

# MINUTES

**Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)**

**Date: Thursday 4 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/whole-assembly>

**Present:**

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair)

David Kurten AM

Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)

Joanne McCartney AM

Gareth Bacon AM

Steve O'Connell AM

Shaun Bailey AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Sian Berry AM

Keith Prince AM

Andrew Boff AM

Caroline Russell AM

Leonie Cooper AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Tom Copley AM

Navin Shah AM

Unmesh Desai AM

Fiona Twycross AM

Tony Devenish AM

Peter Whittle AM

Florence Eshalomi AM

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Dismore AM, Len Duvall AM, Nicky Gavron AM and Susan Hall AM.

## **2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)**

- 2.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

### **2.2 Resolved:**

- (a) That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 3, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests; and**
- (b) That the non-pecuniary interest declared by Gareth Bacon AM during Item 6, namely that he has family members and friends serving as police officers, be noted.**

## **3 Minutes (Item 3)**

### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the 6 June 2019 (Plenary) meeting be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

## **4 Question and Answer Session - Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (Item 4)**

### **Part A:**

- 4.1 The Assembly put questions to Liz Peace CBE, Chair of Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, (OPDC) and, David Lunts, Interim Chief Executive Officer, OPDC.
- 4.2 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached as **Appendix 1**.

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- 4.3 During the course of the question and answer session, the invited guests undertook to:
- Provide a breakdown by diversity of the apprentices employed by the OPDC;
  - Look into the possibility of publishing the details on the OPDC Community Review Group including the membership, meeting dates, their minutes; and the Annual Review of its activities or a summary of the Annual Review when available;
  - Provide details of OPDC's alternative plans if Cargiant land could not be acquired; and
  - Provide details of the number of residential units the OPDC had committed to build by the end of the next Mayoral term (2024).

- 4.4 At 11.55am, the Chair adjourned the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 12.02pm.

**Part B:**

- 4.5 The Chair formally moved the motion in the agenda, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.”

- 4.6 **Resolved:**

**The answers to the questions asked be noted.**

## **5 Petitions (Item 5)**

- 5.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

- 5.2 Navin Shah AM presented a petition with the following prayer:  
“We the undersigned residents, traders, businesses and stakeholders urge you to make Willesden Green Station step free as a matter of top priority.

The station with 30 steps is a prime candidate and meets your criteria for lifts.

- The station is located in proximity of residential areas and requires lift facilities for the accessibility of disabled people, older people and infants and children in pushchairs.
- The station is suitably located adjacent to the high street which is widely used by commuters and is an economic hub.
- The station provides invaluable access to places of worship such as mosques, churches, temples etc which are community hubs.

The 2005 Feasibility study proposed a small lift inserted through the steps leading to/from the Jubilee Line platform. We do not believe this to be a viable option, as such a scheme would

involve long station and track closures and after completion will make congestion worse on the steps, especially at peak time. It would also have a detrimental impact on the listed building status of the station building.

We urge you and TfL to prioritise a lift at this station by undertaking a new costed feasibility study looking at an alternative lift and bridge access to the Jubilee Line platforms from Station Parade. Also, we request you to prioritise the step-free access by including TfL's next business plan and work with Brent Council to establish third party funding through funding raised from Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy requirements and development of TfL land/assets in Brent."

**5.3 Resolved:**

**That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor in his capacity of the Chair of Transport for London for a response.**

**6 Motions (Item 6)**

**6.1 Keith Prince AM moved, and Steve O'Connell AM seconded, the following motion:**

"This Assembly notes that the GMB Union recently passed Motion 412 which called for the Mayor of London to appoint an independent investigation to review why TfL failed to supply critical tram safety evidence to the Croydon Tram Crash Investigators, the Office of Road & Rail and the British Transport Police."

"This Assembly agrees with the GMB Union that there are serious questions to answer with regard to the Croydon Tram Crash, wholeheartedly supports the GMB's request and calls upon the Mayor to appoint an independent investigation".

**6.2 In accordance with Standing Order 3.7, Fiona Twycross AM moved, and Florence Eshalomi seconded, the following amendment to the motion:**

Add "Notwithstanding the police investigation into the tram crash which is ongoing," before "this Assembly agrees..."

Remove "wholeheartedly supports the GMB's request"

After "to appoint an independent investigation" add "or to provide reassurances that measures taken to strengthen TfL procedures, to ensure reports with material importance for live investigations are identified and automatically forwarded to the investigator, are being successfully implemented"

**6.3 Upon being put to a vote the amendment in the name of Fiona Twycross AM was lost (8 votes cast in favour, 10 votes cast against).**

6.4 Upon a further vote, the motion in the name of Keith Prince AM, namely:

**“This Assembly notes that the GMB Union recently passed Motion 412 which called for the Mayor of London to appoint an independent investigation to review why TfL failed to supply critical tram safety evidence to the Croydon Tram Crash Investigators, the Office of Road & Rail and the British Transport Police.”**

**This Assembly agrees with the GMB Union that there are serious questions to answer with regard to the Croydon Tram Crash, wholeheartedly supports the GMB’s request and calls upon the Mayor to appoint an independent investigation”.**

was agreed (10 votes cast in favour and no votes cast against).

6.5 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM moved, and Florence Eshalomi AM seconded, the following motion:

**“This Assembly reiterates its support for Crossrail 2 noting that TfL modelling shows that the capital’s transport network will grind to a halt without the project. Furthermore, this Assembly notes that without Crossrail 2, at least 17 Underground stations will buckle under crowding pressures and thousands of passengers arriving at Euston on HS2 Phase 2 could lose times saved on their journeys queuing to board onward Tube trains.**

**“This Assembly further notes that no other infrastructure project tackles so many local and regional challenges while boosting overall capacity on such a scale. Crossrail 2 would increase London’s rail capacity by 10 per cent and support 200,000 additional new homes and 200,000 new jobs. This Assembly believes Crossrail 2 would contribute to bringing forward the new homes this city needs.**

**“This Assembly however expresses its concern at present that there are insufficient safeguarding directions for Crossrail 2 with only 35% of the current preferred alignment safeguarded.**

**“This Assembly recognises the importance of the need to update the directions to reflect the new preferred alignment in the central section and to include the areas of land that are needed to build the railway in Hertfordshire and Surrey that are currently not safeguarded. This Assembly also recognises that at present there are more than 30 known sites being promoted or brought forward by developers outside the current limits of safeguarding with planning permissions being granted that would directly conflict with the ability to deliver Crossrail 2.**

**“This Assembly calls upon the Mayor to immediately write to the Secretary of State for Transport urging that new and extended safeguarding directions are provided across London, Hertfordshire and Surrey to ensure the successful delivery of Crossrail 2 in the future.”**

6.6 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed (17 votes cast in favour and no votes cast against).

6.7 Léonie Cooper AM moved, and Joanne McCartney AM seconded, the following motion:

**““The London Assembly notes that each year, at least 8 million tonnes of plastics are discarded into the world’s oceans – equivalent to the contents of a rubbish truck every minute.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, a recent study found that many fish in the river Thames have ingested plastic fibres, as much as 75% of one species.<sup>2</sup> In the UK we use 7 million disposable coffee cups every day – that’s 2.5 billion every year – and very few are recycled.<sup>3</sup>**

**“The Assembly also notes the Mayor’s previous work to reduce single-use plastic consumption in London, in particular the water refill scheme, which was implemented following an Environment Committee investigation into single-use plastic bottles.**

**“The Assembly believes that more needs to be done at national level to reduce the quantities of plastic in circulation by increasing the uptake of non-plastic alternatives and recycled plastic only where necessary. Londoners’ ability to cut down on single-use plastic is to a large extent dependent on the availability of alternatives on the market.**

**“The Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to lobby Government to strengthen their forthcoming resources and waste policies following the consultation periods, by introducing a tax on all single-use plastics and banning single-use, non-recyclable hot drinks cups.**

**“The Assembly also calls on the Mayor to work with Government to designate London as a pilot city for their forthcoming Deposit Return Scheme, as was recommended in the previous Environment Committee report.”<sup>4</sup>**

6.8 During the course of the debate on this motion, the Deputy Chairman took the Chair between 12.49pm and 12.53pm.

6.9 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously agreed.

6.10 Unmesh Desai AM moved, and Florence Eshalomi AM seconded, the following motion:

**“2018 was another year in which the Metropolitan Police Service was placed under serious strain. The number of violent crimes committed rose, the threat from terrorism remained severe and there have been a number of high-profile protests for the police to oversee. This Assembly praises the dedication and bravery of police officers, special constables and PCSOs who keep Londoners safe.**

**“The Assembly notes that the Home Office awarded police officers a 2% pay rise in the police pay award for 2018/19. However, this was less than the 3% rise**

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<sup>1</sup> Ellen MacArthur Foundation, [The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the Future of Plastic](#), 2017

<sup>2</sup> McGoran, A.R., Clark P.F., and Morritt, [Presence of microplastic in the digestive tracts of European flounder, \*Platichthys flesus\*, and European smelt, \*Osmerus eperlanus\*, from the River Thames](#), *Environmental Pollution*, 2016

<sup>3</sup> The Independent, [Disposable coffee cups: How big a problem are they for the environment?](#), January 2018

<sup>4</sup> London Assembly Environment Committee, [Bottled Water](#), April 2017

**recommended the Police Remuneration Review Body.<sup>[1]</sup> Furthermore, the decision to not consolidate the 1% unconsolidated award made in 2017/18 meant the real terms pay rise was less than 1%.<sup>[2]</sup>**

**“London weighting was also increased by 2% in the Home Office’s decision on the police pay award. However, the Metropolitan Police Service had recommended a fundamental review of London allowances and called for the Commissioner to be given the ability to increase core London allowances by up to 33% to deal with recruitment and retention of officers, in the context of rising costs of living, particularly with housing.<sup>[3]</sup>**

**“In January 2019, the Home Secretary wrote to the Police Remuneration Review Body, asking it to conduct the annual review of police pay for 2019/20. The Assembly notes that the MPS is calling for the consolidation of the non-consolidated three year pay settlement of 4% in 2019, 0% in 2020 and 2% in 2021<sup>[4]</sup>; and that police staff associations have called for a 5% pay rise in each of these years.<sup>[5]</sup>**

**“Police officers are legally banned from going on strike and so it is essential that the process of setting their levels of pay is transparent and fair. Following the Home office’s decision to ignore the recommendation of the independent Police Remuneration Review Body, the Police Federation have taken the unprecedented step of instigating a judicial review of the process.**

**“This Assembly calls on the Mayor to write to the Government asking that it ensures that police officers are given a pay rise which reflects the excellent work police officers undertake in London and which takes into account the recommendations of the Police Remuneration Review Body.**

**“The Government should fully fund the cost of any pay rise announced in the 2019/20 police pay awards to give the MPS the confidence to fairly remunerate police officers for their outstanding work keeping London safe, without the need to compromise other parts of the Service.”**

6.11 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously agreed.

6.12 Dr Onkar Sahota AM moved, and Fiona Twycross AM seconded, the following motion:

**“The London Assembly notes with concern the low rates of vaccination for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) for children in London, compared to elsewhere in the UK, and further**

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<sup>[1]</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728354/Final\\_PRRB\\_EW\\_2018\\_Report\\_-\\_web\\_accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728354/Final_PRRB_EW_2018_Report_-_web_accessible.pdf)

<sup>[2]</sup> [https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/priorities\\_and\\_how\\_we\\_are\\_doing/corporate/met-hq-people-change-mps-police-remuneration-review-body-2019.pdf](https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/priorities_and_how_we_are_doing/corporate/met-hq-people-change-mps-police-remuneration-review-body-2019.pdf)

<sup>[3]</sup> [https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/priorities\\_and\\_how\\_we\\_are\\_doing/corporate/met-hq-people-change-mps-police-remuneration-review-body-2019.pdf](https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/priorities_and_how_we_are_doing/corporate/met-hq-people-change-mps-police-remuneration-review-body-2019.pdf), page 3.

<sup>[4]</sup> [https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/priorities\\_and\\_how\\_we\\_are\\_doing/corporate/met-hq-people-change-mps-police-remuneration-review-body-2019.pdf](https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/priorities_and_how_we_are_doing/corporate/met-hq-people-change-mps-police-remuneration-review-body-2019.pdf)

<sup>[5]</sup> <https://www.polfed.org/norfolk/news/2019/feds-2019-submission-to-pay-review-body/>

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notes that Public Health England has attributed recent outbreaks of measles to children missing out on vaccinations.

“The Assembly also notes the large discrepancy in vaccination rates between London Boroughs. While no London borough meets the MMR national target of 95% vaccination by two years of age, there is a 17.5 percentage point gap between the best and worst areas of the city.

“This Assembly believes, in line with overwhelming medical evidence, that vaccines are crucial to promote herd immunity, whereby the potential for any one case of a disease to spread is strongly limited, and to protect immunocompromised children, who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, from harmful infections.

“This Assembly further believes that vaccination programmes have been hindered by the loss of £66.8m from the public health allocation to London Boroughs since 2015, and continuing high vacancy rates in the NHS. In the first three months of 2019, there were 1236 community health service jobs vacant in London, which covers such vital staff as school and district nurses.

“This Assembly calls on the Mayor to work with the London Prevention Partnership Board, early years centres, schools and health professionals, through Healthy Schools London and Healthy Early Years London, to increase the uptake of vaccines and to dispel myths about vaccines.

“This Assembly also calls on the Mayor to include education about the history, science and importance of vaccines in the London Curriculum, focusing on key figures and points in the history of vaccines such as Edward Jenner and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu.”

- 6.13 Andrew Boff AM moved and Keith Prince AM seconded the following amendment to the motion:

To delete the words:

“This Assembly further believes that vaccination programmes have been hindered by the loss of £66.8m from the public health allocation to London Boroughs since 2015, and continuing high vacancy rates in the NHS. In the first three months of 2019, there were 1236 community health service jobs vacant in London, which covers such vital staff as school and district nurses.”

- 6.14 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Andrew Boff AM was lost (5 votes cast in favour and 12 votes cast against).

- 6.15 Upon a further vote, the motion in the name of Dr Onkar Sahota AM, namely:

**“The London Assembly notes with concern the low rates of vaccination for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) for children in London, compared to elsewhere in the UK, and further notes that Public Health England has attributed recent outbreaks of measles to children missing out on vaccinations.**



**“The Assembly also notes the large discrepancy in vaccination rates between London Boroughs. While no London borough meets the MMR national target of 95% vaccination by two years of age, there is a 17.5 percentage point gap between the best and worst areas of the city.**

**“This Assembly believes, in line with overwhelming medical evidence, that vaccines are crucial to promote herd immunity, whereby the potential for any one case of a disease to spread is strongly limited, and to protect immunocompromised children, who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, from harmful infections.**

**“This Assembly further believes that vaccination programmes have been hindered by the loss of £66.8m from the public health allocation to London Boroughs since 2015, and continuing high vacancy rates in the NHS. In the first three months of 2019, there were 1236 community health service jobs vacant in London, which covers such vital staff as school and district nurses.**

**“This Assembly calls on the Mayor to work with the London Prevention Partnership Board, early years centres, schools and health professionals, through Healthy Schools London and Healthy Early Years London, to increase the uptake of vaccines and to dispel myths about vaccines.**

**“This Assembly also calls on the Mayor to include education about the history, science and importance of vaccines in the London Curriculum, focusing on key figures and points in the history of vaccines such as Edward Jenner and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu.”**

was agreed (14 votes cast in favour, 5 votes cast against).

6.16 Andrew Boff AM moved, and Joanne McCartney AM seconded, the following motion:

**“This Assembly urges the Mayor to ensure TfL staff are trained to assist passengers with disabilities by: respecting the passenger’s wishes as to the level of help they require, not drawing unnecessary public attention to the passenger and by providing reasonable assistance to passengers to enable them to travel in the way that they choose”**

6.17 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously agreed.

6.18 In accordance with Standing Order 3.6, Caroline Russell AM moved, and Sian Berry AM seconded, the following altered motion:

“This Assembly notes:

- the growing body of scientific evidence showing a link between glyphosate exposure and an increased risk of cancer;
- the spraying of glyphosate in London is causing concern among residents and elected representatives about its potential harmful effects on children, animals and wildlife on our streets, housing estates and parks;
- the contracting staff who carry out this work need to be protected from harm;

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- the work of Transport for London (TfL) with suppliers and contractors to explore safer alternatives such as hot foam, for essential vegetation management and weed control; the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was the first council in London to cease the use of glyphosate, to support biodiversity and protect habitat against any long-term chemical effect;
- other London Boroughs such as Hackney and Croydon are trialling non-chemical weed removal and exploring alternatives; and
- in June 2019 the German state-owned rail operator Deutsche Bahn announced it would stop using glyphosate on its tracks and is looking for substitutes to replace the widely used glyphosate herbicide.

“In light of the public and occupational health concerns about glyphosate exposure and the need to protect habitat and biodiversity we call on the Mayor of London to:

- cease the spraying of glyphosate on GLA land and the TfL estate and to set out a timetable for its removal; and
- call on London boroughs to cease the spraying of glyphosate in all council operations as soon as possible.

“To manage this process, we ask the Mayor of London to facilitate a GLA working group for London borough representatives, specialists and other key land managers in London to work towards the removal of this and any other harmful herbicides.

“Where there are problems with invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and where there is a duty to eradicate, then glyphosate may be used until an acceptable non-chemical alternative becomes available. But its use should be limited to stem injection rather than spraying.”

6.19 Léonie Cooper AM, and Tom Copley AM seconded, moved the following amendment to the motion:

Add the following bullet point “The Mayor’s commitment in the Environment Strategy to “reduce the use of pesticides and peat-based products, such as compost” after “the contracting staff who carry out this work need to be protected from harm”

After “...we call on the Mayor of London to:” add “Bring forward an action plan and timetable for major reduction, to zero over time, in the” and replace “cease the”

After “..and the TfL estate” add “prioritising ensuring that tracksides are cleared using mechanical rather than chemical methods to guarantee safety” and remove “and set out a timetable for its removal”

Replace “facilitate a GLA” with “support a London Councils”.

6.20 Upon being put to a vote the amendment was unanimously agreed.

6.21 Upon a further vote, the altered motion, as amended, namely:

**“This Assembly notes:**

- the growing body of scientific evidence showing a link between glyphosate exposure and an increased risk of cancer;
- the spraying of glyphosate in London is causing concern among residents and elected representatives about its potential harmful effects on children, animals and wildlife on our streets, housing estates and parks;
- the contracting staff who carry out this work need to be protected from harm;
- The Mayor's commitment in the Environment Strategy to "reduce the use of pesticides and peat-based products, such as compost;
- the work of Transport for London (TfL) with suppliers and contractors to explore safer alternatives such as hot foam, for essential vegetation management and weed control; the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was the first council in London to cease the use of glyphosate, to support biodiversity and protect habitat against any long-term chemical effect;
- other London Boroughs such as Hackney and Croydon are trialling non-chemical weed removal and exploring alternatives; and
- in June 2019 the German state-owned rail operator Deutsche Bahn announced it would stop using glyphosate on its tracks and is looking for substitutes to replace the widely used glyphosate herbicide.

**In light of the public and occupational health concerns about glyphosate exposure and the need to protect habitat and biodiversity we call on the Mayor of London to:**

- **Bring forward an action plan and timetable for a major reduction, to zero over time, in the spraying of glyphosate on GLA land and the TfL estate, prioritising ensuring that tracksides are cleared using chemical methods to guarantee safety; and**
- **call on London boroughs to cease the spraying of glyphosate in all council operations as soon as possible.**

**To manage this process, we ask the Mayor of London support a London Councils working group for London borough representatives, specialists and other key land managers in London to work towards the removal of this and any other harmful herbicides.**

**Where there are problems with invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and where there is a duty to eradicate, then glyphosate may be used until an acceptable non-chemical alternative becomes available. But its use should be limited to stem injection rather than spraying."**

was unanimously agreed.

- 6.22 During the course of consideration of the motions the Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to extend the meeting in order to allow for the remaining items of business on the agenda to be considered.

## **7 Date of Next Meeting (Item 7)**

- 7.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly was the Mayor's Question Time meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Thursday, 18 July 2019 in the Chamber, City Hall.

## **8 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 8)**

- 8.1 There were no items of urgent business.

## **9 Close of Meeting**

- 9.1 The meeting ended at 1.37pm.

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Chair

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Date

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