

MINUTES

Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee
Date: Wednesday 25 November 2015
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/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/oversight>

Present:

Len Duvall AM (Chair)
Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)
Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Andrew Boff AM
Roger Evans AM
Darren Johnson AM
Joanne McCartney AM
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Navin Shah AM

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

- 1.1 An apology for absence was received from Gareth Bacon AM, for whom Andrew Boff AM attended as a substitute.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 **Resolved:**

That the list of Assembly Members' appointments, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee held on 22 October 2015 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.

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 setting out the Committee's response to the Government consultation on proposal to increase joint working between emergency services, as agreed by the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Leaders, under delegated authority.

5.2 Resolved:

That the action taken by the Chair of the Committee under delegated authority be noted.

6 Head of Paid Service Oral Update (Item 6)

6.1 The Committee received the oral update of the Head of Paid Service.

6.2 The Head of Paid Service informed the Committee that, in light of the recent Paris killings, advice had been issued to staff travelling abroad on GLA business. The Committee requested that similar advice and details of the GLA's corporate travel insurance be sent to Assembly Members.

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- 6.3 The Committee was also informed of the recent attendance of Darren Johnson AM, in his capacity of Chair of the Devolution Working Group, together with Sir Edward Lister, Mayor's Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning, at the recent Communities and Local Government Committee evidence session in relation to the Government's Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill inquiry.
- 6.4 The Head of Paid Service further advised the Committee that work in respect of the forthcoming election and subsequent transition planning was under way, and that a series of election briefings delivered by the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer had begun.

7 Shared Services - Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (Item 7)

- 7.1 The Committee noted the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to putting questions on the shared services arrangements of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to Helen Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, MOPAC..
- 7.2 During the course of the discussion, Joanne McCartney AM asked if MOPAC had given consideration to how the Human Resource (HR) functions might be undertaken as a shared service with other bodies. The Chief Operating Officer explained that because its payroll function was carried out by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) as part of the SSCL contract and its HR functions were currently provided by City Hall, it was possible that MOPAC might review the benefits of having both services provided jointly later in the year. The Head of Paid Service commented that the GLA would want to be part of any discussions on the matter as it was felt the transfer of HR functions to the MPS would require detailed consideration.
- 7.3 Joanne McCartney AM also asked if there were income generation possibilities to be derived from shared service arrangements, such as the internal audit function provided by MOPAC's Directorate of Audit, Risk and Assurance. The Chief Operating Officer explained that whilst there had been good reasons for taking on the audit function of other GLA bodies, a case had yet to be made for offering that service wider.
- 7.4 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM asked if there were additional savings to be made on existing service contracts. It was stated that informal consideration had been given to where more long-term savings might be found and that although there was an ongoing process for finding smaller efficiencies, decisions would most likely be taken following a formal review of MOPAC at the start of the new Mayoral term.
- 7.5 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM also referred to the finding of the London Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee report, "*To Protect and Save*", in which concerns had been raised about MOPAC's long-term outsourcing strategy and the savings it aimed to make. The Chief

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Operating Officer responded that efforts had been made to ensure an appropriate balance between commitment to long-term contracts and savings and that MOPAC's focus had been concentrated on letting contracts, bearing down on the cost of contracts, and giving thought to future synergies between contracts.

7.6 The Deputy Chairman, Tony Arbour AM, queried whether the provision of functions by a single entity might result in uncompetitive service provision and asked if the Collaborative Procurement Board was equipped to identify genuine savings. The Executive Director of Resources responded that part of the Board's process was to benchmark the cost of any shared function with best practice in the private sector and thereby offer the best economies.

7.7 The Chief Operating Officer was also questioned on, given the Assembly's preferred model for a potential successor scrutiny body to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, whether MOPAC's functions could be carried out as a directorate of the GLA, in the way that housing and economic development functions had been brought in-house. The Chief Operating Officer responded that in view of the fact that MOPAC provided a diverse range of specialist functions, offered a level of senior engagement and had its own staffing terms and conditions and pension arrangements, there may be limited financial benefit to adopting such a model. Darren Johnson AM requested that the Head of Paid Service give consideration to this model at the time as considering potential successor scrutiny arrangements for the Fire Brigade. The Chair suggested that the Committee receive a future update on this matter as part of its regular consideration of shared services.

7.8 **Resolved:**

That, subject to the comments made in discussion and recorded above, the report and discussion be noted.

8 People's Question Time (Item 8)

8.1 The Committee received the report of the Director of Communications and External Affairs.

8.2 Arising from the discussion, the Assistant Director, External Relations, agreed to give consideration to agreeing a longer-term timetable of People's Question Time (PQT) events, more closely integrated with the Assembly's calendar; to look at how Twitter and other forms of social media and interactivity could enhance future events; to review and collate a list of successful venues for future reference; to ensure that boroughs that had not hosted a PQT event previously would be given an opportunity in the new Mayoral term; and that the results of the post-PQT attendees' survey would be made available to Members.

8.3 The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, also thanked the Assistant Director and the External Relations team for their work organising the recent Remembrance Day Service.

8.4 **Resolved:**

That the proposals for People's Question Time on Thursday 10 March 2016 be noted.

9 Draft Committee Timetable 2016-17 (Item 9)

9.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat. Assembly Members suggested that, whilst in principle agreeing the draft timetable, further consideration be given to ensure the effectiveness of the Assembly's work, particularly in relation to the timing of meetings and media coverage.

9.2 **Resolved:**

That the draft timetable of London Assembly and committee meetings for the 2016-17 year be agreed in principle, noting that the final programme of meetings is subject to related decisions by the London Assembly to be taken at the Annual Meeting in May 2016.

10 Secretariat Quarterly Review, Quarter 2, 2015-16 (Item 10)

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

10.2 **Resolved:**

That the core Secretariat quarterly monitoring report for the second quarter of 2015-16 (April – June 2015) be noted.

11 Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee (Item 11)

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

11.2 The Committee was advised that, following informal discussions with the Mayor's Office and Transport for London, the Mayor and Mike Brown, Commissioner of TfL, would be available to attend the Committee's next meeting to discuss the Garden Bridge design procurement.

11.3 **Resolved:**

(a) That the remainder of the Committee's work programme for 2015/16 be noted,

subject to the inclusion of an item on the Garden Bridge design procurement at its next meeting;

(b) That Boris Johnson MP, in his capacity as Chairman of TfL, and Mike Brown MVO, Commissioner of TfL, be invited formally to the 17 December 2015 meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee in order to discuss the Garden Bridge design procurement; and

(c) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Leaders, to agree any other necessary changes to the arrangements for the 17 December 2015 and subsequent meetings.

12 Date of Next Meeting (Item 12)

12.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday 17 December 2015 at 2.00pm in Committee Room 5.

13 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 13)

13.1 There were no items of urgent business.

14 End of Meeting

14.1 The meeting ended at 11.08am.

Chair

Date

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