

MDA No.: 1724

Title: State of London Debate Consultation

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Annual meeting on 1 May 2013 the Assembly resolved:

That authority be delegated to Chairs of all ordinary committees and sub-committees to respond on the relevant committee or sub-committee's behalf, following consultation with the lead Members of the party Groups on the committee or sub-committee, where it is consulted on issues by organisations and there is insufficient time to consider the consultation at a committee meeting.

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair is asked to agree the Committee's response to the consultation on the State of London Debate, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

2.1 **That the GLA Oversight Committee's response to the State of London Debate consultation be agreed.**

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: Bassam Mahfouz AM, Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee

Date: 14 May 2025

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 On 9 May 2025 the Senior Manager, Events for London, wrote to the Committee to consult Members on arrangements for the State of London Debate 2025.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority approving the report 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): Paul Goodchild

Printed Name: Paul Goodchild, Committee Services Manager

Date: 14 May 2025

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:

Date:

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the Transport Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rory McKenna

Date: 14 May 2025

Email: rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Emma Best AM (Deputy Chairman)
- Caroline Russell AM
- Hina Bokhari OBE AM

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

Lead Officer / Author


Signature: Paul Goodchild

Printed Name: Paul Goodchild

Job Title: Committee Services Manager

Date: 14 May 2025

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen, Executive Director – Assembly Secretariat

Date: 14 May 2025



Bassam Mahfouz AM
Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee

Kim Hobbs
Senior Manager, Events for London
Greater London Authority

(Sent by email)

14 May 2025

Dear Kim,

State of London Debate 2025 Consultation

Thank you for the consultation paper on the State of London Debate (SOLD) 2025.

The points raised by the GLA Oversight Committee have been as follows:

- 1) The timeframe for this consultation has been incredibly short, especially given this is an established annual event.

In the past, this topic has been brought forward with more appropriate lead-in times, which have allowed for scrutiny at a full meeting of the Oversight Committee. We would wish to return to this for next year's event.

- 2) Concerns were raised around security for the Mayor and Assembly Members at the most recent People's Question Time meeting, which included the following:
 - a. Entrance/exit doors for AMs and members of the public were right next to each other.
 - b. A lack of street lighting on the walking route to/from public transport/Private hire vehicle access after the event.

Can you confirm that these have been taken on board with the management of the site chosen for the 2025 SOLD?

- 3) Some Assembly Members have questioned the choice of chair of the June 2024 SOLD. Can you clarify:
- a. What appraisal was made by the events team of the Chair in relation to the June 2024 SOLD event?
 - b. What process is used to select a Chair for the SOLD event?
 - c. When will the contract with LBC conclude? If it had concluded after June 2024 when was it reinstated/renegotiated?
 - d. Can the Events Team engage with the Oversight Committee over future selections for this role, and contract providers?
- 4) Recent People's Question Times (PQT) have had lower in-person attendance than during the previous administration. Have we utilised feedback from PQT and other public-facing events to feed into how we can improve attendance at SOLD? When will the venue be advertised and has a consideration been made of advertising by 'town centre' as opposed to borough?
- 5) How are we ensuring that the event is accessible both in-person and online to Londoners?

Please send your response to Paul Goodchild, Committee Services Manager,
(paul.goodchild@london.gov.uk).

Yours,



Bassam Mahfouz AM
Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee