

MDA No.: 1662

Title: Consultation on Arrangements for People's Question Time – December 2024

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the GLA Oversight Committee meeting on 23 October 2024 the Committee resolved that:

“That authority be delegated to the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee, following consultation with the Deputy Chair and Party Group Leads, to respond to the Mayor of London’s consultation regarding the arrangements for the December 2024 People’s Question Time meeting”.

1.2 Following consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, the Chairman agreed the Committee’s letter to the Mayor of London on arrangements for the December 2024 People’s Question Time meeting, as attached at Appendix 1.

2. Decision

2.1 **That the Chairman, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members agrees the Committee’s letter to the Mayor of London on arrangements for the December 2024 People’s Question Time meeting, as attached at Appendix 1.**

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:

Emma Best, Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee

Date:

13 November 2024

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 Section 48 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires the Mayor of London and the London Assembly to hold a meeting which is open to all members of the public twice in every financial year. This meeting is referred to as People's Question Time. The form of, and procedure for, People's Question Time shall be such as the Mayor may determine after consultation with the Assembly.
- 3.2 The terms of reference for the GLA Oversight Committee requires the Committee to provide a response from the Assembly on consultations for arrangements for People's Question Time.
- 3.3 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letter will be formally noted at the GLA Oversight Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): Nikoleta Kemp

Printed Name: Nikoleta Kemp

Date: 13 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

Legal Implications:

The GLA Oversight Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal):



Printed Name: Rory McKenna, Monitoring Officer

Date: 10 December 2024

Email: rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

All Group Leaders have been consulted.

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

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

Lead Officer / Author

Signature:



Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Job Title: Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat

Date: 13 November 2024



Emma Best AM
Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

(Sent by email)

13 November 2024

Dear Mr Mayor,

**Response to the consultation in relation to the arrangements for the December 2024
People's Question Time meeting**

At its meeting held on 23 October 2024, the GLA Oversight Committee delegated authority to me as Chairman, in consultation with Group Leads, to provide a response to the December 2024 People's Question Time consultation on the Committee's behalf.

Accordingly, I now write with a formal response, on behalf of the GLA Oversight Committee, to the December People's Question Time consultation paper, received on 7 November 2024.

The Committee's view is that public engagement and scrutiny of the Mayor through People's Question Time (PQT) is an important part of democratic engagement. The advice of security professionals is also important in keeping public events safe for everyone. We appreciate that these proposals have been co-developed following advice from security experts who have full knowledge of the security issues faced in the current climate. The Committee wants to ensure that security requirements are robust to ensure the safety of the event without creating unnecessary barriers to democratic participation. As such, the Committee requests further information on the following points:

- That ticket holders will receive sufficient notice of the venue location to allow all Londoners to develop sufficient travel plans. This information cannot be shared to ticketholders on the day of the event. The Committee also wants to know how ticket holders will receive the above information (i.e. via a phone call, phone, etc.).
- Londoners do not see life through a frame of ward and borough boundaries. Only releasing the name of the borough risks confusion over location and may put off those not only in the borough but surrounding who could easily access the venue but would not know. This could

lead to a significant barrier to attendance for many. It would seem sensible to consider using a known 'town' such as Walthamstow or Highbury to describe the venue location;

- The proposed process for those wishing to attend involves a number of steps and is more onerous than those for previous PQTs. As such the Committee requests further information on how user accessibility has been taken into account to ensure the registration process is as simple as possible while keeping the event safe; and
- Further information on the rationale behind the 3-page admissions document and information on how attendees are expected to sign and return the form before attending.

Overall, the Committee is concerned that, without clarification on the points above, the proposals could limit the ability of the Assembly and the Mayor to engage directly with the public.

In addition, the Committee raised queries as follows:

- Which Teams at the GLA will review the data collected via the admissions document, how long will it be kept for, and has advice been sought in relation to compliance with relevant data protection legislation? How is this then communicated to those who sign it?;
- Why is pre-registration and an admissions form required for this event, but not regularly scheduled MQT sessions or a Mayoral visit, for example?; and
- How will the community groups the GLA publicises the details of the event to be decided?

Noting the request that the consultation paper is not to be published until after the December PQT has taken place, the Committee will defer publication of this response and the related Member Delegated Authority decision form until after December PQT has taken place but would welcome feedback before the event takes place.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Best AM
Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee

Cc Nicole Valentinuzzi – Assitant Director, External Relations