

# MDA No.: 1663

## Title: Confirmation Hearing for the Office of Chair of Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the Assembly's Standing Orders and the provisions of Schedule 4A to the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Chair of the Assembly has delegated authority to: (i) decide whether to hold a confirmation hearing for the Mayor's candidate for appointment to the office listed in section 60A(3) of the Act; and (ii) to request that the Mayor's candidate for appointment produce, under paragraph 6(4) of Schedule 4A of the Act, documents that relate to his or her proposed appointment.
- 1.2 The Chair of the London Assembly received a letter from the Mayor on 18 November 2024 indicating his intention to appoint Dame Karen Buck to the office of Chair of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC). A copy of the letter from the Mayor is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.3 Following receipt of the letter and informal consultation with party Group Leaders, the Chair of the London Assembly has decided to hold a confirmation hearing in relation to this proposed appointment, and to ask the candidate to provide a CV and supporting statement. Copies of the Chair's letters to Dame Karen Buck and the Mayor are attached at **Appendices 2 and 3**.

### 2. Decision

- 2.1 **That the Chair of the London Assembly agrees to hold a confirmation hearing in relation to the Mayor's proposed appointment of Dame Karen Buck to the office of Chair of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation; and ask the candidate to provide a CV and supporting statement.**

#### Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Printed Name: **Andrew Boff AM, Chair of the London Assembly**

Date: **26 November 2024**

### 3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

#### Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The exercise of delegated authority agreeing to hold a confirmation hearing in respect of the proposed appointment of Dame Karen Buck as Chair of OPDC will be formally noted at the London Assembly's next appropriate meeting.

#### Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services):



Printed Name: Diane Richards, Committee Officer

Date: 26 November 2024

#### Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.


Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name: N/a

Date: N/a

#### Legal Implications:

The Chair of the London Assembly has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rory McKenna, Monitoring Officer

Date: 26.11.24

Email: [rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk](mailto:rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk)

#### Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Len Duvall AM, Leader of the Labour Group and Deputy Chair of the Assembly
- Neil Garratt AM, Leader of the City Hall Conservative Group
- Caroline Russell AM, Leader of the City Hall Greens Group
- Hina Bokhari AM, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

#### 4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.
- 4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

##### Part 1 - Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, until what date:


##### Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? NO

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#### Lead Officer / Author

Signature: 

Printed Name: Diane Richards

Job Title: Committee Officer

Date: 26 November 2024

#### Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 26 November 2024

**MAYOR OF LONDON****Andrew Boff AM**

Chair of the London Assembly  
[AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk](mailto:AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk)

**Date:** 18 November 2024

Dear Andrew,

**Proposed appointment to the role of Board Chair of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)**

In accordance with the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (GLA Act) section 60A, I am writing to notify the London Assembly that I propose to appoint Dame Karen Buck to the role of Chair of the OPDC.

This follows an open and transparent recruitment process. Karen demonstrated that she was the candidate best suited for the role given her combination of political, housing, transport, regeneration, and community experience, complemented by extensive experience as a chair in various settings.

Until she stood down at this year's general election, Karen was an active Member of Parliament (MP) for the seat of Regent's Park and Kensington North from 1997 and then from 2010, Westminster North.

As an MP, Karen held a number of roles and responsibilities that are relevant to this role, both in government and in opposition:

- Government Minister in the Department for Transport
- Member of the House of Commons Panel of Chairs
- Chair of the London Select Committee

Karen is also the Chair of the South Kilburn Regeneration Trust and Co-Chair of the North Paddington Delivery Board.

I note that under section 60A of the GLA Act, the Assembly is required to consider this proposed appointment and has the right to hold a confirmation hearing meeting, should it so choose.

The statutory confirmation process period will end three weeks from the date of receipt of this letter, within which time a meeting of the Confirmation Hearings Committee can be held if this would help the Assembly to make a recommendation about whether I should proceed in confirming Karen's appointment.

# MAYOR OF LONDON

My office will share Karen's contact details with your Secretariat. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London

# LONDON ASSEMBLY

**City Hall**

Kamal Chunchie Way  
London  
E16 1ZE

Tel: 020 7983 4000

[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)



**Andrew Boff AM**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**

**Dame Karen Buck**

(Sent via email)

Dear Dame Karen,

26 November 2024

**Confirmation Hearings Committee – 2 December 2024, 10.00am, City Hall**

Further to the Mayor's notification to the Assembly of his proposal to appoint you to the office of Chair of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), I am writing to advise that, in accordance with Schedule 4A of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), I have determined that the London Assembly will hold a Confirmation Hearing in relation to your proposed appointment.

It is requested, therefore, that you attend a meeting of the Confirmation Hearings Committee on Monday 2 December 2024. The meeting will take place in the Chamber at City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE, and will be held in public. The meeting will begin at 10.00am and will last no longer than two hours.

Ordinarily, the Committee must give a candidate at least one week's notice before the date of the Confirmation Hearing. However, on this occasion I understand that you are agreeing to waive this requirement.

The Authority's Head of Paid Service has issued a statutory notice to you in relation to this meeting (please see attached). I have also enclosed, for your information, a copy of the Mayor's letter to me.

The Assembly requests that you provide your CV and a supporting statement, and any other details which may be of interest to the Committee in relation to your appointment to this office. Please note that information provided will be made public. (Information under Schedule 21A of the Local Government Act 1972 is only exempt from publication if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information).

Questions and supplementary questions to you will relate to the following areas:

- whether the candidate is qualified for the position;
- whether the candidate has the time and capacity for the position;
- whether the candidate is fit (independent and impartial) for the position; and
- key responsibilities and issues for OPDC for the future.

Please also note that, at the agenda's standing item 'Declarations of Interests', the Chair of the Committee may invite you to declare any relevant interests in terms of the business of the meeting and regarding the (proposed) appointment.

If there is anything else in relation to this session that you wish to discuss, please contact Diane Richards, Committee Officer, by email: [diane.richards@london.gov.uk](mailto:diane.richards@london.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Andrew Boff AM**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**

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**Andrew Boff AM**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London

(Sent via email)

26 November 2024

Dear Mr Mayor,

**Proposed Appointment to the Office of Chair of Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation**

Thank you for your letter dated 18 November 2024, in which you advised of your proposed appointment of Dame Karen Buck to the office of Chair of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

I write formally to confirm that, following informal discussions with Assembly party Groups, I have decided to hold a Confirmation Hearing in respect of the proposed appointment. The Confirmation Hearings Committee will meet on Monday 2 December 2024, at 10.00am in the Chamber at City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE. Your letter will be included in the agenda papers for the meeting.

The Assembly requests that you provide an up-to-date summary of the role and responsibilities of the relevant office, together with a summary of key issues and priorities for OPDC, in advance of the Hearing.

A notice in relation to the meeting has been sent to the nominee in accordance with Schedule 4A of the GLA Act 1999.

The Committee's recommendation regarding this appointment will be sent to you following the meeting.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Andrew Boff AM**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**