

# MINUTES

**Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee**  
**Date: Tuesday 26 February 2013**  
**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: <http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/committees/oversight>

**Present:**

Len Duvall (Chair)  
Jennette Arnold OBE (Deputy Chair)  
Andrew Boff  
Tom Copley  
Darren Johnson  
Steve O'Connell  
Caroline Pidgeon MBE  
Valerie Shawcross CBE

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

- 1.1 An apology for absence was received from Joanne McCartney AM for whom Tom Copley AM attended as a substitute.

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

2.1 **Resolved:**

- (a) **That the list of memberships of functional bodies and London Borough Councils, as set out in the table at Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests; and**
- (b) **That gifts and hospitality received by Members, as set out in the Authority's gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

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

#### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee held on 29 January 2013 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. The Head of Paid Service informed the Committee that his response to requests for further information from the Chair on the number of questions submitted under the Mayor's Question Time procedure and recharging costs for services provided to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime had been issued to the Assembly Secretariat and that this had been circulated to the Committee informally.

#### **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 providing details of the submission to the Communities and Local Government Committee's investigation into the operation of the GLA Act and the Assembly, issued by the Chair of the Assembly under delegated authority.

#### **5.2 Resolved:**

**That the recent action taken by the Chair of the Assembly under delegated authority be noted.**

### **6. The Mayor's Annual Equalities Report 2011/12 (Item 6)**

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to its discussion with the Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture, Munira Mirza, about the Mayor's Annual Equalities Report 2011/12.

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6.2 During the course of the discussion, the Committee requested that the following additional information be provided:

- Regional data from the National Apprenticeship Service in terms of gender, race and disability for London;
- Data showing a breakdown of apprentices in the GLA Group in terms of gender, age, race and disability;
- Details of how the Mayor's pledge to create 20,000 part time jobs during the current term would be delivered;
- A copy of the response from Stonewall to the GLA's application for inclusion on the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2013 which explains the GLA's failure to meet the criteria. Also details of the GLA's policy changes that had led to Stonewall's judgement and how the policies differed from those of the previous administration;
- Details of whether the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) was aware of differences in the clear-up rates for different types of hate crime and if so, how that was being addressed;
- Details of what actions MOPAC had taken to address the issue of female genital mutilation in London;
- An explanation of why no data would be collected on the use by boroughs of landlords with a recognised accreditation in tackling severe overcrowding in social rented housing (Objective 4, paragraph 3.5, of the Mayor's Annual Equality Report); and
- Details of how the GLA had addressed the difference in life expectancies between people in different boroughs across London.

6.3 Further, it was suggested that consideration be given to the Metropolitan Police Service classifying crimes against sex workers as hate crimes. It was also suggested that in future considerations of the Mayor's Annual Equalities Report, the GLA's Senior Management Team be invited to attend specifically to identify how effective the mainstreaming of equalities had been.

6.4 A transcript of the discussion is attached as **Appendix 1**.

6.5 **Resolved:**

**That, subject to the comments raised at the meeting and recorded above, the report and discussion be noted.**

## **7. Head of Paid Service Oral Update (Item 7)**

- 7.1. The Head of Paid Service updated the Committee on the latest structure for the organisation, including details of the Mayoral Team and the Senior Management Team. Whilst not finalised and still subject to consultation, the organisation structure reflected comments made by the Committee in relation to the remit and denomination of the Development, Enterprise and Environment Directorate and in relation to the size of the Team London, Volunteering, Charities and Sponsorship Unit which, it was confirmed, would be reduced from the original proposals by five posts (although Sponsorship would be retained with its existing posts inside a revamped London Engagement Unit).
- 7.2. The Executive Director of Secretariat clarified that the post of Head of Special Projects and Elections was 80% funded from the Elections budget and 20% from the Assembly budget. The 20% Assembly funding related to overview of London TravelWatch, business continuity and other projects. On questioning the management and reporting arrangements for the Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise, the Committee was advised that Kit Malthouse AM reported directly to the Mayor in his role as Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise. Members requested details of the remuneration for members of the Mayoral Team but were advised that the information was already available on the GLA website.
- 7.3. The Committee was informed that it would receive a final consultation paper on the remaining elements of the restructure at its next meeting.
- 7.4. Subject to the comments made in the meeting and recorded above, the oral update was noted.

## **8. Work Force Report (Item 8)**

- 8.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Service.
- 8.2 In response to Members' concerns about the high numbers of staff sickness absence associated with stress, depression, anxiety, mental health and fatigue, the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development commented that work had been undertaken to address the issue, including close work with line managers, the implementation of the wellbeing and healthy work place initiative, the employee assistance programme and occupational health.
- 8.3 Work had also been undertaken to seek to address the imbalance at a senior level in terms of female and black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) staff, including specific programmes such as the Women's Development Programme. The Chair suggested that whilst acknowledging the ongoing work of the Authority on workforce equalities issues (including the underrepresentation of BME staff in the Secretariat and some other parts of the GLA), it would be useful if the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Assembly could lead, together with

other interested Assembly Members, some round table discussions on ways forward, potentially involving organisations such as the Runnymede Trust.

8.4 **Resolved:**

**That the report be noted subject to the Executive Director of Secretariat and the Head of Paid Service discussing with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Assembly proposals for taking forward round table talks on workforce equalities issues in the Secretariat and the wider GLA.**

**9. GLA Consultation on a Code of Practice in the Use of Statistics by the GLA (Item 9)**

- 9.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Service. Also in attendance for this item was the Assistant Director of Intelligence.
- 9.2 The Committee was presented with the GLA's draft Code of Practice for the Use of Statistics, incorporating advice and suggestions arising from consultation with the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) and Full Fact. Reflecting the fact that the GLA is not a generator of official statistics under the terms of the Statistics and Registrations Service Act 2007, the UKSA had confirmed that their Code does not apply directly to statistical work in the GLA. The draft GLA Code therefore adopted the key principles of the UKSA Code and incorporated them in a purpose made document.
- 9.3 The report set out the proposed timetable on the implementation of the code and details of how it would be enforced, monitored and reviewed. The Head of Paid Service also clarified that once in place, the code would apply to the Mayor's Office, the Assembly and staff working in the GLA (though not at this stage across the GLA group). The Committee questioned how the GLA could be satisfied of the validity of data it received from functional bodies if other parts of the GLA group had not agreed to abide by the code. In response, the Head of Paid Service explained that the individual data owners in the functional bodies adhered to their own practices to ensure that data is of a suitable standard, which is then checked by officers in the Intelligence Unit before being placed on the London DataStore.
- 9.4 Members also questioned the need for the Authority to produce its own code on the grounds that it might be more coherent and easier to monitor it if the GLA adopted the UKSA's code. Members suggested that the use of the UKSA's nationally recognised framework might also support the Assembly if it was expected to provide the London DataStore's statistics with an assurance of integrity through its scrutiny functions. However, the Head of Paid Service stressed that given the very specific governance and accountability arrangements for the GLA it would not be appropriate to adopt wholesale the UKSA's code. The Assistant Director of Intelligence further clarified that the GLA's proposed code was not intended to be exclusive of the UKSA's code but had been devised in conjunction with the UKSA and based entirely

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on the relevant parts of the UKSA's code.

9.5 In relation to Members' request for a clear procedure for both the public and Assembly Members to raise queries in relation to information held on the London DataStore, the Head of Paid Service advised that whilst the Code already proposed a mechanism for considering any Assembly Members' concerns, namely the Assistant Director of Intelligence and the GLA's Governance Steering Group, he would give further thought to a suitable mechanism for members of the public. A GLA Complaints Procedure did, of course, already exist for the public.

9.6 The Head of Paid Service also clarified that the review of the code would specifically look at how the code operated in practice.

9.7 In discussion, the Committee requested the following:

- Copies of the communications between the Authority and the organisations that responded to the consultation;
- That consideration be given to establishing a mechanism by which the public and Assembly Members could question data if they felt it necessary to do so;
- That consideration be given to how the information on the London DataStore is presented to show the differing levels of official approval; and
- That, without altering the implementation timeframe for the code, a further report be presented to the Oversight Committee addressing in more detail the concerns that had been raised at the meeting.

9.8 **Resolved:**

- (a) That copies of the communications between the Authority and the organisations that responded to the consultation be provided to the Committee;**
- (b) That consideration be given to establishing a mechanism by which the public and Assembly Members could question data if they felt it necessary to do so;**
- (c) That consideration be given to how the information on the London DataStore is presented to show the differing levels of official approval; and**
- (d) That, without altering the implementation timeframe for the code, a further report be presented to the Oversight Committee addressing in more detail the concerns that had been raised at the meeting.**

## **10. London Assembly Annual Report (Item 10)**

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

10.2 **Resolved:**

**That authority to approve the publication of the London Assembly Annual Report 2012-13 be delegated to the Chair of the Assembly, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Leaders.**

## **11. Assembly Requirements for Information to be Included in the Mayor's Annual Report for 2013-14 (Item 11)**

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

11.2 **Resolved:**

**That authority be delegated to the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and Group Leaders, to notify the Mayor under section 46(2)(d) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended) of the information that the Assembly wishes his 2013/14 Annual Report to contain.**

## **12. Secretariat Quarterly Monitoring, Quarter 3 2012/13 (Item 12)**

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

12.2 **Resolved:**

**That the core Secretariat quarterly monitoring report for the third quarter of 2012-13 (October to December 2012) be noted.**

## **13. Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee 2012/13 (Item 13)**

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

13.2 **Resolved:**

**That the work programme for 2012/13 be noted.**

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

14.1 The next meeting of the Committee would be held on 21 March 2013 at 10am in Committee Room 5.

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

15.1 There was no other business the Chair considered urgent.

**16. Close of Meeting**

16.1 The meeting finished at 12.17pm.

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Chair

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Date

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