

Subject: Secretariat Quarterly Review, Quarter 1, 2013-14

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 18 July 2013

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report presents an overview of the work and outputs of the Assembly core Secretariat during the first quarter of 2013/14 (April-June 2013). The report also highlights responses to previous reports that have been received during the period and indicates where the Assembly's recommendations have been accepted and implemented.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee's role of overseeing the work programme and provide Members with an opportunity to comment on committees' future work programmes. The report is structured to reflect the committee structure agreed by the Assembly at its annual meeting in May 2013.

2. Recommendation:

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the core Secretariat quarterly monitoring report for the first quarter of 2013-14 (April-June 2013).**

3. The Mayor and GLA Group's budgets and performance

- 3.1 **TfL sponsorship and income generation:** On 16 April the Budget and Performance Committee questioned Graeme Craig, TfL's Commercial Development Director, on TfL's progress in developing a new sponsorship policy in light of the Committee's report – *Whose brand is it anyway?* – into sponsorship, published in February 2012. TfL provided the Committee with a draft of its new sponsorship policy in advance of the meeting, and the Committee was pleased to note that the policy addressed most of the recommendations contained in its report. The Committee will review the final policy and associated documents when the TfL Board formally agrees them later in the year. The Committee's work in this area has encouraged this part of TfL to become much more transparent – for example TfL has agreed to publish all future sponsorship contracts in full – and has set a benchmark for the rest of the organisation to reach.

- 3.2 **Police technology:** The Budget and Performance Committee continued its investigation into the Metropolitan Police Service's use of technology and the planned cuts to its technology budget. In April, Members questioned HMI Stephen Otter on HMIC's recent report into how police forces around England use mobile technology. In June the Committee held its third and final meeting at which Members questioned representatives from the MPS and MOPAC on the MPS's forthcoming ICT strategy. The Committee will publish a report during the summer.
- 3.3 **GLA Business Plan:** On 23 May, the Budget and Performance Committee questioned Sir Edward Lister, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, and Jeff Jacobs, Head of Paid Service, about the GLA's Business Plan for 2013-14 to 2015-16. For the first time, the GLA Business Plan includes clear annual targets for many of the Mayor's priorities. The Committee had pushed for these to be included throughout its scrutiny of the Mayor's budget for 2013-14, particularly at its meeting with senior GLA staff in November 2012. The Assembly will be able to use these targets to hold the Mayor to account over the rest of his term of office, and sets a precedent for future Mayors to follow.
- 3.4 **Riot (Damages) Act:** In October 2012 the Budget and Performance Committee published a report, *Picking up the pieces*, in which it recommended that the Government should review the Riot (Damages) Act. In its investigation into the aftermath of the 2011 riots in London, the Committee had found that the Act was out of date and had caused delays to businesses who were seeking compensation for damages. The Committee had repeated its recommendation in December 2012 when it discussed its recommendations with a panel of stakeholders, including a senior official from the Home Office. In May, the Government announced that it was setting up an independent review of the Act. In response, the Chair wrote to the independent reviewer, Neil Kinghan, to inform him of the Committee's work and to offer to participate in the review. Mr Kinghan then asked to meet with the Chair and Officers to discuss the Committee's findings and recommendations; this meeting is planned for 3 July. The Committee will look to contribute to the review further in order to push forward the recommendations from its report.
- 3.5 **EU Structural Funds:** In March, the Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee examined proposals for the GLA to take greater control over EU Structural Funds in London from 2014. Members were in favour of this proposal, and in April the Chair wrote to Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, to express the Committee's support.

4. London's Economy

- 4.1 The Economy Committee held a meeting in April with **London & Partners** to examine the agency's work delivering an Olympic legacy. The Committee also met with a range of experts from higher education, tourism and the wider business community. The Committee will follow-up this work by visiting ExCel London to discuss prospects for increasing business tourism.
- 4.2 In April, the Committee hosted a seminar to explore **London's relationship with the EU**. The session focused on finance and the high-tech sector, with experts speakers from both fields to an audience of around 80 invited guests. The Committee published a summary of the discussion. Following the seminar, Gerard Lyons has been tasked by the Mayor to carry out an economic and financial report on EU membership. This will take into account all the key issues as they affect London including renegotiation and possible Referendum on membership of the EU.

- 4.3 The Committee completed its investigation into **adult careers services** in London, and published a report in June setting out a vision for services with key priorities for the London Enterprise Panel. The report was published alongside a commissioned literature review and achieved local and national media coverage. The London Enterprise Panel discussed the report with its Skills and Employment Working Group prior to formulating a formal response.
- 4.4 The rapporteurship investigation into **small theatres** concluded the evidence-gathering stage with further site visits to theatres and analysis of over 60 survey responses from both theatres and theatregoers. A final report is being drafted and is expected to be published in early August. Interest from the sector continues to be high.
- 4.5 On 24 April, the Economy Committee published a report analysing **ticket sales for the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games**. This followed-up recommendations from several reports on this topic prior to the Games. The report highlighted the ways in which LOCOG had worked to make the Games accessible, but also noted the extremely high prices and lack of public availability for many popular sessions. The Committee's analysis produced a large amount of new statistical information, and by publishing some of the raw data in a more accessible format the Committee has allowed the public to conduct their own analyses of ticket sales for the first time.
- 4.6 The report identified best practice recommendations to be implemented at future sporting events in London: these findings were shared with sporting bodies organising events in London, as well as the hosts of upcoming Olympic and Commonwealth Games in Rio, Sochi and Glasgow. The Committee has asked the relevant bodies for views on how they will implement the recommendations. The report achieved widespread coverage in local and national press, with the Chair also giving a number of broadcast interviews, for example on the BBC's, Sunday Politics show.
- 4.7 In May the Committee held a meeting with experts from **the construction sector** to discuss challenges facing the industry. The Committee will publish a summary of the meetings, and the findings will inform an investigation into apprenticeships proposed by the Chair.
- 4.8 The Committee agreed to launch an investigation into **low pay in London**, and uptake of the Living Wage. In June, the Committee met experts from the business community, academia, trade unions and the voluntary sector to discuss the scope of the investigation. A further meeting will be held in the autumn.

5 Housing¹

- 5.1 The Committee's report **Housing Associations and the Delivery of Affordable Housing in London** was launched on 25 June and received coverage in the trade press including a good article in Inside Housing. The report raised a number of risks that housing associations face as they adapt to a new business model and changes to the welfare system. It will be circulated to key stakeholders, and the Committee will continue its scrutiny of housing associations in its future work programme.
- 5.2 On 10 June, the former Housing and Regeneration Committee published its report with recommendations for **improving London's private rented sector housing**. The report calls for a package of tough reforms to help banish rogue landlords from the capital's rental market. Measures

¹ This section covers work of the former Housing and Regeneration Committee and the post-May 2013 Housing Committee

set out in the report include stabilising rents, enforcing landlord registration, higher penalties for breaching regulations and issuing longer tenancies. The report also recommends measures to benefit landlords, including the ability to access low-cost loans to improve rental properties. Of the 20 recommendations, four attracted dissent from a minority of the Committee. The reasons for this dissent are recorded in a minority report appended to the main report. Follow-up meetings are now taking place with stakeholders such as the Council for Mortgage Lenders.

- 5.3 In April the Housing and Regeneration Committee concluded its review of **council housing in London** focusing on methods the boroughs are using to develop new council homes. Much of the discussion centred around the impact of reforms last year to the Housing Revenue Account, offering many boroughs a modest opportunity to borrow, but limited by the Treasury-imposed cap and constrained by the requirement to maintain and improve existing stock. A report on this investigation will be published in the summer.
- 5.4 The new Housing Committee began a review of **rough sleeping** in May, noting the Mayor's failure to meet the ambitious target of ending rough sleeping in London by December 2012. The Committee heard that although progress has been made with some of London's most entrenched rough sleepers and the *No Second Night Out* programme has been relatively successful in tackling people newly arriving on the streets, numbers of rough sleepers continue to grow. A further session is proposed on this topic later in the year, with a short report or issues paper to follow.
- 5.5 As a part of the Committee's review of **specialist housing options for older people** (often known as sheltered or retirement housing), Members visited Peabody's Darwin Court in Walworth on 4 June and spoke to centre managers and residents. Darwin Court has been recognised as among the best housing schemes for older people in Europe. It is a pioneering scheme containing 76 flats for people over 50. The centre's facilities include a swimming pool, healthcare suite, multi-purpose room for meetings and social events, an IT suite and a restaurant. These facilities are open to schools and the local community to maximise community benefits. The Committee will hold a formal meeting on 10 July to establish how the current housing needs of older Londoners are being met and the challenges faced for increased future provision.

6 Regeneration

- 6.1 The Regeneration Committee was established on 1 May and held its first formal meeting on 26 June to discuss the role of the Mayor and GLA in supporting regeneration across London. Among others, the Committee heard from Sir Eddie Lister, Professor Loretta Lees and Dan Harvey (Chair of London Institute of Civil Engineers). The Committee's first three meetings will focus on the two largest regeneration sites in London: Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea in Lambeth and Wandsworth and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Committee will visit both sites before holding discussions with relevant stakeholders.

7 Planning

- 7.1 Following its March meeting to discuss Government proposals to allow the **change of use from office space to residential without the need for planning permission**, the Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 4 April urging him to review the proposals before reaching a final decision. The Committee highlighted the potential negative effects that the proposals might have on London's economic recovery, on the delivery of good standard

homes for all, and on London's infrastructure and amenities. Another letter was sent to the Secretary of State to bring to his attention the potential negative impacts on the environment and economy of the Mayor's proposals to remove protection from some of London's remaining **riverside wharves**.

- 7.2 London is forecast to grow by more than a million people in the next twenty years. On 18 April the Committee met to discuss the implications of the **future growth of London**. The meeting provided an opportunity to establish some of the key issues to be addressed if growth is to be managed sustainably without jeopardising quality of life or London's competitiveness. Issues arising from the discussion will set the framework for further Committee work in 2013/14 especially in relation to the **Mayor's 2020 Vision** and revisions to the **London Plan**.
- 7.3 On 4 June the Committee published a report on the **future of London's town centres**. The report highlights that town centres must change from being primarily shopping destinations to dynamic and mixed centres for communities, offering a range of retail, leisure, public services and housing. The report was also responding to the **Mayor's draft Supplementary Planning Guidance** on town centres – which influences how local authorities manage town centres – and calls for more visionary encouragement for innovative, integrated approaches and stronger links with other Mayoral strategies.
- 7.4 On 6 June, Members from the Planning and Environment Committees visited "The Crystal" in the Royal Victoria Docks. The Crystal is a sustainable cities initiative by Siemens and home to the world's largest exhibition on urban sustainability. Members discussed with experts key issues for London regarding sustainable development and construction. The visit is part of the Planning Committee's work on the Mayor's consultation on the **SPG on sustainable design and construction** expected to be published in the summer.

8 Health

- 8.1 The Health Committee was established at the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly on the 1 May. The Committee is tasked with reviewing health and wellbeing across London, including reviewing progress against the Mayor's health Inequalities Strategies, work to tackle public health issues such as obesity and alcohol misuse, and the delivery of healthcare and public health. On 25 June, it held the first of two planned meetings on its review of diabetes care in London. The meeting explored the main identified risk factors for diabetes and prevention and intervention strategies for managing type 2 diabetes. All the guests stressed the need for educating people about the condition, particularly the links with obesity. They set out a number of potential ways to tackle the problem, including a tax on sugary drinks, compulsory food labelling and involving schools and health visitors to help children and families develop good eating habits. The Committee has received more than thirty submissions to the inquiry and will publish its findings and recommendations in early 2013.
- 8.2 On 17 April, the former Health and Environment Committee received a briefing on the public health reforms that came into place on 1 April 2013. The discussion focused on three main areas: 1) the development of health and wellbeing strategies; 2) how progress on meeting local priorities and maintaining patient care will be monitored; and 3) the mechanisms by which a strategic focus on pan-London priorities will be preserved. Members also took the opportunity to explore with the lead officer for Public Health England in London, how the capital was placed to respond to an epidemic under the new structures, given the emerging measles outbreak.

- 8.3 Members have agreed to focus on diabetes and accident & emergency provision initially. A stakeholder engagement event will also take place on 9 September, focusing on what more can be done to tackle health inequalities across London.

9 Environment

- 9.1 In June, the Environment Committee held a meeting with HS2 Ltd and other stakeholders including local councils and community groups. The meeting discussed the proposals to build a high speed rail link from Euston station to Birmingham, and in particular the environmental impacts in London. Written evidence has also been received which, alongside the discussion at the meeting, will inform a response to High Speed 2 Ltd's consultation on its draft Environmental Statement in July.
- 9.2 As part of her rapporteurship on *Moorings on London's waterways*, Jenny Jones AM has undertaken a site visit to the Regents Canal, seeing mooring issues on site and hearing from stakeholders including local residents, boaters and relevant organisations. Written evidence has also been collected, with over 30 submissions received. This evidence will inform a round table meeting with stakeholders and a report later in the summer.

10 Policing and Crime

- 10.1 **Violence against women and girls:** In April, the Committee held two roundtable meetings as part of its ongoing investigation in to violence against women and girls. The meetings considered two specific issues in more depth: girls and gangs and policing sex workers. The Committee will use its findings from its investigation to develop a response to the Mayor's consultation on his second Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, which is due to be updated in 2013.
- 10.2 **Governance of Taser:** The Taser Working Group continued its investigation of the MPS's use of Taser and other less lethal weaponry. In April, Members conducted a site visit to the MPS' Taser Training Centre at White City to examine the training programme and speak to trainee officers and senior staff. The Working Group held a second public meeting in May with Amnesty UK, the Police Action Centre, Black Mental Health UK and Haringey Council. The Committee considered concerns about the wider deployment of Taser on vulnerable people and local communities and heard views on how governance and monitoring structures might be improved. The evidence gathered by the Working Group helped inform a discussion with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Commissioner in June. Members explored how decisions made on Taser and other less lethal weapons have changed since the creation of MOPAC and considered how the process should be made more robust and transparent in future. The Committee is expected to publish its report in July.
- 10.3 **Community engagement:** The Mayor is planning to introduce Safer Neighbourhood Boards in each borough by April 2014 to replace Community and Police Engagement Groups. The Police and Crime Committee heard from guests in June who raised significant questions about MOPAC's planning and consultation around the new structures. In particular, MOPAC was criticised for providing inadequate or contradictory information to stakeholders about the basic functions of Safer

Neighbourhood Boards, how they will be governed and their role within the current borough policing structures.

- 10.4 MOPAC also acknowledged for the first time that its intention is for the Boards to be launched with a minimal level of funding (approximately £5,000 a year). Guests considered this inadequate to cover reasonable costs and meet the challenge of recruiting, training and managing a diverse volunteer base who can deliver the wide range of expected functions of the Boards. There were also concerns that the Boards would ultimately lack independence, which has historically been viewed as a key component of community engagement. The Committee will continue to monitor MOPAC's implementation programme.
- 10.5 On 27 June, the Committee questioned the Deputy Mayor on his response to these concerns but a number of issues remain outstanding. The Committee will write to the Deputy Mayor seeking further clarification and will continue to monitor the implementation of Safer Neighbourhood Boards over the next year.
- 10.6 **The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017:** In May, the Committee received a formal full response from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to its recommendations on the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan. Significant impact had already been identified when the Plan was published during the last quarter but the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime's response also accepted the Committee's recommendation that an action plan should be developed to map out how the Mayor's criminal justice targets will be achieved. MOPAC is now developing this with the London Crime Reduction Board.
- 10.7 **Holding the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to account:** The Police and Crime Committee holds regular question and answer meetings to hold MOPAC to account and inform its wider role of investigating issues of importance to policing and crime reduction in London. As usual, a senior MPS representative also attended each of these meetings in this quarter. The Committee's question and answer session in May took place the day after the murder of soldier Lee Rigby in Woolwich. The Committee used this meeting to examine the MPS's response and in particular the MPS's approach to community reassurance in the aftermath. Other topics considered this quarter included the Independent Commission on Mental Health and Policing, resourcing Operation Yewtree (the Met's investigation of allegations of child sexual abuse in the wake of allegations against Jimmy Savile) and MOPAC's proposals for community engagement.
- 10.8 **Inquiry into the murder of Daniel Morgan:** In May, the Home Secretary announced that the unsolved murder of private investigator Daniel Morgan more than 25 years ago will be investigated by an independent panel. The Committee previously wrote to the Home Secretary to express cross-party support for a judicial inquiry into the handling of the case. The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice wrote to the Committee to explain the decision.

11 Transport in London

- 11.1 **Spending Review:** The plans announced on 26 June included the electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking overground line and devolution of the West Anglia suburban rail services to Transport for London, both issues upon which the Transport Committee has been making representations to

Government over many years.

- 11.2 **Airport capacity in London:** The Transport Committee has received a positive response from Sir Howard Davies, Chair of the Airports Commission, to its report on airport capacity published in May 2013. The report set out various issues for the Commission to address in its interim report on meeting the UK's future aviation needs, including the importance of local demand in determining how airlines use airport capacity and the scope to use existing airports differently. Sir Howard thanked the Committee for the report, stating that it raised a number of interesting and challenging issues and provided a rich and valuable evidence base for the Commission to consider. Members are due to meet Sir Howard informally in July to discuss the Committee's findings in detail. The aviation report achieved good coverage across a range of broadcast – BBC1 Breakfast, LBC, London 94.9 – and print media. Articles included Times, Evening Standard, Independent, CityAM, BBC Online, as well as local media and aviation trade magazines.
- 11.3 **Bus services:** The Transport Committee attracted many members of the public to its first meeting on bus services in June 2013 where they shared their views and experiences about busy bus routes in the capital and TfL's approach to planning and reviewing bus services. The Committee has also launched a survey to gather public views for its investigation. The Committee will hold a second meeting in July when it will question representatives of TfL and other relevant organisations drawing on the findings from its first meeting and the survey.
- 11.4 **Crossrail 2:** The Transport Committee held a meeting in May 2013 to discuss Crossrail 2 with Lord Adonis, on behalf of London First's Crossrail 2 Task Force, and representatives of TfL, Network Rail and London Councils. The Committee is now preparing its response to TfL's consultation on Crossrail 2.
- 11.5 **2012 transport:** The Transport Committee has received positive responses to its report on the operation of transport during the 2012 Games and the transport legacy. TfL reported on actions it is taking in relation to all six areas covered in the Committee's recommendations. This includes the continuation of 'One Team Transport' through measures such as the establishment of a Strategic Co-ordination Unit for all major events in the capital. Network Rail and the train operator Southern also reported on their work in support of the recommendations.
- 11.6 **Safer cycling:** In June, the Transport Committee followed up the recommendations in its report on safer cycling in London, *Gearing Up* (November 2012), with a site visit to TfL's road trials at the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL)'s centre. The Committee recommended that TfL trial innovative cycle safety measures building on lessons from other countries and on the site visit saw TfL's trials of Dutch-style segregation at roundabouts, low-level cycle signals, and HGV cycle safety equipment.

12 Meetings of the full Assembly

- 12.1 The Assembly meets ten times every year to question the Mayor publicly on behalf of the electorate. There were two Mayor's Question Time meetings in the first quarter of 2013-14, held on 22 May and 19 June 2013.
- 12.2 There were two Plenary meetings of the Assembly in the first quarter: the Annual Meeting of the Assembly on 1 May 2013; and on 5 June the Assembly put questions to Professor Tony Travers,

Chair of the London Finance Commission, on the work of the London Finance Commission and its report Raising the Capital.

- 12.3 The Audit Panel and Confirmation Hearings Committee did not meet in the first quarter of 2013-14.

13 GLA Oversight

- 13.1 **Transparency of the GLA Group:** The GLA Oversight Committee's report on the transparency of the GLA Group, led by rapporteur John Biggs AM, was published on 26 June. It made recommendations intended to help bring about a cultural shift within GLA Group organisations so that the initial presumption is for information publication unless there is a pressing reason not to. Transparency has increased to an extent even during the investigation and the Committee will discuss how to continue this progress by implementing the report's recommendations with the Mayor's Chief of Staff at its meeting on 18 July. The report brings together concerns raised by Committees and Members over a number of issues and functional bodies.
- 13.2 **Head of Paid Service Consultations:** The Committee considered a report at its 24 April 2013 meeting that provided initial responses to the recommendations of the Elections Review Working Group and set out a proposal for a delivery model for the 2016 elections.
- 13.3 **Shared Services:** At its meeting on 21 May 2013, the Committee was invited to comment on the proposed Information Technology, Human Resources, Media and Treasury Management shared service arrangements between the GLA and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (following an earlier report discussed by the Committee at its January 2013 meeting). Helen Bailey, MOPAC's Chief Operating Officer, was in attendance at the meeting. Following the discussion, the Committee agreed to undertake further work in relation to shared services across the GLA Group.
- 13.4 **Other Reports:** In this period, the Committee was also consulted on Assembly Events, the implementation of a code of practice for the use of statistics at the GLA and received a report on the workforce composition in the Secretariat.

14 Events

- 14.1 The Assembly has a programme of events in order to fulfil Members' representative roles, raise the profile of the Assembly, and engage Londoners in the work of the Assembly. For this quarter, the following took place:
- On 8 April, a group of students from Denmark visited City Hall and attended a briefing on the work of the Assembly and the GLA.
 - On 9 April, the Assembly hosted an EU Youth Forum for students to discuss policy and learn about the work of the London Assembly.
 - On 23 April, the Assembly hosted the London UpRising Leadership Programme (which supports potential leaders from diverse backgrounds) providing an opportunity for programme members to question Assembly Members.

- On 22 May, 55 TFL apprentices were given a briefing on the work of the London Assembly and attended MQT.
- On 22 May, the Assembly hosted a briefing from Network Rail about their plans for the redevelopment of London Bridge Station and rail services across the city.
- On 4 June, the Assembly hosted a meeting of the London Scrutiny Network.
- On 19 June, 30 Journalism students were given a briefing on the work of the Assembly and attended MQT.
- On 19 June, the Assembly hosted a briefing by UCL, focused on their plans to acquire a Stratford Campus.
- On 24 June, the Assembly joined the Mayor in celebrating Armed Forces Day in a flag raising ceremony held at City Hall.
- The chair of the Assembly appeared in front of the CLG select committee on 17 June in connection with their investigation into the GLA Act 2007.
- Delegations from Russia, Peru and China visited the Assembly to discuss London's priorities and the Assembly's role in the capital's government.

15. Legal Implications

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

16. Financial Implications

16.1 There are no financial implications to the GLA arising from this report

List of appendices to this report: None

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