

# Subject: Environment Committee Work Programme

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 notes and updates the committee's work programme for the 2018/19 London Assembly year. The programme was originally agreed in May 2018 and is updated at each meeting.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee considers how it will take forward the Assembly's opposition to the expansion of Heathrow airport and notes the letter sent to all London Members of Parliament in June 2018, urging them to vote against expansion in the House of Commons on the grounds of noise and air pollution attached at Appendix 1 to this report.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee agrees to use its October 2018 meeting to discuss the environmental impacts of aviation, focusing on carbon emissions from aviation (in particular from the additional flights implied by Heathrow expansion), and further agrees to consider a potential informal meeting about the environmental impacts of City Airport, as set out in paragraph 4.4.**
- 2.3 **That the Committee agrees to use its November and December 2018 meeting slots to discuss cold and damp homes, as set out in paragraph 4.6.**
- 2.4 **That the Committee notes its previously agreed work programme for the 2018/19 Assembly year, as set out in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.3 and 4.7 to 4.10.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The work programme for 2018/19 was originally agreed in May 2018, at the first meeting of the Committee's year.
- 3.2 A similar report will be submitted to each subsequent Committee meeting to track the Committee's work and propose any changes, including confirming dates and adding topics as required.

## 4. Issues for Consideration

### *Embodied carbon in the built environment*

- 4.1 This meeting is being used to examine components of buildings' life-cycle carbon emissions other than operational emissions: emissions from extracting and producing materials, manufacturing components, transporting components, constructing the building, maintaining the building fabric, taking down the building at the end of its life, and disposing of the materials. A covering report on this topic can be found at **Agenda Item 7**.

### *Work programme for the rest of 2018/19*

- 4.2 The table below sets out the allocated dates for the Environment Committee in the 2018/19 Assembly year. The table notes suggested business for the earlier dates.
- 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.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Proposed topic</b>
11 October 2017	Committee meeting Environmental impacts of aviation
8 November 2017	Committee meeting (or other evidence-gathering) Cold and damp homes
6 December 2017	Committee meeting (or other evidence-gathering) Cold and damp homes
16 January 2018	Committee meeting (or other evidence-gathering) Particulate pollution
28 February 2018	To be confirmed
27 March 2018	To be confirmed

### *Environmental impacts of aviation*

- 4.4 The Committee previously agreed to hold a meeting on aviation issues at some point during the year. Following the Assembly's unanimous resolution on 19 July 2018 that this and other Committees should consider at each meeting how to oppose Heathrow expansion, it is now proposed to timetable this meeting for October 2018, with a focus on carbon emissions from aviation (in particular from the additional flights implied by Heathrow expansion). Also, following representations from Londoners concerned about the environmental impacts of aviation, including around London City Airport as well as Heathrow, committee members are considering possible dates for an informal meeting about local impacts of London City Airport, including noise and air pollution.

- 4.5 Prior to the vote in the House of Commons in June 2018, the party Group Lead Members from the Green, Labour and Conservative Groups wrote to all Members of Parliament in London to urge them oppose the expansion of Heathrow airport. A copy of the Letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

*Cold, damp and carbon emissions in homes*

- 4.6 The Committee has previously investigated carbon emissions from London's domestic sector, and Mayoral programmes to reduce it. With progress being made on easy measures like loft and cavity wall insulation, there is a need to tackle homes that are hard to insulate, especially where this leaves residents in cold and/or damp conditions. The investigation is likely to focus on social housing and to examine delivery of the Mayor's Fuel Poverty Action Plan. The issues have greatest public resonance in winter, so it was agreed to gather evidence in autumn/early winter 2018 and to publish a report later in the winter. It is now proposed, with the aviation meeting in October 2018, to use the November and December 2018 dates from the Committee's calendar for this investigation.

*Particulate pollution*

- 4.7 Air pollution from motor exhaust has received considerable attention over recent years, but some other sources have received less. With cleaner motors taking over the roads, other sources are emerging as having greater relative significance. These sources include secondary engines on vehicles, such as those powering refrigeration units, and solid fuel burning such as in wood fires and stoves, pizza ovens and barbecues. The Mayor is aiming for stringent health-based clean air targets, as recommended by this Committee, and so all sources of emissions need to be borne down on. It is now proposed to hold a meeting on this topic in January 2019.

- 4.8 There is also ongoing work to assess particulate pollution on the underground network.

- 4.9 Whether within the cold homes investigation or the air pollution, Lead Members have expressed an interest in investigating domestic boilers, including replacing older boilers with more efficient ones, replacing boilers altogether with systems such as heat pumps, and whether householders can use their heating more efficiently.

*Other work*

- 4.10 Party Group Lead Members have considered other potential work of the Committee, including holding the Mayor to account for developing and delivering policies such as the T-charge and Ultra Low Emission Zone, a Mayoral energy supplier, the Solar Action Plan, the Environment Strategy and associated strategies, and action on Tube noise.

## **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:**

Appendix 1 – letter to London MPs on Heathrow vote

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

List of Background Papers: None

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