

Subject: Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 17 December 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of proposed work and the schedule of meetings for the current Assembly year (2015/16). The Committee has a rolling work programme so work may continue beyond each Assembly year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the remainder of its work programme for 2015/16, 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.

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 monitoring reports from the Secretariat, scheduled for the Committee meetings in June, September, November and January.

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.

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. At its meeting of 22 May 2012, the GLA Oversight Committee agreed that the Head of Paid Service Performance Review Panel be established as a working group, and this meets annually (with the most recent meeting held 16 December 2014).

Other Items of Consideration

4.9 At the Committee's meeting of 29 January 2013, it was proposed that the Committee receives quarterly updates on the evaluation of the Mayor's Mentoring Programme. It was agreed subsequently, given the Committee's level of contentment with the progress and direction of the programme over the previous year, that updates be provided bi-annually throughout 2014/15. Following the update received by the Committee at its meeting of 11 December 2014, the Committee received a further update following the final phase of the programme at its 22 October 2015 meeting.

4.10 At its meeting on 21 March 2013, the Committee asked that it be consulted formally on the annual staff pay review; as the settlement reached in 2014 covered a two-year period, the annual pay review has not been scheduled as an item on the work programme for this Assembly year.

- 4.11 At its meeting on 25 February 2014, the Committee agreed to receive details of the progress made to address GLA workforce equalities issues, dealt with as part of the Committee's regular Workforce Monitoring Report and update.

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 also receives a report on the Draft Annual Governance Statement (dealt with by the Committee at its meeting in July this year).

Shared Services

- 4.14 Having previously considered a number of consultation proposals from the Mayor for shared services, the GLA Oversight Committee continues to receive an annual update on the progress of shared services across the Group and considers any proposals that may come forward. Following its consultation on shared services proposals in relation to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) at its meeting in February 2015, the Committee also requested that as part of its annual shared services report it receives an update on the proposed arrangements for the OPDC, with particular reference to financial costs and potential conflicts of interest. It was agreed that for this Assembly year, shared services be dealt with over the course of three separate meetings to consider a range of pan-GLA group collaborations (September and November 2015, and February 2016); however, due to time constraints at the September GLA Oversight Committee meeting, it was agreed that the item due to be discussed at that meeting would be rescheduled for consideration at this meeting.

Treasury Management

- 4.15 It was agreed at its meeting of 11 September 2014, that the GLA Oversight Committee reviews the shared treasury management arrangement between the GLA and the London Pensions Fund Authority after a year of operation. The item will be considered as part of the Committee's update on shared services scheduled for 25 February 2015.

Mayor's Fund for London

- 4.16 At the November 2014 meeting of the Committee, it was proposed that the Committee considers scrutinising the Mayor's Fund for London; this item has been scheduled for consideration at the meeting of 25 February 2016.

State of London Debate

- 4.17 The Committee is consulted annually on arrangements for the State of London Debate but following the discussion at its 11 December 2014 meeting, it was agreed that it should undertake a broader review of the way in which the event is organised, with a view to assisting the next Mayoral administration. The State of London Debate is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's meeting on 21 January 2016.

Older People

- 4.18 In addition to fielding a cross-party panel of Assembly Members to attend the national Age Friendly Cities conference on 16 March 2014, organised jointly by the GLA, Positive Ageing in London and the UK Urban Ageing Network, it was agreed that the GLA Oversight Committee considers the Mayor's work on older people in London as part of the Committee's 2015/16 work programme and the matter has therefore been scheduled for the Committee's meeting on 10 March 2016.

Pan-GLA Group Collaborative Procurement Function

- 4.19 Following discussion of the procurement shared service function at its meeting in January 2015, the Committee requested an update in 2015/16 addressing the issues that had been raised during the meeting, namely:

- Named individuals in each organisation to be held to account;
- Clearly set out milestones showing what would be achieved in the first two years;
- More ambitious, but achievable targets for savings over a reasonable timescale, with clarity about what savings were being made;
- The planned approach to ethical and fair trade procurement; and
- A focus on ensuring that TfL's approach to efficiency would be closely monitored.

- 4.20 This item is being considered as part of the Shared Services item elsewhere on this agenda.

Transparency of the GLA Group

- 4.21 In June 2013, the GLA Oversight Committee published *Transparency of the GLA Group* – authored by its rapporteur, Mayor John Biggs AM. At its meeting in March 2015, the Committee agreed a proposal to appoint Mayor John Biggs AM as rapporteur to carry out a follow-up investigation to assess the progress that has been made since the original report and to make recommendations to improve transparency in the GLA Group and the wider GLA family. It had been anticipated that the Committee might need to discuss this matter at its meeting in January 2016 but this is not likely to be the case.

Transport for London (TfL) Board Governance

- 4.22 Following a request from the Assembly's Transport Committee, it was agreed that the GLA Oversight Committee undertakes a review on behalf of the Assembly on the TfL Board's corporate governance arrangements with a view to assessing whether they are fit for purpose. This was undertaken at the Committee's meeting in July 2015.

Garden Bridge

- 4.23 Following the passing of a motion at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting in June 2015, which called on the Mayor to carry out a full audit of the Garden Bridge project's procurement, and to remove Transport for London funding, it was agreed that the Committee considers the matter further. The issue was initially dealt with at the Committee's September meeting, but following the release of additional information, the item was also considered at its meeting of 22 October 2015. The Committee will conclude its investigation on this matter by putting questions to the Mayor, in his capacity as Chairman of Transport for London, and Mike Brown MVO, Commissioner, Transport for London at this meeting.

Meeting Dates

4.24 The table set out below shows the Committee's remaining meeting dates for the 2015/16 Assembly year and agenda items. This timetable and agenda items are reviewed and updated as appropriate.

Date of meeting	Main Agenda Items (subject to agreement)
Thursday, 21 January 2016 at 2.00pm in Committee Room 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HoPS Oral Update• HoPS Consultation Reports (if any)• Secretariat Quarterly Monitoring Report Q3• Assembly's Requirements for Information to be Included in the Mayor's Annual Equalities Report• Mayor's Annual Equalities Report• Workforce Report• State of London Debate
Thursday, 25 February 2016 at 2.00pm in Committee Room 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HoPS Oral Update• HoPS Consultation Reports (if any)• Assembly Annual Report• Shared Services - Treasury Management/Single Property Unit• Mayor's Fund for London
Thursday, 10 March 2016 at 2.00pm in Committee Room 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HoPS Oral Update• HoPS Consultation Reports (if any)• Allocation of Assembly Budget• Older People

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.

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

List of Background Papers: None

Contact Officer: John Barry, Principal Committee Manager

Telephone: 020 7983 4425

E-mail: john.barry@london.gov.uk