



**Zack Polanski AM**

**Chair of the Environment Committee**

Sir Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

(Sent by e-mail)

**Mandates, missions and implementation plans**

16 January 2025

Dear Sadiq,

I am writing as Chair of the Environment Committee to ask for clarification about your approach to setting and managing your environmental priorities in this term of office.

As you know, the Environment Strategy is one of seven statutory strategies that you are required to publish as Mayor.<sup>1</sup> The London Environment Strategy was published in May 2018 only after the London Assembly Environment Committee's response to the draft strategy on behalf of the whole Assembly, and a subsequent vote by Assembly Members.<sup>2</sup> An implementation plan for 2018 to 2023 was published alongside the strategy.<sup>3</sup> While the Greater London Authority has published regular progress reports,<sup>4</sup> with the most recent published in March 2024,<sup>5</sup> it is seven years since the plan was published and over a year since the end of the implementation plan period.

Since the elections in May 2024, the Committee has regularly asked about the status of the Environment Strategy and the GLA's priorities for the environment. We have been told that developing mandates would be key to directing this work as well as the commitments in your election manifesto. In September 2024, the Deputy Mayor for

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<sup>1</sup> London Assembly Research Unit, [Mayoral Strategies in London](#), July 2024

<sup>2</sup> London Assembly [Minutes of Plenary meeting on Monday 21 May 2018](#) – Item 3

<sup>3</sup> Greater London Authority, [London Environment Strategy Implementation Plan](#) May 2018

<sup>4</sup> Greater London Authority [London Environment Strategy](#)

<sup>5</sup> Greater London Authority [London Environment Strategy: Fourth Progress Report \(2018-2024\)](#) March 2024

Environment and Energy, Mete Coban MBE, told the Committee that he is “very focused” on “delivering on the Mayor’s manifesto priorities.” He also explained that the GLA was in a process of developing mandates in line with GLA structures and Programme Delivery Boards.<sup>6</sup> In the Committee’s October 2024 meeting examining local food growing, Jeremy Skinner, Assistant Director of Strategy, Insight and Intelligence at the GLA, described this as “a root-and-branch review of the fundamental purposes of the GLA and how it wants to go about its business”.<sup>7</sup>

The Committee understands much of this work will be carried out through a ‘missions-based approach’ in collaboration with other organisations, including establishing a new Energy and Environment Mission Board as part of the London Partnership Board.<sup>8</sup>

The Deputy Mayor has written to the Committee setting out the intention to “continue to provide the Committee with updates on progress against the London Environment Strategy targets” and to inform the Committee “if and when there are plans to update any element of the Strategy.”<sup>9</sup> Yet the Committee is concerned that, over eight months since your re-election, there remains a lack of clarity over which priorities will be taken forward and how they will be delivered, despite you previously indicating mandates would be published in September 2024, and confirming that delivery plans would also be made public.<sup>10</sup>

Accordingly, I wanted to write to you to ask for an update on the following:

- When will you be publishing the mandates?
- Are you going to be updating the Environment Strategy?
- Can you confirm when an up-to-date implementation/delivery plan will be published for the mandates and Environment Strategy?
- Do you have any updates on the process for establishing the Environment and Energy Mission Board and what its role will be?

I would be grateful if you can provide a reply by Friday 21 February, please – ahead of the Committee’s 4 March meeting (which will be over ten months since your re-election).

Yours,



**Zack Polanski AM**  
**Chair of the Environment Committee**

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<sup>6</sup> London Assembly Environment Committee [Transcript - Introduction to the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy. 19/09/2024 14:00](#)

<sup>7</sup> London Assembly Environment Committee [Transcript - 16/10/2024 10:00 Panel 2](#)

<sup>8</sup> London Assembly Environment Committee [Transcript - Introduction to the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy. 19/09/2024 14:00](#) p11

<sup>9</sup> London Assembly Environment Committee [Agenda Pack 4 December 2024 Appendix 1 Responses to the Commitments. Environment Committee Meeting – 19 September 2024 Letter Received 31 October 2024](#)

<sup>10</sup> MQ 2024/2792 [Updating your Environment Strategy \(9\)](#) 12 September 2024