

Subject: State of London Debate

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Assistant Director, External Relations

Date: 27 February 2019

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates and consults the Committee on the proposals for the 2019 State of London Debate (SOLD).

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That the Committee:

- (a) **Notes the proposals for the State of London Debate, at Indigo at The O2, on Thursday 27 June 2019 contained in this report; and**
- (b) **Provides any views, ideas or suggestions on further ways to improve the State of London Debate as a consultative event.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended) (the GLA Act) states that the Mayor should, once every financial year hold and attend an annual State of London Debate, which shall be open to all members of the public. It must take place during April, May or June and at least seven days after the publication of the Annual Report relating to the financial year last ended.
- 3.2 The form and procedure of the debate is left open to the Mayor to determine. The format of the debate must give members of the public an opportunity to speak. The Mayor must announce and publicise the venue for the debate a month in advance of the date.
- 3.3 The Annual Report 2018/19 will be published in June 2019.

4 Issues for Consideration

4.1 Venue

The event will take place at Indigo at The O2, Peninsula Square, London SE10 0DX. The venue has a total capacity of 1,600 people and has excellent local transport links.

4.2 **Date and Timings**

The event will be held on Thursday 27 June 2019 between 7.30pm and 9pm.

4.3 **Format**

An independent chair will facilitate the event which will include the Mayor on stage taking questions from the floor on a range of topics including transport, policing, housing and the economy. The Mayor will be joined on stage by Deputy Mayors for relevant topics.

4.4 **Public Engagement**

The event will be widely publicised and ticketed for those wanting to attend. The Marketing team are currently investigating the various opportunities for members of the public to engage.

4.5 Use of local networks and a number of other marketing and promotional initiatives, using both traditional marketing techniques (such as posters, leaflets and local press) and digital marketing techniques (listed in paragraph 4.6) will ensure the event continues to reach out to potential new audiences, whilst continuing to ensure audiences reflect London's diversity.

4.6 We will continue to use digital marketing to attract audiences including:

- Using social media tools, including Twitter and Facebook to engage with Londoners to have their say during and post event including the use of a tweet wall at the event;
- Creating opportunities for Londoners who are unable to attend in person to view/access the event online via live broadcast, Facebook live and post event having the transcript and highlight video available; and
- Enabling people to request and receive e-tickets via on-line registration.

4.7 **Media Partner**

We plan to reach out to the London media immediately to gain expressions of interest from those who may wish to be the media partner for the event. The aim of a media partner is to enable the event to be broadcast live.

4.8 **Accessibility**

Indigo at The O2 is a fully accessible venue. We will provide the following services: Palantypist, British Sign Language interpretation and an induction loop. There is also a dedicated DDA platform.

4.9 **Strategy Implications**

The State of London Debate contributes to the GLA's objective to increase awareness of the work the Mayor, the London Assembly and the GLA are doing on behalf of Londoners and to increasing understanding, engagement and participation in this work. It also links to the statutory requirement to deliver a State of London Debate by 30 June each year.

5 **Legal Implications**

5.1 The GLA Act requires the Mayor to host a State of London Debate:

5.2 Section 47 of the GLA Act requires the Mayor to hold a State of London debate annually, with the debate open to all members of the public.

- 5.3 The form (including the appointment of a person to preside over the debate), and procedure for the debate shall be determined by the Mayor after consultation with the Assembly. The GLA Act does not set out the form and procedure of the debate other than the requirement that it must be set up in a way so as to provide members of the public the opportunity to speak.
- 5.4 Section 47(6) of the Act states that the Mayor may determine the date of the debate provided that it is held in April, May or June, and at least 7 days after the publication of the Mayor's annual report.
- 5.5 At least one month prior to the date of the debate, the Mayor shall decide where the debate shall take place and shall notify the public of the date and the venue for the debate.
- 5.6 Annual Report: Section 46(1) of the GLA Act requires the Mayor to prepare an annual report as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year (31 March).

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 It is envisaged that that the costs for the event will be up to £55,000, which can be met from the existing SOLD budget, which is managed by the External Relations Team. Any additional costs would be funded through sponsorship arrangements.

List of appendices to this report:

None

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