

Subject: Secretariat Quarterly Review, Quarter 2, 2014-15

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 11 December 2014

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 second quarter of 2014-15 (July to September 2014). 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. The report is structured to reflect the committees agreed by the Assembly at its Annual Meeting in May 2014.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the core Secretariat quarterly monitoring report for the second quarter of 2014-15 (July to September 2014).**

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

- 3.1 The Budget and Performance Committee continued its investigation into the **viability of sponsored transport schemes**. In July, the Committee heard from representatives from TfL and two sponsorship companies about cycle hire scheme sponsorship, TfL's strategy for sponsorship, and the Garden Bridge project. This was the second of two Committee meetings for this investigation. The Committee published its report in late November, with the objective of influencing and improving TfL's next sponsorship deal for the cycle hire scheme, due to be agreed in 2015.
- 3.2 In September, the Committee took another look at the **Met's savings plans**. It heard from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary about the progress the Met has already made, and the challenges that remain. These include the expectation of deeper cuts in the next Spending Review

period from 2016, and the risks around the implementation of its new IT strategy, which the Committee examined and helped to shape last year.

- 3.3 The Committee has continued to ask questions of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) regarding the **escalating costs of renovating the Olympic Stadium roof**. In September, Members questioned the outgoing Chief Executive, Dennis Hone, to determine the scale of the cost increase and which organisation would be liable for these costs. The LLDC does not yet know the final cost of the work, but it will run into millions of pounds, creating a financial pressure for the LLDC and, by association, the GLA. The Committee will pursue this issue as it considers the GLA budget over the coming months.

4. London's Economy

- 4.1 In July, the Committee met Dr Gerard Lyons, the Mayor's chief economic advisor, to discuss current issues facing **London's economy and workforce**. The Committee discussed a number of issues with Dr Lyons, including significant challenges for London's economy including: reliance on the finance sector; increasing inequality; high housing costs; and high youth unemployment.
- 4.2 The Committee discussed the development of the **Economic Development Plan** (EDP) with representatives from the GLA and London First. The Committee also wrote to Harvey McGrath, Deputy Chair of the London Enterprise Panel, to raise issues which the Committee believed should be addressed in the Plan, including the importance of diversity in the London economy; low pay; the poor quality of broadband connections; and the need to support high street businesses. The Committee also wrote to the Mayor to address flaws in the consultation process and to seek clarification on the overlap between the proposed Economic Development Plan and existing Mayoral and LEP strategies. Harvey McGrath's response to the Committee discussed each area raised by the Committee, and highlighted existing work being carried out by the GLA and/or LEP. The Mayor's own response confirmed the relationship between the EDP and his Economic Development Strategy and set out his response to the Committee's concerns regarding the consultation.
- 4.3 In July, the Committee submitted evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into **Hunger and Food Poverty** in Britain. The submission was based on the Assembly's report, *A Zero Hunger City: Tackling food poverty in London*, which was published in March 2014.
- 4.4 In September, the Committee met again with Dr Gerard Lyons to discuss his report assessing the impact on London of potential changes to the **UK's relationship with the EU**. The Committee explored specific aspects of the modelling of the impact of different scenarios used for the report, and whether other indicators had been taken into account during the modelling including: poverty, income and wealth inequality; greenhouse gas emissions; 'subjective wellbeing'; or other economic indicators. Following the meeting, the Committee wrote to Dr Lyons for further information and clarification on a number of issues.
- 4.5 In September, the Committee visited the **Bank of England** to receive a series of briefings on the regulation of the financial services sector in London. The Committee heard about recent reforms to the regulatory system following the financial crash of 2007-08, and discussed ways in which the Bank of England identifies and manages risk in the sector. The briefing will feed into the planned February meeting on financial services.

- 4.6 The Committee also launched its investigation into **personal debt** in September which seeks to assess the effectiveness of debt support across the capital. The investigation will continue at the Committee's November and December meetings.
- 4.7 The Committee continued to examine the issue of **internships** in the capital. Analysis of the Committee's research into the extent of internships and the experiences of interns will be published in the autumn.

5. Housing

- 5.1 The Assembly's Housing Committee published its report on **Rough Sleeping and Single Homelessness** in July. The report, *No Going Back*, focuses on why one third of the rough sleepers who have been picked up by the Mayor's No Second Night Out programme still find themselves back on the streets. It highlights how appropriate support to rough sleepers can be impeded by the fragmentation of provision, both geographic and functional, and makes recommendations to the Mayor, the Government and the London Health Commission on how to rectify this. The report was well covered in the trade press and two radio interviews with the Chair were broadcast. There was also positive discussion on Twitter. Our health-related recommendations have been taken forward in the London Health Commission's recent report.
- 5.2 The Committee continued its investigation into the **Demolition and Refurbishment of London's Social Housing Estates** during July. It undertook a site visit to Clapham Park, one of the biggest former council estates in Europe, to discuss the vision for the estate and how this has been shaped by funding opportunities and Government/Mayoral policy. Members also met a number of estate residents to discuss the programme from the tenant and leaseholder perspective. Later in July, the Committee's formal meeting included both a panel debate and an open-mic session which attracted some 70 attendees, many of whom contributed to the discussion. There has also been considerable interest in the investigation from housing providers. The report will be published early in January and has already been anticipated in the trade press.
- 5.3 In September, the Committee began its investigation into the **Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Sites in London**. The September site visit enabled the Committee to get first-hand experience of life on both an authorised and unauthorised site.

6. Regeneration

- 6.1 The Committee published its report on the **Mayor's Regeneration Fund** in August. The Fund was introduced to support regeneration in a number of town centres following the August 2011 riots. On the third anniversary of the riots, the Committee's report expressed concern at the delays in spending the money, the GLA having spent just 16 per cent of the Fund over this time. The Committee's report recommended that the Mayor improve how the GLA communicates with Londoners about how and when the Fund is being spent. It also called on the Mayor to ensure effective local leadership is in place when allocating funds, and to work with the London Enterprise Panel to support boroughs in their engagement with the private sector. The report received significant broadcast coverage on BBC London, LBC, and online.

- 6.2 The Regeneration Committee continued to carry out a diverse number of activities to gather evidence for its investigation into **stadium-led regeneration**. It visited football stadiums and clubs including Wembley, White Hart Lane (Tottenham Hotspur FC), The Emirates (Arsenal FC), Griffin Park (Brentford FC), Upton Park (West Ham United FC), and Manchester City FC's Etihad Stadium. At the visits, the Committee had the opportunity to learn about the clubs' experiences of developing their stadiums (or their plans to do so), their relationships with stakeholders in the area, and the impact that a new stadium had, or would have, on the local area and community.
- 6.3 In addition to meeting with football clubs, the Committee has sought to hear the views of people living and working near new or proposed stadiums. A survey for members of the public was launched on Talk London and a focus group was held with representatives of local businesses operating near the Emirates Stadium, to discuss the impact that the stadium has had on their experiences of trading in the area. These views and information will all contribute to the Committee's final report.
- 6.4 And in September, the Committee held the second of two formal evidence hearings to examine two specific proposed stadium development schemes – the Olympic Stadium and a possible new stadium at Old Oak Common – with representatives of the London Legacy Development Corporation, West Ham United FC, LB Newham and Queen's Park Rangers FC.

7. Planning

- 7.1 At its meeting on 1 July the Committee discussed the Mayor's proposals for a **Mayoral Development Corporation at Old Oak** and Park Royal and the implications for the Park Royal Opportunity Area. Issues discussed at this meeting contributed to the Assembly's response to the Mayor's consultation that closed on 24 September 2014. The Mayor will lay his final proposals before the Assembly at an extraordinary plenary meeting on 17 December.
- 7.2 The Examination in Public of the Mayor's **Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan** commenced on 1 September. The Committee was represented by the Chair and two other Committee Members for the sessions that ran for two weeks. The Assembly was invited to participate on six of the matters for discussion: housing targets; housing density; waste; economy; retail; and transport. Over the course of August, the Planning Committee submitted 13 further written statements on these matters and the questions posed by the Inspector.

8. Health

- 8.1 On 8 July, the Health Committee questioned a range of expert guests on approaches to improving **access to GP services**, focusing on the role that alternative service models, technology and patient involvement have to play in improving patient access. This followed on from the Committee's first meeting on 6 February 2014 where Members discussed access from the providers' perspective, focussing on the challenges GPs in London face to continue to deliver quality care as demand for services increase, and budgets decline in real terms. The basis for both discussions stem from the Committee's previous investigation on Accident and Emergency (A&E) service provision, where it

was recognised that the demands on A&E services are symptomatic of wider pressures and challenges faced by primary care services, and particularly general practice.

- 8.2 The Health Committee held the first of two committee meetings, set aside for the Committee's **review of mental health services in London**, on 3 September. The investigation is examining the experiences of two specific user groups - young people and Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic individuals. This first meeting provided Members with an overview of the landscape for mental health support for young people in London, through statutory and non-statutory services. The discussion explored the challenges faced by service providers, one of the main ones being managing the demand for services, and how these translate into barriers to access to young people. Voluntary service providers are particularly stretched, often receiving a greater number of referrals from statutory providers, than they are able to process in a timely fashion, and this can lead to long delays in accessing the support needed. The paucity of data and lack of systematic collation of it makes it difficult to judge the extent to which there is a mismatch between demand for mental health services and support by young people, and the ability of providers to supply them. The discussion also explored the routes and methods young Londoners use to access mental health support and to what degree the current landscape for provision is able to accommodate them. The Committee will publish its findings in 2015.
- 8.3 Andrew Boff AM is leading a Committee review of **access to health services for D/deaf people** and met with external stakeholders as part of the evidence-gathering stage of the review.

9. Environment

- 9.1 After an investigation earlier in the year on the Mayor's **carbon reduction** strategies, the Environment Committee published a report card in July assessing performance on different aspects of the Mayor's strategy. Gaining coverage on ITV London as well as in the sector press, the report card held the Mayor to account for under-delivery on some of his key programmes and for missed milestones on the overall London carbon emissions trajectory.
- 9.2 The Environment Committee's main investigation for the quarter was into **food waste**. The July meeting heard evidence from decision-makers and experts in London waste management, and from the Italian Composting and Biogas Association about Milan's successes in collecting food waste from high density urban areas. In September, Members visited locations in Hackney and Camden to learn about recycling food waste in central London, with a focus on block of flats and community based solutions. At a time of reducing central support but potentially more demanding targets for local waste authorities, the Committee's findings and recommendations will point to key areas for improvement and potential ways forward. A report is to be published later in 2014.
- 9.3 The Committee also received written views and information for its investigation of **severe weather** risks, how they are changing and how London is adapting to them. The investigation has continued in the following quarter and a report is in preparation.

10. Policing and Crime

- 10.1 In July, the Committee published its report on the Met's role in **safeguarding** children, '*Keeping London's children safe*'. The report explores how well the Met's approach to safeguarding children is working and the structural changes that have taken place in the Met, following concerns raised by high profile cases and reviews. The report examined the early findings from the rollout of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) and the particular challenges the Met faces in responding to female genital mutilation and child sexual exploitation. The report also considered the strategic oversight of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and what more the Met and MOPAC could do to ensure their approach fully protects and safeguards children in London. The report commends the progress made by the Met but recognises that the need to safeguard children is ever more challenging. It identifies immediate challenges for the Met, including ensuring that its child abuse teams are fully resourced and the number of officers dedicated to safeguarding children is increased. The report received good media coverage and the Chair of the Safeguarding Working Group gave a number of media quotes and radio interviews. A positive response to the Committee's recommendations was received by both the Met and MOPAC. Following on from the investigation, the PCC will further examine London's approach to safeguarding children, in particular child sexual exploitation at its meeting in December 2014.
- 10.2 The Police and Crime Committee continued to conduct regular question and answer meetings to hold the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to account. A senior Metropolitan Police Service (Met) representative also attended each of the question and answer meetings in this quarter. In July, the Committee held their **annual review of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2016** with the Mayor and Commissioner of the Met, examining in particular the public perception of the Met; progress against the seven 'priority crimes' that the Mayor wanted to see reduced; and other priority crimes such as gang crime. Other topics considered during this quarter included counter-terrorism following proposed changes to anti-terrorism measures; MOPAC's responsibility for commissioning of victims' support services; and the use of Taser.
- 10.3 Through its Q&A sessions, the Committee continued to contribute to the debate about MOPAC's decision to purchase **water cannon** on behalf of the Met – following on from the Committee's investigation that concluded the Met had not set out a convincing case for why water cannon were needed in London by summer 2014. Issues such as the ethical framework for the use of water cannon, and the reasons why water cannon were purchased before the Home Secretary has agreed to license them were discussed.
- 10.4 In September, the Police and Crime Committee completed its evidence gathering in its investigation into the **diversity of the Met's frontline**. Members looked specifically at what the Met has done to recruit more BAME officers including how it supports BAME officers to progress through the ranks, and the representation of women and other groups with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. In support of the investigation, the Committee took the opportunity to receive a briefing on the Certificate in Knowledge of Policing (CKP), which is designed to prepare a candidate for recruitment to the police service by giving them a broad understanding of policing and police law. Members of the Committee met with two officers who had recently completed their CKP and police training for an informal discussion about their experience. The Committee will publish its report towards the end of 2014.

11. Transport in London

- 11.1 The Transport Committee has focused on road safety in this quarter. In September, the Committee wrote to the Mayor, following up its report *Feet First: Improving Pedestrian Safety in London*, to express concerns that **pedestrian safety issues** were not receiving adequate consideration in TfL's road safety policies. The Committee also responded to the TfL consultation on the Safer Lorries scheme, arguing for safety equipment including mirrors and sideguards to be compulsory on heavy goods vehicles.
- 11.2 Between July and September, the Committee held two public meetings as part of its investigation into **taxi and private hire services**. The Committee looked at a range of issues including passenger safety, availability of services, accessibility, enforcement and the performance of TfL as the licensor and regulator for these services. At its first public meeting, the Committee heard from groups representing passengers, including safety and disability campaigners, business representatives and international regulators. The second meeting included guests from taxi and private hire trade associations, boroughs, the Metropolitan Police and TfL. The Committee also held a stakeholder engagement event involving a wider range of trade associations and app companies, who were invited to 'pitch' to the Committee on their ideas for improving these services in the future. The Committee issued a publicised call for evidence, delivering consultation flyers directly to taxi drivers and private hire firms, which was featured in trade press, and received over 170 responses. The investigation has received positive coverage through trade press and on social media. The Committee commissioned an independent survey of 1,000 passengers and focus groups with taxi and private hire drivers to gain a deeper understanding of the issues affecting the trades. Members also attended a site visit with TfL and Police enforcement and compliance officers to gain further insight. The Committee is now preparing to publish a report on its findings.
- 11.3 The Committee launched a new investigation into TfL customer service in September. This is a rapporteurship investigation led by Valerie Shawcross AM and follows up previous work on this topic in 2012. The purpose of the investigation is to explore **TfL's progress in improving its customer service**, including through changes to its passenger charters and the development of an overarching customer charter. The investigation is also exploring the responsibilities of TfL's customers, as specified in its conditions of carriage, and how TfL manages its passenger charters and enforces its conditions of carriage to ensure its passengers enjoy the highest quality of service.

12. Education Panel

- 12.1 The Education Panel published its report '*London learners, London lives*' which reviewed the Mayor's intervention in the education sector and made practical recommendations for how he could support the creation of new school places and support children and young people to attain the high quality qualifications they need to successfully compete in London's increasingly global labour market. The report achieved media coverage and its recommendations were picked up in the Centre for London's manifesto for the further devolution of powers to London.
- 12.2 The report's recommendations were also followed up at September's Panel meeting with London Councils which reviewed the school places crisis. Further discussions with borough and third sector experts took place around the Mayor's support for children and young people with complex needs.

Following the meeting, representations were made to the Mayor proposing further actions to support specifically this group of children.

13. Meetings of the full Assembly

- 13.1 The Assembly meets ten times every year to question the Mayor publicly on behalf of the electorate. There were three Mayor's Question Time meetings in the second quarter of 2014-15, held on 2 July, 23 July and 17 September 2014.
- 13.2 There were two Plenary meetings of the Assembly in the second quarter. On 16 July 2014 the Assembly put questions to Munira Mirza, Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture, on recent updates to the Cultural Metropolis. At its meeting on 10 September 2014, the Assembly put questions to Boris Johnson, in his capacity as Chairman of Transport for London (TfL), and Sir Peter Hendy CBE, Commissioner, TfL, on the policies and work of TfL.

14. GLA Oversight Committee

- 14.1 **The Mayor's Mentoring Programme:** as part of its ongoing monitoring of the Mayor's Mentoring Programme, the GLA Oversight Committee received an update on the programme at its meeting on 23 July 2014.
- 14.2 **Shared Services:** at its meeting in July and September 2014, the Committee was consulted on the proposed establishment of administrative arrangements for the discharge by the GLA of the relevant parts of London Legacy Development Corporation committee services and secretariat functions, and on proposals for shared treasury management functions with the London Pensions Fund Authority.
- 14.3 **Senior Employee Remuneration in the GLA Group:** at its meeting in July, the Committee put questions to a number of guests on the issue of remuneration in the GLA Group.
- 14.4 **Regular Reports:** over the period of the second quarter, the GLA Oversight Committee also received and discussed a number of regular reports including the Annual Governance Statement, restructuring proposals in relation to the Secretariat External Relations Team and approving a rapporteurship proposal.

15. Events

- 15.1 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 4 August, the Chair of Assembly, Roger Evans, gave an introductory speech at the World War I centenary event
 - On 17 July, a new councillors reception was held in London's Living Room to welcome around 200 newly elected borough councillors from across London
 - The Assembly hosted a series of briefings for: students from the London School of Economics; Turkish District Governors; a delegation from Tianjin, China; and TfL summer placement students and graduates.

16. Legal Implications

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

17. Financial Implications

17.1 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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