

MINUTES

Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)
Date: Wednesday 20 June 2012
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/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/whole-assembly>

Present:

Jennette Arnold OBE (Chair)	Jenny Jones
Darren Johnson (Deputy Chair)	Stephen Knight
Tony Arbour	Kit Malthouse
Gareth Bacon	Joanne McCartney
John Biggs	Steve O'Connell
Andrew Boff	Caroline Pidgeon
Victoria Borwick	Murad Qureshi
Tom Copley	Onkar Sahota
James Cleverly	Navin Shah
Andrew Dismore	Valerie Shawcross CBE
Len Duvall	Fiona Twycross
Roger Evans	Richard Tracey

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Nicky Gavron AM.
- 1.2 The Chair placed on record the Assembly's congratulations to those who had received Honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, especially those Londoners and London Borough and Functional Body colleagues who had received Honours. In particular, the Chair congratulated Professor Jack Lohman, former Director of the Museum of London, who had been made a Commander of the British Empire.

2. Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 Resolved:

- (a) That the relevant Assembly Members' membership of Functional Bodies and London Borough Councils, as set out at Item 2 of the agenda, be noted and recorded as personal interests; and**
- (b) That Tom Copley AM's declaration of a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 (Motions), arising from his membership of Unite, be additionally noted;**
- (c) That Victoria Borwick AM's declaration of a personal interest in Agenda Item 10(a) (New Standards Regime: Appointment of Independent Persons), arising from the fact that she had participated in the interviews for candidates and recommended candidates for appointment, in her capacity as Deputy Mayor and representing the Mayor, be additionally noted (accordingly, Victoria Borwick AM did not take part in the consideration of Item 10(a)); and**
- (d) That gifts and hospitality received by Members, as set out on the Authority's gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

3. Transport for London: Functional Body Question Time (Item 3)

- 3.1 The Assembly put questions to the Mayor, Boris Johnson, in his capacity as Chair of Transport for London (TfL), and Peter Hendy, Commissioner – TfL, on the work and policies of TfL.
- 3.2 During the course of the session, the Chair and Commissioner of TfL undertook:
- To ensure that all TfL Twitter accounts, and the website, provide live updates regarding travel issues, to ensure that public transport users could make the most informed decisions about travelling;
 - To arrange a meeting between senior TfL managers and residents living near the District line depot at Upminster regarding minimising the disruption arising from works at the depot

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- To look into the possibility of a zero tolerance sexual harassment awareness campaign;
- To respond to End Violence Against Women’s campaign call for action on the recommendations arising from their survey on sexual harassment on public transport;
- To provide details of action being taken to address the high levels of accidents that have taken place involving tipper-trucks and other construction-related heavy goods vehicles;
- To investigate whether there was any correlation between levels of robbery and violence on public transport and vacancy levels in Safer Transport Teams; and
- To make representations to Transport Ministers in relation to applying the Dartford Crossing discount not just to residents in Havering, but also to residents in Bexley, as well on the other side of the river

3.3 A transcript of the oral answers provided is attached as **Appendix 1**. The written answers to those questions not answered at the meeting is attached as **Appendix 2**.

3.4 The Deputy Chair, Darren Johnson AM, took the Chair at 10.19am, for the duration of the discussion in relation to Question 7/2012 entitled ‘Transport Issues’. Jennette Arnold AM resumed the Chair at 11.11am.

3.5 At the close of the question and answer session, the Assembly agreed the following motion, submitted in the name of the Chair:

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

4. Action Taken by the Chair Under Delegated Authority & Outcome of Confirmation Hearings (Item 4)

4.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

4.2 The Chair informed the Assembly that, since the publication of the agenda for the meeting, the Mayor had also written to the Chair of the Police and Crime Committee, in response to her letter of 1 June 2012 to confirm that Stephen Greenhalgh’s appointment as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime had taken effect on 6 June 2012.

4.3 John Biggs AM drew the Assembly’s attention to the fact that the Mayor had rejected the Confirmation Hearing Committee’s recommendation in relation to the proposed appointment of the Chair of the London Legacy Development Corporation. He noted that this was the first occasion on which the Mayor had rejected the Committee’s recommendation. The Chair confirmed that this would be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

4.4 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the recent action taken by the Chair of the Assembly, Jennette Arnold AM, in accordance with the authority delegated to her - namely to agree to hold Confirmation Hearings in relation to proposed appointments to the offices of Deputy Chair of Transport for London, Chair of the London Legacy Development Corporation and Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency**

Planning Authority and to ask the candidates to provide their CVs, and not to hold a Confirmation Hearing in relation to the proposed appointment to the office of Chair of the London Cultural Strategy Group – be noted;

- (b) That the decision of the Confirmation Hearings Committee, further to its meeting held on 23 May 2012 and as set out at Appendices 1, 3 and 5, to recommend that the Mayor should proceed with his proposed appointments to the offices of Deputy Chair of Transport for London and Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and to recommend to the Mayor that he should not proceed with his proposed appointment to the Chair of the London Legacy Development Corporation be noted;**
- (c) That the responses received from the Mayor, as set out at Appendices 2, 4 and 6, be noted and it be additionally noted that the Mayor had rejected the recommendation of the Confirmation Hearings Committee in relation to the proposed appointment to the Chair of the London Legacy Development Corporation;**
- (d) That the decision of the Police and Crime Committee, further to its meeting held on 31 May 2012 and as set out at Appendix 7, not to object to the proposed appointment to the office of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime be noted; and**
- (e) That it be additionally noted that, since the publication of the agenda for the meeting, the Mayor had written to the Chair of the Police and Crime Committee, in response to her letter of 1 June 2012, to confirm that Stephen Greenhalgh's appointment as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime had taken effect on 6 June 2012.**

5. Appointments made by the Mayor under Section 67(1) (a) and (b) of the GLA Act (Item 5)

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

5.2 **Resolved:**

That the appointments by the Mayor, under Section 67(1) (a) and (b) of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), as set out at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

6. Proposed Minor Changes to the GLA's Standing Orders (Item 6)

6.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

6.2 Darren Johnson AM requested that a meeting of the Standing Orders Working Group be arranged as soon as possible to allow discussion of additional possible changes to Standing Orders, for example in relation to the budget process.

6.3 **Resolved:**

That it be agreed to approve and adopt the revised version of the GLA's Standing Orders, as set out at Appendix 1, to take effect from when relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011 come into effect on 1 July 2012.

7. Expenses and Benefits Framework (Item 7)

7.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Resources.

7.2 **Resolved:**

That the Expenses and Benefits Framework be agreed insofar as it relates to the Mayor, Assembly Members and the Authority's statutory officers and noting that this matter is one for joint decision with the Mayor.

8. Motions (Item 8)

8.1 Jenny Jones AM moved and Onkar Sahota AM seconded the following motion:

"The Assembly calls on:

1) The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to recommend that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) introduces criteria for the selection of world wide sponsors for future Games that exclude food and drinks companies strongly associated with high calorie brands and products linked to childhood obesity, and to encourage national organising committees to adopt similar criteria;

2) The Mayor of London to encourage the organisers of future major sporting events in London to adopt criteria for appointment of sponsors that exclude such food and drinks companies; and

3) The Government to consider introducing restrictions on advertising and exclusive marketing at major sporting events by such food and drinks companies."

8.2 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

"The Assembly calls on:

1) The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to recommend that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) introduces criteria for the selection of world wide sponsors for future Games that exclude food and drinks companies strongly associated with high calorie brands and products linked to childhood obesity, and to encourage national organising committees to adopt similar criteria;

2) The Mayor of London to encourage the organisers of future major sporting events in London to adopt criteria for appointment of sponsors that exclude such food and drinks companies; and

3) The Government to consider introducing restrictions on advertising and exclusive marketing at major sporting events by such food and drinks companies.”

was agreed (15 votes cast favour and 8 votes cast against).

8.3 At 12.30pm it was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 2.9, to extend the meeting in order to finish the business set out on the agenda for the meeting.

8.4 Andrew Dismore AM moved and Roger Evans AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes the widespread, cross-party, support for one minute's silence during the London Olympic Games to mark the 10th Olympiad since and 40th anniversary of the terrorist massacre of Israeli competitors and their coaches during the 1972 Munich Olympics.

This Assembly urges the Mayor of London to use his position and influence to ensure an official minute's silence remembrance is observed in the Olympic Park during the Opening or Closing Ceremonies of the London Olympic Games.”

8.5 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

“This Assembly notes the widespread, cross-party, support for one minute's silence during the London Olympic Games to mark the 10th Olympiad since and 40th anniversary of the terrorist massacre of Israeli competitors and their coaches during the 1972 Munich Olympics.

This Assembly urges the Mayor of London to use his position and influence to ensure an official minute's silence remembrance is observed in the Olympic Park during the Opening or Closing Ceremonies of the London Olympic Games.”

was agreed unanimously.

8.6 Murad Qureshi AM moved and Sahota Oknar AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly believes that the Mayor's plans for a new airport in the Thames Estuary are simplistic and ill-considered and calls upon him to abandon this vanity project.

For a new airport in the Thames Estuary to be a success, Heathrow would need to close, which would have a devastating effect on London's economy, costing over 100,000 jobs in west London. The proposed airport would cause huge environmental damage to a protected area which is used by many thousands of migrating birds, creating a high risk of bird strike. It would threaten a huge increase in noise, congestion and pollution for millions of people in the east and south east of London, especially in Bromley, Bexley, Havering and Barking.”

8.7 Upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

“This Assembly believes that the Mayor's plans for a new airport in the Thames Estuary are simplistic and ill-considered and calls upon him to abandon this vanity project.

For a new airport in the Thames Estuary to be a success, Heathrow would need to close, which would have a devastating effect on London's economy, costing over 100,000 jobs in west London. The proposed airport would cause huge environmental damage to a protected area which is used by many thousands of migrating birds, creating a high risk of bird strike. It would threaten a huge increase in noise, congestion and pollution for millions of people in the east and south east of London, especially in Bromley, Bexley, Havering and Barking.”

was agreed (15 votes cast in favour and 9 votes cast against),

8.8 During the course of the discussion on this motion, Andrew Boff AM raised a point of order in relation to a tweet issued by Stephen Knight AM during the meeting which he considered misrepresented comments made by Kit Malthouse AM during the debate on the motion.

8.9 Richard Tracey AM moved and Tony Arbour AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly backs Londoners in their desire that public transport strike ballots should require 50%+1 of all eligible members to vote in their favour in order for the ballot to pass. Further to this, this Assembly urges the Government to legislate to this effect as swiftly as possible.”

8.10 Richard Tracey AM requested that a recorded vote be taken, In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 2.7A.

8.11 Upon being put to the vote, the votes in respect of motion were cast as follows:

For the motion: Tony Arbour AM, Gareth Bacon AM, Andrew Boff AM, Victoria Borwick AM, James Cleverly AM, Roger Evans AM, Steve O'Connell AM and Richard Tracey AM.

Against the motion: John Biggs AM; Tom Copley AM, Andrew Dismore AM, Len Duvall AM, Jenny Jones AM, Stephen Knight AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Caroline Pidgeon AM, Murad Qureshi AM, Onkar Sahota AM, Navin Shah AM, Valerie Shawcross AM, Fiona Twycross AM, Darren Johnson AM (Deputy Chair), and Jennette Arnold AM (Chair).

8.12 There being 8 votes cast in favour of the motion and 15 votes cast against, the motion was declared lost.

[Note: See also Item 2: Declarations of Interest]

9. Date of Next Meeting (Item 9)

- 9.1 It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly would be the Mayor's Question Time meeting, which would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 4 July 2012 in the Chamber, City Hall.

10. Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 10)

New GLA Standards Regime: Appointment of Independent Persons (Item 10a)

- 10.1 It was noted that a report regarding the appointment of Independent Persons had been circulated under cover of a Supplementary Agenda for the meeting.
- 10.2 The Chair had agreed to admit this report to the agenda as an urgent item, in accordance with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in order to ensure that the Independent Persons could be appointed in time for the implementation of the new Standards regime on 1 July 2012 (noting that this was a matter for joint decision with the Mayor).

10.3 Resolved:

That Lucy Dennett, Claer Lloyd Jones, Suzanne McCarthy and Alan Simcock be appointed as Independent Persons to assist in the discharge of complaints-handling procedures under the GLA's new Standards regime for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, noting that such appointments are subject also to approval by the Mayor.

[Note: See also Item 2: Declarations of Interest]

11. Close of Meeting

- 11.1 The meeting closed at 1.48pm.

Chair

Date

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