

Subject: Planning Committee Work Programme

Report to: Planning Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 14 March 2017

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee receives a report monitoring the progress of its work programme at each meeting. This report sets out the timetable for Committee meetings in 2016/17 and the framework provided by the Committee's terms of reference which may be helpful to Members in drawing up the future work programme.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (a) **Note the report that sets out progress on the Committee's work programme; and**
- (b) **Delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair, to agree the subject of the main agenda item for the Committee's remaining meeting on 20 April 2017.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Members receive a report at each Committee meeting on the progress of the projects agreed as the basis for the work programme. Additional projects will be included in the work programme from time to time reflecting the need for the Committee to respond to tasks such as consultations or other events as necessary.

Criteria for topic selection

- 3.2 The Committee's Terms of Reference provide a guide for the criteria for selecting topics for the work programme:
- (a) To examine and report from time to time on -
 - Matters of importance to Greater London; and
 - The strategies, policies and actions of the Mayor and the Functional Bodies.

As they relate to spatial development and planning matters in London, in particular the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy ('The London Plan');

- (b) When invited by the Mayor, to contribute to his consideration of major planning applications;
- (c) To monitor the Mayor's exercise of his statutory powers in regard to major planning applications referred by the local planning authorities, and to report to the Assembly with any proposal for submission to the Mayor for the improvement of the process;
- (d) To review the Local Development Documents submitted to the Mayor by the local planning authorities for consistency with his strategies overall, to prepare a response to the Mayor for consideration by the Assembly, and to monitor the Mayor's decisions with regard to Local Development Documents;
- (e) To consider planning matters on request from another standing committee and report its opinion to that standing committee;
- (f) To consider, as necessary, strategic planning matters as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008 and to make recommendations as appropriate. (The Assembly has no powers in relation to any individual planning applications);
- (g) To respond on behalf of the Assembly to consultations and similar processes when within its terms of reference; and
- (h) To take into account in its deliberations the cross cutting themes of: the health of persons in Greater London; the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; climate change; and the promotion of opportunity.

4. Issues for Consideration

Update on work programme items

The Mayor's Affordable Housing and Viability Supplementary Planning Guidance

- 4.1 One of the Committee's priorities for the coming year will be scrutiny of the emerging revisions to the London Plan and other planning policy documents. A report elsewhere on this agenda asks Members to note the Committee's response to the Mayor's consultation on Draft Affordable Housing and Viability Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Land Value Tax report – London Finance Commission Recommendation

- 4.2 On 22 February 2016 the Committee published "Tax Trial – A Land Value Tax for London?" the final report of a rapporteur investigation by Tom Copley AM on behalf of the Committee that explores the potential of a Land Value Tax for London. At the Committee's last meeting the Mayor's generally supportive response to the report was reported to Members.

- 4.3 On 27 January 2017, the London Finance Commission published its report, Devolution: a capital idea.¹ The report builds on the Commission's previous recommendations and sets out the tax and spending powers London now needs to take control of its future. One of the Commission's recommendations was that "National government should work with London's government to trial the operation of a land value tax pilot on undeveloped land."

Green Belt seminar

- 4.4 On 16 February 2017 the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee hosted a seminar on the Green Belt of the Future in City Hall's Living Room.
- 4.5 With demand for homes in London ever growing and continued calls to build on the Green Belt, it is more important than ever to refocus the Green Belt debate, to discuss how policy makers can make the Green Belt fit for the 21st century and how to better utilise the green belt for the benefit of all Londoners.
- 4.6 The event was attended by around 120 delegates, speakers and panellists including London borough leaders, leaders of authorities outside London in the Metropolitan Green Belt, senior officers and other relevant stakeholders.
- 4.7 An outline of the final programme is set out below:
1. **The Green Belt - London's Natural Capital** - Professor Dieter Helm CBE, Professor of Energy Policy, University of Oxford and Chair, Natural Capital Committee
 2. **Preventing urban sprawl and strengthening the compact city** - Janet Askew, Town Planner and Past President of Royal Town Planning Institute
 3. **Green infrastructure benefits and conflicts: the European experience** - David Stanners, Head of Partnerships and Networks, European Environment Agency
 4. **Panel discussion - Back to the future: reaffirming the value of the green belt**
 - Shaun Spiers and Alice Roberts, CPRE
 - Chris Brown, Igloo Regeneration
 - Ben Derbyshire, HTA Design
 - Janet Askew
 - David Stanners
 5. **Green belt : a new future for a past success** - Baroness Barbara Young, Chair, Woodland Trust and Ex-CEO, Environment Agency
 6. **London's future is dependent on the green belt** - Noel Farrer, Immediate Past President, Landscape Institute

¹ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/devolution_-_a_capital_idea_lfc_2017.pdf

7. **Panel discussion - How can we increase the value of the green belt?**

- Mathew Frith, London Wildlife Trust
- Kate Ashbrook, Open Spaces Society and Ramblers
- Michael Walton, London Transport Museum
- Nic Durston, Wandle Valley Regional Park

8. **Response and next steps** - Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy

4.8 Papers, presentations and notes of the proceedings will be reported back to the Committee and posted on the Committee's web page at a future date.

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications 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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