

Subject: Environment Committee Work Programme

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 13 September 2017

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report notes and updates the Committee's work programme for the 2017/18 London Assembly year. The programme was originally agreed at the June 2017 meeting, and is updated monthly.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee agrees to extend discussion of the Mayor's Draft Environment Strategy to its next meeting on 18 October 2017, as well as the current meeting, postponing each subsequent topic by one meeting in consequence and agree its updated work programme as stated in the report.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee agrees the note of the site visit to Millbrook Proving Ground which took place on 23 August 2017, as attached as Appendix 1.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The work programme for 2017/18 was originally agreed in June 2017, at the Committee's first meeting of the Assembly year.
- 3.2 A similar report will be submitted to each subsequent meeting to track the Committee's work and propose any changes, including confirming dates and adding topics as required.

4. Issues for Consideration

Draft London Environment Strategy

- 4.1 The Mayor published in August his Draft London Environment Strategy, the statutory document bringing together mayoral strategy on a range of environmental issues. The Committee's main item for the meeting is a discussion with Shirley Rodrigues, the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, to discuss the content of the draft strategy. The Committee is recommended to agree to meet the Deputy Mayor again next month, before publishing a response to the consultation on the draft strategy in November. A covering report on this topic can be found at **Agenda Item 6**.

Work programme for the rest of 2017/18

- 4.2 The table below sets out the allocated dates for the Environment Committee in the rest of the 2017/18 Assembly year. The table notes suggested business for the dates to the end of 2017.
- 4.3 The work programme is subject to change in future 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.
- 4.4 The proposed revised work programme is set out below.

Meeting Date	Proposed topic
18 October 2017	Committee meeting Draft London Environment Strategy (second meeting)
9 November 2017	Committee meeting Waste Management – Recycling Collections
7 December 2017	Committee meeting Waste Management – Energy from Waste
17 January 2018	Committee meeting Electric vehicle charging networks
21 February 2018	Topic to be confirmed – see Paragraphs 4.10 to 4.14 of the report.
15 March 2018	Topic to be confirmed – see Paragraphs 4.10 to 4.14 of the report.

Waste management

- 4.5 The Committee is making an extended investigation of a number of waste management issues, begun in July 2017 with a discussion of the circular economy. It is planned to publish a short report in next few weeks, with initial findings on London’s circular economy.
- 4.6 The investigation is now recommended to continue in November and December 2017.
- 4.7 Next, it is proposed to discuss recycling. London’s recycling rates are among the lowest in the country, and are far short of its targets. One factor influencing recycling rates is the system for collecting recyclable material being disposed of by households. The type of collection system can affect how easy it then is to recycle the material, and the way that householders use the system does too – getting material in the wrong collection stream can lead to whole truckloads being rejected at the recycling facility. Collection regimes vary from borough to borough, potentially leading to confusion for residents and incorrect use of the system. The Environment Committee has previously heard proposals for some degree of convergence between boroughs in aspects such as what materials are collected for recycling and what streams they are separated into for collection. This meeting would be to discuss these questions in some depth.

- 4.8 Finally, the investigation will consider waste disposal to landfill or incineration, and particularly the environmental costs and benefits of energy-from-waste plants, and their role in overall waste management strategy in the light of goals to increase recycling and reduce waste arising.

Electric vehicles

- 4.9 The rise of electric vehicles offers benefits to air pollution and potentially to carbon emissions, but there is a long way to go to secure the right charging infrastructure to support electric taxis, minicabs, buses and a large fleet of private electric cars. The Committee could look at the barriers and challenges to expanding these networks, and the characteristics required of each. This could potentially be discussed in January.

Site visits

- 4.10 The Committee has recently visited Millbrook Proving Ground, a vehicle testing station used by Transport for London and others to assess various aspects of vehicle performance, including emissions of CO₂ and toxic pollutants. A note of this visit is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report. The committee was also, at the time of printing this agenda, due to tour sites involved in the construction of the Thames Tideway Tunnel; a note of that visit will be included on the agenda of the committee's next meeting.

Thames Tideway Tunnel

- 4.11 It is proposed that the Committee seek a meeting with Tideway (the trading name of Bazalgette Tunnel Limited, the licensed Infrastructure Provider set up to finance, build, maintain and operate the Thames Tideway Tunnel) and others to discuss the environmental impacts of this major London engineering project and how they are being managed. This meeting could take place in the first quarter of 2018.

Air pollution

- 4.12 Air pollution remains one of the most pressing policy issues for the capital. There is expected to be further consultation on Mayoral proposals such as the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). The Committee may also wish to hold discussion items on one or more specific new air pollution topics selected from:

- Air quality in underground trains and stations;
- River traffic emissions;
- Building emissions (potentially including wood and solid fuel burning);
- Emissions from secondary engines (such as diesel generators powering refrigeration units on chilled lorries); and
- Alternative fuels for combustion engines (such as liquefied petroleum gas, LPG).

Commercial waste

- 4.13 Much of London's business waste is collected by commercial providers, not within the scope of November's planned discussion on municipal recycling and waste collections. Subject to further scoping and work planning, the committee may investigate how commercial waste collections support recycling and other environmental goals.

Mayoral targets and delivery

- 4.14 The Committee is likely to seek to scrutinize the Mayor's setting of strategic and programme targets, whether as part of the Environment Strategy or other work, and delivery and progress against these targets. This is unlikely to be a stand-alone investigation, but integrated with other work.

Major projects

- 4.15 The Committee will continue to scrutinise major ongoing and proposed projects (such as the expansion of Heathrow Airport, and High Speed Two).

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.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1- Visit to Millbrook Proving Ground

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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