

# Subject: Motions

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 6 June 2019

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is asked to consider the motions set out which have been submitted by Assembly Members.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Assembly considers the motions submitted by Assembly Members as set out below.

## 3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Leonie Cooper AM** and will be seconded by Andrew Dismore AM:

**“This Assembly notes the increasingly urgent need to secure London’s water supply. With an estimated population growth of two million, urgent warnings from the Environment Agency that England could face severe water shortages within 25 years due to climate change and the increasing likelihood of droughts in the immediate future, the need for a sustainable solution is paramount.**

**Londoners consume on average 149 litres of water per person per day, around 5 per cent above the national average, and we recognise calls from Waterwise, echoed by the Environment Agency, for a target of 100 litres per person per day.**

**We note the Mayor’s role in securing London’s resilience against climate change risks, and therefore call on him to lobby Thames Water and Affinity Water for a rapid and scaled-up smart meter and water-efficient device rollout across London; accompanied by an awareness raising campaign informing Londoners about the need to, as well as how to, reduce their water usage.**

**This Assembly notes that both Thames Water and Affinity Water have been working together to meet the challenge of maintaining London’s supply. However, demanding**

leakage targets must be met, and we call on both companies to meet and exceed OFWATs targets to cut leaks by 15 per cent 2020/25.

Even with leak reduction and water efficiency improvements, a further solution to London's water needs is required. This Assembly understands that a range of options have been considered to address the need for a long term, sustainable solution, but that many have unacceptable environmental consequences:

- i) **Teddington Direct River Abstraction has been rejected by the Environment Agency, as the returned water is too warm and therefore ecologically damaging;**
- ii) **Deephams Re-use has also been rejected, due to its adverse ecological impacts;**
- iii) **Direct Transfer from the Severn to the Thames risks the transfer of Invasive Species to the upper Thames chalk streams and is therefore unacceptable; and**
- iv) **Oxford Canal Transfer will not provide sufficient quantity, reliability and also may have environmental impacts.**

**This Assembly calls on Thames Water and Affinity Water to continue to develop potential Canal Transfer schemes, but notes that such schemes may not provide sufficient water in light of the changing climate. This Assembly further notes that the only scheme that will provide a reliable, sufficient and sustainable source of water is the Abingdon Reservoir.**

**This Assembly calls upon OfWat and the Environment Agency to grant permission and Thames and Affinity Water to construct the Abingdon Reservoir as soon as is practicable, with completion no later than 2037, to ensure that Londoners continue to have a sufficient supply of wholesome water, and ecological impacts on the Thames, Lee and the chalk streams that feed them are minimised."**

3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Susan Hall AM** and will be seconded by Keith Prince AM:

**"This Assembly condemns the action taken against PC Edwin Sutton by the IOPC. PC Sutton in the course of his duties, knocked a suspected moped mugger to the ground, and subsequently faced a criminal investigation and disciplinary proceedings, finally being cleared after two years. Many investigations against police officers take place despite there being a very low evidence threshold and a minimal chance of conviction. Furthermore, investigations take far too long - in some cases years - leaving the officers concerned in a state of limbo for protracted periods of time. The Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to make representations to the IOPC to significantly reduce the length of investigations and to review the evidential threshold that must be met for an investigation to proceed."**

3.3 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Susan Hall AM** and will be seconded by Keith Prince AM:

**“This Assembly believes London should be a safe place for people of all political persuasions and calls on the Metropolitan Police to use the full extent of the law when a personal attack occurs, from milkshake-throwing to physical violence and worse.”**

3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Andrew Dismore AM** and will be seconded by Navin Shah AM:

**“This Assembly notes the massive benefits of both the hopper fare and freedom pass, which extend affordable public transport to millions of Londoners.**

**We note with concern the urging of some at the “Manifesto for London” event, where according to UK Business Insider, delegates proposed scrapping the hopper fare, and raising the freedom pass eligibility age up to 75.**

**Such a move would be punitive to older, poorer and less mobile Londoners. The impact would likely be to reduce bus usage, increase car usage, increase loneliness among older people and reduce economic opportunities for working Londoners.**

**The Assembly resolves to write to the Mayor of London to commend him for his continued stance and support for retaining the freedom pass and hopper fare.”**

3.5 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Len Duvall AM** and will be seconded by Jennette Arnold OBE AM:

**“Today marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, when allied forces embarked on a campaign that would lead to and the end of the Second World War in Europe and the defeat of fascism and totalitarianism.**

**In line with the Assembly’s commitment under the Armed Forces covenant to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces Community, particularly those whose lives were lost or were injured, this Assembly puts on record its thanks to all those service and civilian personnel who the secured relative peace Europe has seen for over 75 years. ”**

3.6 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Onkar Sahota AM** and will be seconded by Unmesh Desai AM:

**“The Assembly notes the events that took place on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1979 in Southall when the people of the town came together to resist a provocative meeting of the National Front in Southall Town Hall. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unlawful death of Blair Peach during the events that unfolded on that tragic day.**

**The Cass report, released in 2010, found that fourteen witnesses saw a police officer strike Blair Peach. The report concluded that there is no evidence to show Mr Peach received the injury that caused his death in any other way.<sup>[1]</sup> The report that was**

**published in 2010 contained redactions and, until an unredacted version is made available, questions surrounding the death of Mr Peach will remain unresolved.**

**We recognise the significant progress made by the Metropolitan Police Service in the past forty years. The establishment of the Independent Office for Police Conduct provides independent investigation of complaints against police officers, the MPS workforce is far more representative of the city it serves, and body-worn video has increased accountability and transparency over the actions of officers as they carry out vital work to keep our city safe.**

**However, we also recognise that the MPS, MOPAC and public institutions still have more to do to improve the confidence of all the diverse communities they serve. In divisive times, and with increasing levels of hate crime, it is vital that all public institutions set a high standard for equality and tolerance. The realities of what happened forty years ago still cast a real shadow over our communities.**

**We therefore call upon the Mayor and the Chair of the London Assembly to write to the Home Secretary to set up a public inquiry to hold to account those responsible for the unlawful death of Blair Peach. We further call on MOPAC to publish an unredacted version of the Cass Report.”**

3.7 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Navin Shah AM** and will be seconded by Unmesh Desai AM:

**“This Assembly takes pride in its record of taking a strong and unequivocal stance against all forms of racism and injustice. Support of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is at the heart of such basic human values and so is support for the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims’ working definition of Islamophobia. We are united in combating the evil of racism in whatever shape or form it raises its ugly head. This Assembly welcomes the decision taken by a number of Local Authorities and the Mayor of London to adopt the APPG’s working definition of Islamophobia.**

**We recognise the limitations of the current working definition and welcome a continued debate to arrive at a form of words that will provide a common understanding of Islamophobia. However, we strongly support the principle of the definition that Islamophobia is a form of racism and that it must be challenged. We call on the Mayor to continue contributing to the ongoing debate so that a consensus on a common, practicable, definition can be reached.**

**The noticeable rise of Islamophobia in our communities demands a strong response. This Assembly’s adoption of the definition sends a message that intolerance and hatred towards Muslims is wholly unacceptable in London, a city defined by its openness, diversity and respect for all.”**

- 3.8 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Len Duvall AM** and will be seconded by Tom Copley AM:

**“This Assembly values the role of teachers, but also teaching assistants and support staff across London’s schools, who are often overlooked. A good education improves children’s life chances and contributes to London’s economy, increasing skillsets and innovation. Teaching assistants and support staff play a vital role in supporting London’s most vulnerable children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They are also some of the lowest paid workers in the education sector.**

**Therefore, this Assembly expresses its concern about the impact of cuts to teaching assistants and support staff, with particular reference to those that have recently taken place at Halley Academy School in the borough of Greenwich. Cuts to these roles prevent vulnerable children from receiving the support that they are entitled to, restrict opportunities for Londoners and go against the Mayor’s ambition to create a fairer and more equal city.**

**This Assembly calls on the Mayor to add his voice and support to all teaching staff in London. The Assembly also requests the Education Panel to consider an investigation into the value and contribution of teaching support staff in London, particularly children with SEND, taking evidence from employers, workers representatives and Ofsted, as a matter of urgency.”**

#### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Assembly has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct finance implications arising from this report

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**List of appendices to this report:** None.

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None.
Contact Officer: Clare Bryant, Committee Officer
Telephone: 020 7983 4616
Email: <a href="mailto:clare.bryant@london.gov.uk">clare.bryant@london.gov.uk</a>