

Subject: London & Partners

Report to: Economy Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 30 October 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides background information for the Economy Committee meeting with representatives from London & Partners (L&P).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to guests from London & Partners on its impact, value for money and transparency, and notes the subsequent discussion.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chairman, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree an output from the meeting.**

3. Background

- 3.1 London & Partners (L&P) is the official promotional company for London, promoting London and attracting businesses, students and visitors to the capital. L&P was established in 2011 by the former Mayor Boris Johnson as a company limited by guarantee. It is a not-for-profit enterprise which receives public and private funding, as well as having its own income streams. The Mayor appoints the Board's Chairman, currently Rajesh Agrawal, and one other director. L&P aims to build London's international reputation and to attract investment and visitor spend, to create additional jobs and growth.
- 3.2 L&P's budget for 2018/19 stands at £13.7 million.¹ This is an increase of £1.8 million, or 15%, from the previous year.
- 3.3 L&P has been in front of two Assembly Committees over the past year. On 7 November 2017, the Economy Committee questioned L&P representatives on its future priorities and the steps it was taking to implement recommendations following a review of its function, commissioned by the Mayor in 2016.² On 6 March 2018, L&P representatives were also questioned at a Budget and

¹ Mayor of London, [Final Draft Consolidated Budget 2018-19](#), page 38

² Ibid

Performance Committee meeting. That meeting concentrated on the organisation's performance and future plans, with particular focus on governance and funding, and the effectiveness of its key plans.

- 3.4 While the Mayor's review findings published in December 2016, noted the then recent steps taken by L&P, such as publishing key policies, declarations of interest and publishing in draft the business plan for comment "strikes the right balance [between transparency and being a commercial arms-length organisation]"³, Assembly Members remain concerned about the lack of openness and transparency of L&P's operations and decision-making processes and the value added of L&P's activities.
- 3.5 On 18 September 2018, the Committee wrote to Mary Harpley, Chief Officer, Greater London Authority, requesting a range of information to inform the Economy Committee's meeting on 30 October 2018 on L&P's role in advancing the Mayor's economic agenda for London. L&P provided a response on 1 October 2018. A copy of the letter is attached as **Appendix 1**.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The following guests have been invited to attend the meeting:
- Laura Citron, Chief Executive of London & Partners; and
 - Andrew Cooke, Chief Operations Officer of London & Partners.

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

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Response from London & Partners dated 01/10/18

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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³ GLA Economic and Business Policy unit, [Review of GLA funding and governance of London & Partners](#), December 2016