of World Pride London was agreed and a question and answer session on the matter was dealt with at the Committee meeting of

19 December 2012. At the same meeting, the Mayor's Ambassador for Mentoring answered Member's questions about the Mayor's mentoring programme. Previously, the Committee has held two question and answer sessions with Veronica Wadley, the Mayor's Senior Adviser for Team London, Volunteering, Charities and Sponsorship about her role in the Authority.

- 3.4 John Biggs AM is also currently undertaking a rapporteurship for the Oversight Committee into levels of transparency around the GLA Group. In the first instance, he sent questionnaires requesting information on transparency arrangements to the Mayor and each functional body and responses have now been received. They cover corporate views on confidentiality, decision-making papers and meetings, contracts and tender documentation, performance data and approaches to information requests. The intention is that a baseline can be established to allow the identification of potential areas for improvement and/or good practice. The Committee may wish to consider the issue at a future meeting, once this analysis has been completed, potentially inviting guests from the GLA and/or the functional bodies.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The main work areas of the Committee are summarised below.

Assembly Budget and Scrutiny Work Programme

- 4.2 The Committee allocates the Assembly's budget and receives a report in March each year on that subject (following the approval of the overall amount of the budget and in advance of the start of the financial year in question).
- 4.3 The Committee receives quarterly financial and performance monitoring reports from the Secretariat in July, October, January and April/May each year.
- 4.4 The Committee approves individual proposals for non-routine expenditure from the scrutiny programme budget which are referred to the Committee by the subject-related committees during the year. The timing of these reports depends upon when the subject-related committees approve projects and refer proposals for expenditure.
- 4.5 The Committee approves proposals for rapporteurships referred from subject-related committees during the course of the year.
- 4.6 The Committee also has the power to consider any issue which does not fall into the remit of one of the subject-related committees (for instance, cross-cutting equalities and governance issues).

Staffing Consultations and Appointments

- 4.7 The Committee will be invited to respond to consultations from the Head of Paid Service (HoPS) from time to time during the year. The Committee's role in relation to these consultations is reactive and therefore the work programme does not predict what reports will be presented and when. During the 2010/11 and 2011/12 Assembly years the Committee considered a number of consultation reports arising from the transfer of functions to the GLA as a result of devolution.

4.8 The Assembly has a role in appointing the statutory officers to the Authority, and this Committee has delegated authority to fulfil that role as and when the need arises.

Other Items of Consideration

4.9 At the Committee's meeting of 29 January 2013, it was proposed that the following items be included in the Committee's work programme:

- Questions in relation to the Senior Advisor for Mentoring;
- The GLA's accommodation review;
- Quarterly updates on the evaluation of the Mayor's Mentoring Programme; and
- The GLA's code for the use of statistics.

4.10 The GLA's code for the use of statistics was dealt with at the Committee's meeting of 26 February 2013. The quarterly updates for the Mayor's Mentoring Programme will be considered at the Oversight Committee meeting held on June, September, December and March. Officers are working to identify appropriate dates for the remaining items to be incorporated into the work programme going forward.

4.11 In addition, the Committee will continue to monitor the Mayor's role in education.

Scrutiny of the Head of Paid Service Function

4.12 The Committee usually receives reports on the following issues during the course of the year:

- Annual Workforce Monitoring Report, incorporating complaints monitoring (plus a six-monthly update); and
- Governance.

4.13 The Committee usually receives a report on the draft Annual Governance Review and Annual Governance Statement in June (together with the GLA's Audit Panel).

4.14 The table set out below shows the Committee's scheduled meeting dates for the remainder of the 2012/13 Assembly year and anticipated agenda items. This timetable and provisional agenda items will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

Date of meeting	Main Agenda Items
Wednesday, 24 April 2013 at 10am in CR5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HoPS Consultation Reports (if any)• GLA Group Accommodation (tbc)• Elections Review Working Group response• Draft Committee Timetable of Meetings 2013/14• Assembly Committee Structure (tbc)• Treasury Management Shared Services: MOPAC

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Assembly has the power to establish committees to discharge its functions, and the GLA Oversight Committee is one such committee. The work programme is in accordance with the GLA Oversight Committee's terms of reference, as agreed by the Assembly at its Annual Meeting on 11 May 2012.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.

List of appendices to this report: None

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

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