

# Full Commission meeting

Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021 10:00 – 13:00 | Online

## Attendance

LSDC	Secretariat and GLA
Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashok Sinha – Chair (AS)</li> <li>Syed Ahmed (SA)</li> <li>David Elliott (DE)</li> <li>Paul Toyne (PT)</li> <li>Malini Mehra (MM)</li> <li>Nick Mabey (NM)</li> <li>Richard Templer (RT)</li> <li>Dimitri Zenghelis (DZ)</li> <li>Leonie Cooper (LC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nusrat Yousuf (NY)</li> <li>Jon Emmett (JE)</li> <li>Jude Hassall (JHa)</li> </ul>
Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rowena Champion</li> <li>Charlie Wood</li> <li>Julie Hirigoyen</li> <li>James Cameron</li> </ul>	<b>External guests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jazmin Burgess (C40 Cities)</li> <li>Sabrina Muller (LSE Finance)</li> <li>Brendan Curran (LSE Finance)</li> </ul>

## 1. Introduction and welcome

### NOTED

- All commissioners have received letters from the Mayor inviting their re-appointment to November 2024.
- James Cameron and Julie Hirigoyen have decided to step down from the LSDC. Both expressed how much they enjoyed their time as commissioners, and send their thanks to the group. The Chair thanked Julie and James for their long and valued service to the Commission – their achievements and contributions are greatly appreciated, and we wish them well.
- The LSDC is currently only 42% women, down from 43% following commissioners stepping down, and 33% BAME. This imbalance has been noted and raised with the Deputy Mayor – however, the GLA wishes to avoid a round of recruitment due to the administrative burden at a time when resources must be focused on delivery. This issue will be addressed by informally engaging external experts to join sub-group work programmes in a way that addresses the diversity gap, and the secretariat will continue to liaise with the Mayor's Office on our approach to managing this risk.
- The LSDC strives to be inclusive and accessible to all members, including in how meeting materials are produced. If any commissioners have any issues with accessing these or other aspects of our ways of working, please contact the secretariat who will look to produce content in a way that works for everyone.

## ACTIONS

Action owner	Action	Sec lead
All commissioners	Sign and return re-appointment letters and updated declarations of interest by Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> October.	JE
Sec	All who have contributed to the LSDC over recent years (e.g. Julie, James, Marius Greave) will be invited to the December full Commission meeting in person.	JE

## 2. LSDC updates

### NOTED

- Update presented as per paper. It has been agreed that the LSDC will continue its role as an advisory body to the Mayor; while we are not a watchdog or a critical friend, there is an opportunity to be ambitious with the commission's recommendations. Long-term work programmes with large reports will be replaced by short, sharper interventions.
- In order to gather evidence to form the LSDC's interventions, the Exec intends to hold quarterly high-level summits. These will bring high-level experts and political leaders from inside and outside the GLA to explore topics, identify trends, gaps and opportunities, in order to identify how to fill those gaps. This approach is endorsed by the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy.
- The first summit will be held in December 2021 on resilience and the just transition. It is hoped that a representative from the Mayor's Office will attend, and AS will soon meet with the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff to discuss this.
- Budget overview presented as per paper: recurring GLA budget has been allocated to current workstreams, and there is opportunity to leverage further private funding as the SDG sub-group is doing. Secretariat resource will be reduced from 2.5 FTE to 1 – 1.5 FTE.

## 3. Work programme updates:

### Social Value:

- Recommendations report will be published soon. JHa has been working hard on this.
- DE and AS had a positive meeting with the Deputy Mayors for Planning & Regeneration (Jules Pipe) and Communities & Social Justice Debbie Weekes-Bernard). Although they flagged areas where report didn't fully align with GLA's position, the LSDC is happy to stand by its recommendations, which are not targeted at the Mayor, but instead present what 'good' looks like and aim to provide food for thought for the sector.
- NY and JHa are speaking with Planning Team re: Jules Pipes' suggestions on how to develop the evidence base for next iteration of London Plan, and the steps needed to get there.
- It was noted there may be a link with UK100's work on UK cities uniting on the net-zero agenda, including devolution asks.

### Green Finance:

- The subgroup has achieved its goal to get GLA to give this more consideration, and the Mayor's 2021 manifesto committed to delivering a London Finance Facility.
- The GLA commissioned a study by the GFI in spring 2021 with recommendations, as well as follow-up work to scope options, though the LSDC has not yet had sight of this and remains keen to be updated.
- The sub-group met Luke Webster, GLA Chief Investment Officer, who leads on delivering mayor's LFFF commitment. However, it is not yet clear the extent to which the GLA's approach aligns with the scope and scale of the LSDC's original proposals.

- The subgroup held a successful event in March 2021, and could consider hosting another event after the autumn spending review. Approach depends on whether commissioners are invited to the meeting with investors on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct, which is mainly for finance professionals but may be appropriate to invite a commissioner.
- Tom Copley (DM, Housing) will have info on funding allocation for sustainability measures in housing, including planning application responses to boroughs and housing associations.

#### **SDGs:**

- The subgroup is fundraising for the London SDGs Hub, seeking sponsorship from London corporations. Commissioners are requested to approach their contacts using the fundraising materials that have been developed.
- Cllr Georgia Gould will convene roundtable for borough leaders and chief execs – AS is sending invites.
- Consider approaching Business Leaders Group, Rajesh Agrawal (Deputy Mayor for Business) and Excel for support.

#### **ACTIONS:**

<b>Action owner</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Sec lead</b>
NY	Liaise with Luke Webster re: inviting a commissioner to the green finance event on 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	NY
All commissioners	Approach private sector contacts re: fundraising for the London SDGs Hub (JE to re-circulate materials)	JE

## **4. Just Transition**

### **a. Introduction**

- The Exec discussed challenges of London and topics to focus on, and agreed to conduct a piece of work on the Just Transition (JT). Although the GLA, NEF, TUC and others have all conducted work on this issue, there may yet be opportunities for the LSDC to add value.
- JT is not just about skills and jobs: what's JT for a community, and what do communities gain? What's the compact between decision-makers and communities, how do we include their voices instead of working top-down?
- The goal of today's discussion is to develop the shape and priorities of the JT Summit in December, in order to deliver quick wins and legacy
- Overview of current JT work underway presented as per paper.

### **b. Commissioner initial discussion**

- West London Alliance experience shows we need to transition people from jobs they've lost to low-emitting ones. Needs training, which is often expensive. No one knows how quick it will happen, so there's stasis between training providers, policy makers and businesses. Echoed by Green Jobs Alliance.
- Should involve unions / TUC, employers, CBI, LCCI, London FSB.
- Educational offer: bring together university power.
- As highlighted in the GLA's research different demographics are impacted differently, partly due to representation among different sectors.

- Should we approach Centre for London? Ashden has changed its focus towards skills and jobs. Could produce a small piece of work to propose radical change, we're tweaking the edges now.
- London as a centre of expertise. Not just financing things in London, but acting as a catalyst for impact beyond.
- GLA is researching definition of green jobs and skills. Mayor has set a target for green economy and jobs via the Green New Deal – how does this map, and how do we measure it?
- Need to embed green approaches to all jobs, e.g. saving energy and water. Workers need general intellectual framework and tools.
- How to move from vulnerability to resilience in terms of jobs, community, funding, multi-level governance. What are cities empowered and mandated to do? Integrate local need with national commitments under Paris Agreement.
- Reflect on best current thinking and what it means for London.
- How to use language that doesn't politically silo or polarise.

### **c. Guest speakers' presentations**

#### **Jazmin Burgess, C40 Cities:**

C40 is working on four key areas:

- Support for cities' work on implementation, including Warsaw (phasing out coal), LA (closing an oil field with city bounds in five years and re-training workers), Barcelona, Accra, five cities in South Africa.
- Best practice sharing, including a cities academy.
- Knowledge products (e.g. toolkit to support cities to implement JT strategies beyond climate departments).
- Supporting mayors to be advocates for JT and connecting with multi-stakeholders.

#### **Sabrina Muller and Brendan Curran, LSE Finance:**

- LSE formed the 'Financing a Just Transition Alliance' (FJTA, a finance institutions partnership), which has 3 priorities: Business action, place-based action, policy action.
- FJTA initiatives include Climate Action 100+, a JT investment indicator; the World Benchmarking Alliance to rate business' JT performance; and the Council on Inclusive Capitalism, a JT action framework for businesses.
- PCAN is a local climate finance hub to connect local and national government driving net-zero policy, businesses seeking funding for net zero ideas, and impact investors.

### **d. Q&A with guest speakers:**

**Scope:** What is the most appropriate scope for JT? Concept started with trade union definition of high-carbon work places, but now more diverse debate, including inclusivity.

- Although unions play a key role in JT, a pure union-based conception not most useful in practice.
- Other stakeholder perspectives are important, e.g. the union narrative in US and South Africa focuses on CCS, and which is not always politically supported locally. Important to look beyond fossil fuel sector.
- Politically, mayors don't engage only with unions, but many actors.
- What does climate change mean for informal labour, e.g. landfill workers – who are unemployed if landfills closed, and are key recyclers.

- There is value in bringing diverse themes and stakeholders together. JT can't be done by cities alone – many actors needed, bottom up. Engage stakeholders in challenges.

**Framing:** Would an 'inclusive' transition framing resonate more than 'just' (which focuses on dirty vs green jobs)? What's the added value of a JT approach, to avoid it becoming jargon?

- How can JT framing break down siloes? E.g. city financing for JT isn't just green finance – some work is funded by social care departments or elsewhere. How can LFFF likewise break down siloes?
- There is tension on the phrase 'JT' within UK government. JT is discussed in an international context, but not domestically. The UK infrastructure bank talks about levelling up and climate – albeit that amounts to JT.
- The term JT is not widely recognised / used internationally.
- Delhi did two unsuccessful waste and transport programmes, which left behind workers and the public, through poor planning.
- Can the new Nationally Determined Contributions account for this; do we have anything to offer?

**Metrics:** How to measure social / JT issues by proxy via finance metrics? It's already challenging to measure tangible outcomes such as carbon emissions.

- Social taxonomy was developed by EU, showing how this could integrate with the green taxonomy, and set objectives not just minimum benchmarks.
- Benchmarking initiatives have been developed to assess businesses on a 3-point scale, to help get a sense of performance.
- Other finance sector actions are important, e.g. shareholder engagement. Mundi launched 'JT for Climate' fund. These initiatives can be scaled up.
- Finance is important, but only as a supporting role to bring local change in the real economy – it is not an end in itself.

**Global best practice:** What are other cities doing that London isn't?

- Cities are bringing together diverse stakeholders formally to identify issues, e.g. Seattle has a GND taskforce with a similar constitution to LSDC, moving it away from the mayor, which can be a bit political. Could LSDC convene something similar in London?
- Cities are going beyond GLA's sector-based research in order to understand equity distribution.

**Resilience and jobs:** How can we link place-based resilience with job creation? E.g. Water security, flooding, which are green jobs, albeit in a harm-prevention sense.

- Barcelona has undergone extreme weather impacts, heating, impact on energy poverty. Wages and livelihoods, people suffer. Feeds into broader economic issues, leaving no one behind.
- Effects of extreme rain and flooding in London not evenly distributed – there is injustice.
- Could expand LSDC's Social Value work to make recommendations on green jobs in regeneration.
- Infrastructure projects guided by JT and resilience.
- Placed based investment via PCAN cities, Belfast Leeds and Edinburgh. How do you deploy technical expertise and capacity to build a project pipeline in order to get financing / projects off the ground?

#### **e. Next steps:**

A meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> October to plan the LSDC's Just Transition summit, which all commissioners are invited to.

Amongst other issues, it will agree which of the following two approaches to adopt:

1. Start with broad themes, and use the summit to get conversation in right place, identify where the 'energy' is, to subsequently plan a work programme.
  - Rationale: we don't yet have enough info to select specific topics to base the summit on, so need to start high-level.
  - Risks: it's not focused enough.
  - Example themes: Ensuring a JT for existing workers; for communities (including resilience, place); for youth (new jobs and skills); and finance (resurrect LFFF recommendations, integrating issues across finance space).
2. Identify a focus area that needs an intervention, and use the summit to explore the LSDC's approach to creating impact and quick wins.
  - Rationale: keeps the discussion focused.
  - Risks: a high-level summit isn't the right forum to get detailed actionable info, and it's too soon for us to identify the right themes.
  - Example topics: focus on practical opportunities / challenges. Choose localities from the GLA's impact maps. Where are high-emitting jobs most concentrated? What are people doing on extreme weather? London is an estuary city which creates a vulnerability to sea-level rise, though that risk is distributed unequally.

## ACTIONS

Action owner	Action	Sec lead
JE	Circulate speakers' slides to commissioners.	JE
JE	Invite all commissioners to the JT Summit planning meeting on Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> October.	JE

## 5. AOB:

### Round-up of commissioners' COP 26 activities:

- Grimshaw is one of 4,000 entrants for Blue Zone ideas. Created mini-Eden in collaboration with Eden Project, promoting education and regenerative design. Designed largest Passivhaus education space in the southern hemisphere, Monash University.
- E3G are hosting 12 events, including launching a professional bodies' climate charter and doing media.
- GLOBE legislators is the focal point for the parliamentary group, and is organising the main legislators summit at Scottish Parliament. Speakers include John Kerry, the Mayor of Izmir, and Local Govt and Municipal Authorities group within UN system. Working with Cabinet Office, devolved nations, UNFCCC and parliamentary networks around the world on parliamentary engagement. Hosting student / MP COP climate surgery with London MPs. Engaging with Scotland's MPs and MSPs.
- Imperial Grantham Institute organised COP 26 Universities group, running events. Also involved in online innovation event, re: actions individuals can take. Innovation work with startups, and BBC and New York Times.
- Community Energy London: video with voiceover by Allegra Stratton launched recently, and another video will launch soon. Working with Cabinet Office comms team on this. Also have a stand with Local Government Association. Got GLA funding (LCEF) and

launched on Friday – bringing together campaign for local government to be a key player, bringing together w community energy groups.

- APPG on Renewable Energy coordinator is hosting a group of 70 MPs.
- Trees for Cities will promote remote comms on planting projects, working with Defra.
- LSE Grantham Institute is launching paper on sustainable debt.
- LCC may chair a sustainable transport alliance event with the Scottish Government, and will host a protest bike-ride around the perimeter of London's 2050 flood zone.

**Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 10am-1pm (TBC following JT Summit planning)**