

# Subject: Environment Committee Work Programme

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 15 September 2016

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report reports on the progress of the Committee's work programme and updates it with business looking forward for future meetings.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee agrees its updated work programme for 2016/17, including the schedule of meeting topics set out at paragraph 4.2.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree the scope and terms of reference for the Committee's investigation into affordable warmth.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee's work programme was originally agreed in June 2016 and has been updated at each meeting since then.
- 3.2 A revised work programme is set out at paragraph 4.2 for consideration by the Committee, following informal discussions with the Chair, Deputy Chair and other Committee Members.

## 4. Issues for Consideration

### *Environmental Challenges and Priorities for the New Mayoralty*

- 4.1 On 16 June 2016 the Committee discussed, with a panel of invited guests, the environmental challenges that face London. The discussion at this meeting is to continue this broad topic, focusing on the environmental impacts of transport. Therefore the Committee has invited the Deputy Mayor for Transport and colleagues to join the discussion. A covering report on this topic, together with a list of invited guests, can be found at **Agenda Item 6**.

### Forthcoming Meetings and Other Business

- 4.2 The table below sets out the allocated dates for the Environment Committee in 2016/17 and lists the main business proposed for each date at this stage. The business for future dates is subject to change as the Committee develops proposals for its work. Dates may be used for formal Committee meetings, informal meetings, site visits or other activities for the Committee. The work programme also provides for the Committee to respond to any matters that arise during the year.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Proposed topic</b>
Thursday 13 October 2016	Committee meeting – <i>Revised timetabling of agreed business</i> Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy
Thursday 10 November 2016	Committee meeting – <i>Previously agreed</i> Energy and Warmth Affordability
Thursday 8 December 2016	Committee meeting – <i>Proposed for agreement</i> Green Space
Thursday 19 January 2017	Committee meeting Green space ( <i>revised timetabling of agreed business</i> ) Bottled water ( <i>previously agreed</i> )
Wednesday 22 February 2017	Committee meeting – <i>Previously agreed</i> Waste Management / Circular Economy
Thursday 16 March 2017	Committee meeting – <i>Previously agreed</i> Waste Management / Circular Economy

### *Environmental Challenges and Priorities for the New Mayoralty*

- 4.3 Further to the June meeting and this meeting, it is hoped to conclude the Committee's initial consideration of the Mayor's environmental priorities in discussion with the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy. The Committee agreed in June to make this invitation and, following the recent appointment of Shirley Rodrigues to the post, the meeting can now be more firmly timetabled.

### Energy and Warmth Affordability

- 4.4 Much of London's housing stock can be difficult and expensive to keep warm, with poor insulation and inefficient heating appliances. Carbon emissions from homes also need to be reduced. The Committee would update previous work on fuel poverty and domestic energy efficiency, look at delivery of Greater London Authority energy efficiency programmes, and consider emerging technologies such as district heating, solar panels, automation or Energiesprong insulation retrofit.

- 4.5 The Mayor's manifesto proposed an Energy for Londoners body with a role, among other things, to provide energy services to Londoners – the investigation would examine these plans and in particular how they will help Londoners with energy affordability. The manifesto also promised a solar energy strategy; this work would be an opportunity to follow up recommendations from the Committee's report on solar panels.
- 4.6 The Committee's findings would seek to influence the Mayor's Environment and Housing Strategies and revisions to the London Plan, and how the Mayor takes forward plans for Energy for Londoners and a solar energy strategy.
- 4.7 More detailed scoping work is currently being undertaken and is expected to be completed before the October meeting to enable evidence-gathering to begin and an initial discussion of mayoral policy to take place at the October meeting. The Committee is recommended to delegate to the Chair in consultation with Lead Members the scope and terms of reference for this investigation.

#### London's Green Spaces

- 4.8 London's green spaces provide great benefit but are under pressures from a growing population. The Committee would examine how they are protected from development and how they are managed to improve environmental benefits. The investigation would take into account the work of the Green Infrastructure Task Force and the National Park City campaign.
- 4.9 The findings of the investigation could seek to influence the Mayor's Environment Strategy and revisions to the London Plan, and how the Mayor takes forward the recommendations of the Green Infrastructure Task Force and the manifesto commitment to support the National Park City.

#### Bottled Water

- 4.10 Drinking water sold in individual disposable bottles has a disproportionate environmental impact, in material inputs, energy required, waste generated, and congestion and pollution from road deliveries. Alternatives may be more sustainable, such as refilling bottles, drinking fountains or water served in glasses or jugs. The Committee could examine the scope to achieve environmental benefits by switching to these alternatives, and how they could be promoted. The investigation might extend to other packaged drinks.
- 4.11 As bottled water is a private sector market, action on these findings would largely be for consumers and businesses. The Committee could seek to influence behavior change by drawing attention to the impacts and alternatives. There could also be points raised towards the Mayor's Environment Strategy and action by boroughs and other public sector bodies.

#### Waste Management and/or the Circular Economy

- 4.12 London missed 2015 targets for recycling its municipal waste, and does not seem to be making progress to catch up, even as cities around the world press on to more ambitious levels of recycling. The destruction or disposal of valuable materials after one use can be economically wasteful and environmentally damaging.
- 4.13 Lead Members have identified two possible aspects of interest in this topic; further scoping work and consideration will be needed to decide which to investigate or whether to cover both over a longer time. The first aspect is the impact of waste collection on recycling rates – for example whether recycling is better promoted by separated or co-mingled collection. This Committee has

recently recommended that the Mayor should produce a route map for boroughs to converge on a standardized set of waste collection arrangements across London, and this idea could be investigated in more depth. The investigation could look at how the Mayor and the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) could support municipal waste management arrangements, and could perhaps look at questions of governance such as the degree and nature of inter-borough and London-wide waste management decision-making.

- 4.14 Recommendations on this aspect could seek to influence the waste elements of the Environment Strategy, the actions of LWARB, the actions of boroughs and waste authorities, and potentially waste management governance arrangements across London.
- 4.15 The second aspect is the circular economy. A circular economy involves steps to reduce material entering the waste system, as well as to ensure that waste is recycled efficiently. Waste reduction measures include: using less material; re-use, sharing and renting to get more value from goods; repair and remanufacture of broken and worn-out goods; and changes to how goods are designed and made to facilitate repair and recycling. An investigation could examine what the Mayor, and potentially other actors, can do to promote the transition to these more sustainable ways of doing business and managing materials.
- 4.16 Recommendations on this aspect could seek to influence the Mayor's Economic Development Strategy and other work on the economy and business, as well as the Environment Strategy and the Mayor's work on waste.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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**List of appendices to this report:** None

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
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