

MINUTES

Meeting: GLA Oversight Committee
Date: Monday 1 July 2019
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Copies of the minutes may be found at <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/oversight>

Present:

Len Duvall AM (Chair)
Gareth Bacon AM (Deputy Chairman)
Sian Berry AM
Tony Devenish AM
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Keith Prince AM
Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Navin Shah AM
Peter Whittle AM

1 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Jennette Arnold OBE AM, Tom Copley AM, and Steve O'Connell AM for whom Tony Devenish AM substituted.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed to the public gallery pupils from the Dorothy Barley Junior Academy, Dagenham.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

- 2.1 The Committee asked the Head of Paid Service to provide a report to the next meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee on a review of the GLA's declarations of interests and asked this include the correspondence from the Member setting out their concerns and the response received. It was asked that declarations of gifts and hospitality also be included in this piece of work.

2.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests; and**
- (b) That, the Head of Paid Service be requested to provide a paper to the GLA Oversight Committee meeting on declarations of interests.**

2.3 Caroline Pidgeon AM raised an issue in relation to how officers of the Greater London Authority (GLA) declared interests and stated that they had recently made a formal complaint to the Chief Officer about a decision made by a GLA Executive Director.

3 Standing Delegation (Item 3)

3.1 **Resolved:**

That the Committee notes the standing delegation set out below, which was agreed by the London Assembly (Plenary meeting) on 6 June 2019, to Chairs of ordinary committees, sub-committees and working groups to agree, in consultation with relevant party Lead Group Members and Deputy Chairs:

- (a) The detailed terms of reference for any investigation to be undertaken by the relevant committee, sub-committee or working group within its work programme as agreed by the GLA Oversight Committee, and any related project plans and arrangements for related site visits or informal meetings; and**
- (b) The topic and scope for any additional projects to be added to its work programme, where it is not practicable to secure prior approval from the GLA Oversight Committee and subject also to subsequent ratification by the GLA Oversight Committee.**

4 Minutes (Item 4)

4.1 **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee held on 15 May 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5 Summary List of Actions (Item 5)

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

5.2 **Resolved:**

That the completed and outstanding actions arising from previous meetings of the GLA Oversight Committee be noted.

6 The Mayor's Annual Equality Report 2018-19 (Item 6)

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to putting questions on the Mayor's Annual Equality Report 2018-19 to the following invited guests:

- Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement;
- Jeanette Bain-Burnett, Assistant Director of Communities and Social Policy, GLA;
- Kathleen Kelly, Assistant Director of Communities and Social Policy, GLA; and
- Alice Wilcock, Assistant Director, Team London (Volunteering) and Sport, GLA.

6.2 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 1**.

6.3 During the course of the discussion, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor, Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement undertook to:

- Provide the Committee with further details of the key indicators that London is improving as a great place to live;
- Request that the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development provides the Committee with information regarding the red-amber-green ratings on housing affordability, and on accessible housing, particularly adaptability and wheelchair access;
- Include in future reports details of how much funding has been invested as a way of measuring progress;
- Include specialist housing for older people as part of key achievements and targets and monitor the affordability of family-sized housing;
- Provide the Committee with detail of the impact of the new funding condition for GLA-funded estate regeneration projects to address the objective of better protecting Londoners living in social housing;
- Provide the Committee with detail on how much of the Ultra Low Emission Zone Scrapage Scheme's Fund had been spent;

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- Provide the Committee with an update on child obesity figures in London in comparison with other European countries;
- Look at the work taking place in Greater Manchester in relation to tackling child obesity;
- Provide the Committee with figures in relation to child poverty in London;
- Consider whether to add to the Annual Report going forward a target about child food poverty;
- Provide the Committee with information on how the impact of the ban of adverts on the Tube for foods high in fat, sugar and salt was being measured;
- Ask the Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, to provide the Committee with detailed information on work taking place at the GLA to increase the take-up of the Childcare Deposit Loan Scheme;
- Provide the Committee with information on what work the Adult Education Budget Team would be doing to help increase the number and diversity of Londoners getting the skills they needed and how this success would be measured by the autumn 2019;
- Look at whether additional metrics could be published relating to the objectives set out in the Mayor's Annual Equality Report relating to Chapter Four entitled Getting Around and to work with Transport for London and Heidi Alexander, Deputy Mayor for Transport to ask that they provide detailed information on the metrics within the strategy;
- Look at including crime statistics in future reports to demonstrate progress against objective 27;
- Provide the Committee with information on the Family Fund and other available funds;
- Confirm to the Committee whether data was still being collected by TfL on the demographics of cyclists and their experiences;
- Ask the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, to provide a detailed response on the steps being taken by MOPAC to make people feel safe on the transport network; and
- Provide the Committee with information on the work being undertaken to address health inequalities.

6.4 Resolved:

- (a) That the report, as background to putting questions to the invited guests on the Mayor's Annual Equality Report 2018-19, and the subsequent discussion be noted; and**
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree any output from the discussion at the meeting.**

7 Workforce Report (Item 7)

7.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Paid Service.

7.2 Members commented on the increased staff numbers.

7.3 The Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development stated that of the roles established in the last six months 98 of these were permanent posts and had been agreed as part of the 2019/20 GLA budget. The Chief Officer explained that the majority of those roles were based in the Housing and Land Team with the aim of creating more homes for Londoners.

7.4 **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

8 Update on Changes to the Regrading Policy (Item 8)

8.1 The Committee received the report of the Chief Officer.

8.2 **Resolved:**

That the proposals for the operation of job evaluation panels and the reporting of regrades going forward be noted.

9 Conversion of Fixed Term Posts to Permanent Posts (Item 9)

9.1 The Committee received the report of the Chief Officer.

9.2 Members commented on the work undertaken by the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to close the gender pay gap and queried what more could be done by the GLA to achieve this. The Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development agreed to liaise with colleagues at the LFB and would report back to the Committee.

9.3 **Resolved:**

(a) That the Chief Officer's proposals to convert a further 30 fixed term posts to permanent posts with immediate effect and, as a consequence, to change the contracts of the staff in those roles be noted, subject to the comments recorded above.

10 Proposed Restructure of the Corporate Management Team (Item 10)

- 10.1 The Committee received the report of the Chief Officer.
- 10.2 Responding to Members' comments on the Housing and Land restructure, the Chief Officer provided an explanation of how the new structure would enable the team to work in a collaborative way and explained that the operation of the new structure would be reviewed at the end of the 2019/20 financial year.
- 10.3 The Chair stated that the Deputy Chairman had worked closely with the Chief Officer in the production of this report and whilst the Deputy Chairman had raised some reservations concerning the proposals related to the Fire & Resilience Team, the Chief Officer confirmed that he had not raised any other concerns.
- 10.4 **Resolved:**

That the Committee notes the Head of Paid Service's consultation on the posts proposed for creation and deletion as set out in paragraphs 4.9 and 4.10 of the report.

11 Proposed Changes to the GLA's Expenses and Benefits Framework (Item 11)

- 11.1 The Committee received the report of the Chief Officer.
- 11.2 Members queried how the proposed changes would affect GLA staff who accompanied the Mayor to party conferences.
- 11.3 The Head of Finance and Governance stated that the rules relating to this area had not changed, but he would reconfirm the arrangements to Members.
- 11.4 **Resolved:**
- (a) That the Head of Finance and Governance provide details on the rules relating to GLA staff who accompany the Mayor to party conferences; and**
 - (b) That the Committee responds to the Chief Officer's consultation on the four sets of proposed changes to the GLA's Expenses and Benefits Framework.**

12 Draft Annual Governance Statement (Item 12)

- 12.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Resources.
- 12.2 The Head of Finance and Governance introduced the report and explained that the Statement would be updated to reflect the review of declarations of interests as discussed at Item 2. The Head of Finance and Governance further explained that since the Statement had been produced, a further decision of the Monitoring Officer had been published on the website and this would also be reflected in the final document.
- 12.3 Members commented on the review of the role of the Monitoring Officer and the decision to hold this during a heightened political year. The Chief Officer stated that the review of this role had been planned and the intention would be to continue discussions before confirming the timing.
- 12.4 A Member observed that the Statement did not include details of the complaint referred to at Item 2. Clarification was also sought on the reference to London Treasury Ltd and SME Wholesale Finance Limited within the report. Members commented on the GLA's governance processes and noted there was no option for officers to declare interests on decision making forms.
- 12.5 A Member queried, given some of the concerns raised, whether it was appropriate for the Statement to indicate that there were no substantive issues.
- 12.6 Responding to each of the points in turn, the Head of Finance and Governance stated that:
- He would liaise with the Chief Officer to include details of the complaint that had been raised;
 - He would circulate an explanation of the companies to Members;
 - There were different options for officers to take up if they wished to declare an interest and the robustness of the process could form part of the review; and
 - Both the GLA's internal and external auditors had been complimentary of the GLA's governance processes. Each year, both sets of auditors provide their opinion on the information before them, and they have not raised any issues. If Members have concerns, these should be looked into and if the review were to find any gaps, this should be reflected in the Annual Governance Statement.

12.7 **Resolved:**

That the Committee noted the Draft Annual Governance Statement, subject to the proposed amendments outlined above.

13 Mayoral Decision-Making in the GLA and GLA Financial Regulations (Item 13)

13.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Resources.

13.2 **Resolved:**

That the revisions made to Mayoral Decision-Making in the GLA and GLA Financial Regulations be noted.

14 London Assembly Work Programme 2019/20 (Item 14)

14.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

14.2 The Committee noted the changes made by the Regeneration Committee.

14.3 A Member queried whether consultation was taking place to agree the Work Programme and asked that all Group Leads be consulted to ensure an inclusive work programme. The Committee asked that a reminder from the Assistant Director, Scrutiny and Investigation be circulated to relevant officers on the process for agreeing the Work Programme.

14.4 **Resolved:**

(a) That the draft Work Programme for the London Assembly's committees and panels for July to October 2019 be approved; and

(b) That the Assistant Director, Scrutiny and Investigation circulate a reminder to relevant officers on the process for agreeing the Work Programme.

15 Work Programme for the GLA Oversight Committee (Item 15)

15.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

15.2 The Committee also noted that a report on the GLA's Boards and Committees was being produced by the Secretariat Department for a future meeting.

15.3 **Resolved:**

That the work programme for 2019/20 be noted.

16 Date of Next Meeting (Item 16)

- 16.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 16 July 2019 at 10am in Committee Room 5.

17 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 17)

- 17.1 There were no items of urgent business.

18 Close of Meeting

- 18.1 The meeting closed at 12.52pm.

Chair

Date

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