

Subject: Action Taken Under Delegated Authority

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 20 September 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines recent actions taken by the Chair under delegated authority, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, in accordance with the delegations granted by the Environment Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the recent action taken by the Chair of the Committee under delegated authority, in consultation with the party Group Lead Members, namely to agree:**
- (a) **The Committee's report, *Single-use plastic: unflushables*, at Appendix 1;**
 - (b) **The scope and terms of reference for the Committee's investigation into green belt farming at Appendix 2;**
 - (c) **The summary of the Committee's visit to Forty Hall, Enfield, at Appendix 3; and**
 - (d) **The Committee's response to the Mayor's draft Food Strategy at Appendix 4; and**
 - (e) **The Committee's response to the consultation on the proposed Riverside Energy Park in Belvedere at Appendix 5.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee notes its report attached at Appendix 1, the scope and terms of reference for the Committee's investigation into green belt farming, attached at Appendix 2, the summary of its site visit attached at Appendix 3, and the responses to consultations attached at Appendices 4 and 5 to the report.**

3. Background

3.1 At its meeting on 23 May 2018, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with Party Group Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion. [Plastics – Nappies and Period Products]

3.2 At its meeting on 14 June 2018, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree the scope and terms of reference for its work on the environmental impact of food growing in London's green belt. [Environment Committee Work Programme]

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the discussions.

3.3 At its meeting on 14 June 2018, the Committee also resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the discussions. [Response to Draft Food Strategy].

3.4 In accordance with the Assembly's Scheme of Delegations, the Chair of the Committee has a general delegated authority to respond on the Environment Committee's behalf, following consultation with the lead Members of the party Groups on the Committee, where it is consulted on issues by organisations and there is insufficient time to consider the consultation at a meeting.

4. Issues for Consideration

Plastics – Nappies and Period Products

4.1 The Committee's report, *Single-use plastic: unflushables* is attached as **Appendix 1** for Members and officers only but can be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)¹.

4.2 The report was published on 14 August 2018 and contains the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

The Mayor should work alongside Thames Water and local authorities to develop a 'block buster borough scheme'. All boroughs, especially those with above average sewer blockages, should work with the Mayor to develop a programme of work to reduce these blockages.

Recommendation 2

During the next update of its guidance, the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) should include the offer of a reusable nappy incentive as a tool for boroughs to increase their recycling rate. Boroughs should partner with midwives and health visitors to communicate to new parents and carers the availability of reusable nappies and the need for responsible disposal of nappies and

¹ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/environment_committee_-_plastic_unflushables_0.pdf

period products. LWARB and boroughs should also explore the possibility of incentivising reusable menstrual products as a complement to this scheme, for example by working with schools and health visitors.

Recommendation 3

Under the accreditation review, the Mayor's London Healthy Schools initiative should ask schools to demonstrate that they are period positive. This would mean using period positive language to reduce stigma about menstruation, informing children about binning not flushing, and promoting the range of reusable and disposable period products available. The Mayor should also lobby Ofsted and the Department for Education to ensure this is included in the curriculum and national standards and guidance.

Recommendation 4

The Mayor should write to the Environment Secretary requesting a statutory format to display proper disposal information and the presence of plastic in unflushable products.

Recommendation 5

Along with water companies, Ofwat should be involved in developing an independent testing model and standard for flushable products. These companies should seek input from environmental experts to ensure that new products do not leave environmentally damaging residue. Water companies should liaise with designers, manufacturers and retailers on the merits of having the standard displayed prominently on their packaging.

Recommendation 6

The Mayor should write to the Environment Secretary supporting a ban for unflushable wet wipes that contain plastic and advising that only products that have passed a robust flushability standard are allowed on the market.²

Recommendation 7

LWARB should investigate recycling for unflushable waste in London.

Recommendation 8

The Greater London Authority Group should provide bins in its men's toilets for unflushable single-use products and encourage other public and private sector organisations to adopt this approach.

- 4.3 Officers confirm that the report falls within the terms of reference as agreed by the Committee at the start of the investigation.
- 4.4 The Committee is recommended to note the report.

² The GLA Conservative Group and UKIP dissent from Recommendation 6 as they believe that through better communication of the effects of disposing of wet wipes via toilets and improved labelling a reduction in the number of flushed wet wipes can be achieved.

Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

4.5 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the scope and terms of reference for the Environment Committee's investigation into growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt. A copy of the document is attached at **Appendix 2** for Members and Officers but may be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)³.

4.6 The Committee is recommended to note the terms and reference for the investigation.

Forty Hall Site Visit

4.7 In advance of its investigation into growing food in the Green Belt, the Committee attended a site visit at Forty Hall Farm, Enfield on 12 July 2018. The summary of the Committee's site visit is attached at **Appendix 3** for Members and officers only but can be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)⁴.

4.8 The Committee is recommended to note the summary of its site visit.

Response to Draft Food Strategy

4.9 The Committee's response to the Mayor's draft Food Strategy was agreed with input from Members of the Health Committee and Economy Committee. The response is attached at **Appendix 4** for Members and officers only but can be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)⁵.

4.10 The Committee is recommended to note the response.

Cory Riverside Consultation

4.11 In accordance with her standing delegation, and following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed a response to the Cory Riverside consultation. The response is attached at **Appendix 5** for Members and officers only but can be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)⁶.

4.12 The Committee is recommended to note the response.

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 financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6433&Ver=4>

⁴ <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6433&Ver=4>

⁵ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_assembly_response_to_cory_riverside_consultation_july_2018.pdf

⁶ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/food_strategy_response_-_final.pdf

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – *Single-use plastic: unflushables*

Appendix 2 – Scope – Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

Appendix 3 – Notes of Site Visit to Forty Hall Farm, Enfield, 12 July 2018

Appendix 4 – Committee response to Mayor’s draft Food Strategy

Appendix 5 – Cory Riverside Consultation

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

Member Delegated Authority Forms: 983 [Plastics – Nappies and Period Products]; 974 [Growing in the Green belt]; and 991 [Standing Delegation]

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