

MINUTES (Draft)

Meeting: **London Assembly (Plenary)**
Date: **Wednesday 16 June 2010**
Time: **10.00am**
Place: **The Chamber, City Hall, The
Queens Walk, London, SE1 2A**

Copies of the minutes may be found at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/meetings/whole-assembly>

Present:

Dee Doocey (Chair)	Roger Evans
Jennette Arnold (Deputy Chair)	Darren Johnson
Tony Arbour	Jenny Jones
Gareth Bacon	Kit Malthouse
Richard Barnbrook	Joanne McCartney
Richard Barnes	Steve O'Connell
John Biggs	Caroline Pidgeon
Andrew Boff	Murad Qureshi
Victoria Borwick	Navin Shah
James Cleverly	Valerie Shawcross
Brian Coleman	Richard Tracey
Len Duvall	Mike Tuffrey

1. Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)

1.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Nicky Gavron AM.

1.2 The Chair, on behalf of the Assembly, congratulated those Londoners who had received Honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, in particular:

- Councillor Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, who had received a Knighthood for services to local government;
- Councillor Michael Rye, former Leader of the London Borough of Enfield, who had been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to local government;
- Catherine Crawford, Chief Executive of the Metropolitan Police Authority, and Martin Tiplady, Director of Human Resources at the Metropolitan Police Service, who had both been made Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to the police; and
- Clara Arokiasamy, Chair of the Greater London Authority Heritage and Diversity Task Force, who had been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to heritage.

2. Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the relevant Assembly Members' membership of Functional Bodies and London Borough Councils, as set out in Item 2 on the agenda, be noted and recorded as personal interests;**
- (b) That Dee Doocey AM's role as an observer on the London Youth Games Board be additionally noted and recorded as a personal interest, insofar as it related to Item 4 (Question and Answer Session: Future Changes to the Powers of the Mayor and Assembly); and**
- (c) That the gifts and hospitality received by Members, as set out on the Authority's gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

3. Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) meeting held on 19 May 2010 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting, subject to the penultimate sentence in relation to Question 1327/2010 ("So you think that the taxpayer will be happy with that as an answer?") in the transcript of the question and answer session with the Mayor being amended to indicate that that comment was made by Richard Barnbrook AM.

4. Question and Answer Session: Future Changes to the Powers of the Mayor and Assembly (Item 4)

- 4.1 The Assembly put questions to Sir Simon Milton, Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff, and Anthony Browne, Mayoral Policy Director for Economic Development, on future changes to the powers of the Mayor and Assembly, with particular reference to *The Mayor of London's Proposals for Devolution* which had been published the previous day and which are attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The record of the questions put by Assembly Members and the answers given is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 4.3 During the course of the discussion, Sir Simon Milton undertook to write to the Chair following the meeting to provide clarification regarding statements made by the Mayor within *The Mayor of London's Proposals for Devolution* in relation to the dual role of the Metropolitan Police Authority.
- 4.4 At the end of the question and answer session, the Chair formally moved the motion set out on the agenda, namely:

"That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked."

- 4.5 The Chair then moved and the Deputy Chair, Jennette Arnold AM, seconded the following amendment to the motion, which had been drafted in consultation with Assembly party Groups:

Add: "The London Assembly supports in principle proposals to give the GLA more direct powers over key issues such as investment decisions about London housing, funding for programmes to support Londoners to access skills and employment opportunities, and strategic oversight of London's public health organisations (including the London Ambulance Service).

Effective and accountable leadership in these areas will be essential over the coming years. In order for the GLA's strategic role in these areas to be fully transparent and accountable, the Assembly's statutory powers must be strengthened and broadened. The last time the Assembly considered these issues, we resolved:

- Any new or reformed strategic London-wide bodies should be brought within the GLA group so that the lines of accountability are clear and they are subject to the Assembly's powers to summons persons and papers. The budgets of any new bodies should be brought within GLA group budget so that they can be considered as part of the budget-setting process, which enables the Assembly to amend the budget by a two-thirds majority vote.
- There should be a consistent level of transparency across the GLA functional bodies and other bodies chaired by the Mayor or his appointees. There is currently an unhelpful disparity between the bodies that are required to operate in accordance with local government rules of openness (the Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority), requiring them to publish their agendas and papers and make decisions in public, and those that are not (Transport for London and the LDA).

**Greater London Authority
London Assembly (Plenary)
16 June 2010**

- The Assembly should have the power to summons information and persons from within the GLA group and from bodies outside the GLA group that are appointed by the Mayor or that have a significant London-wide role to play in delivering his strategies.¹
- The Assembly should have the power to amend the mayor's draft strategies by a two-thirds majority vote.
- The Mayor should be required to publish a forward plan of key decisions, and the Assembly should have the power to call in key mayoral decisions before they take effect.

Further work will be required to clarify the checks and balances that will need to be put in place as part of any package of new GLA powers.

As yet there are no detailed proposals in relation to the accountability of the Metropolitan Police Service. Further work is required to assess the options and the potential implications of any changes.

The Assembly delegates authority to the Business Management and Administration Committee to appoint and agree terms of reference for a working group of Members to take forward detailed work on the future powers of the GLA."

- 4.6 Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was agreed unanimously.
- 4.7 Upon a further vote, the motion as amended, namely:

"That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.

The London Assembly supports in principle proposals to give the GLA more direct powers over key issues such as investment decisions about London housing, funding for programmes to support Londoners to access skills and employment opportunities, and strategic oversight of London's public health organisations (including the London Ambulance Service).

Effective and accountable leadership in these areas will be essential over the coming years. In order for the GLA's strategic role in these areas to be fully transparent and accountable, the Assembly's statutory powers must be strengthened and broadened. The last time the Assembly considered these issues, we resolved:

- **Any new or reformed strategic London-wide bodies should be brought within the GLA group so that the lines of accountability are clear and they are subject to the Assembly's powers to summons persons and papers. The budgets of any new bodies should be brought within GLA group budget so that they can be considered as part of the budget-setting process, which enables the Assembly to amend the budget by a two-thirds majority vote.**
- **There should be a consistent level of transparency across the GLA functional bodies and other bodies chaired by the Mayor or his appointees. There is**

¹ The relevant bodies are: London Skills and Employment Board, Homes and Communities Agency London Board, London Waste and Recycling Board, London Pensions Fund Authority, Museum of London, NHS London, the London Ambulance Service, Environment Agency, Royal Parks Agency and Constabulary, British Waterways, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, Arts Council and English Heritage London Advisory Committee, the Port of London Authority, Higher Education Funding Council for England, and the Civil Aviation Authority.

currently an unhelpful disparity between the bodies that are required to operate in accordance with local government rules of openness (the Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority), requiring them to publish their agendas and papers and make decisions in public, and those that are not (Transport for London and the LDA).

- **The Assembly should have the power to summons information and persons from within the GLA group and from bodies outside the GLA group that are appointed by the Mayor or that have a significant London-wide role to play in delivering his strategies.²**
- **The Assembly should have the power to amend the mayor's draft strategies by a two-thirds majority vote.**
- **The Mayor should be required to publish a forward plan of key decisions, and the Assembly should have the power to call in key mayoral decisions before they take effect.**

Further work will be required to clarify the checks and balances that will need to be put in place as part of any package of new GLA powers.

As yet there are no detailed proposals in relation to the accountability of the Metropolitan Police Service. Further work is required to assess the options and the potential implications of any changes.

The Assembly delegates authority to the Business Management and Administration Committee to appoint and agree terms of reference for a working group of Members to take forward detailed work on the future powers of the GLA."

was agreed unanimously.

5. Petition (Item 5)

5.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

5.2 Caroline Pidgeon AM presented a petition with the following prayer:

"I/We the undersigned call on TfL to extend the Number 110 bus route to cover all of Whitton High Street and station via Nelson Road to join at its current route."

5.3 **Resolved:**

That the petition be forwarded to the Mayor, in his capacity as Chairman of Transport for London, for response.

² The relevant bodies are: London Skills and Employment Board, Homes and Communities Agency London Board, London Waste and Recycling Board, London Pensions Fund Authority, Museum of London, NHS London, the London Ambulance Service, Environment Agency, Royal Parks Agency and Constabulary, British Waterways, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, Arts Council and English Heritage London Advisory Committee, the Port of London Authority, Higher Education Funding Council for England, and the Civil Aviation Authority.

6. Action Taken by the Chair Under Delegated Authority (Item 6)

6.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

6.2 **Resolved:**

That the recent action taken by the Chair of the Assembly under delegated authority be noted.

7. Motions (Item 7)

7.1 Darren Johnson AM moved and John Biggs AM seconded the following motion:

“This Assembly notes the Prime Minister’s pledge to limit the highest public sector pay settlement to no more than twenty times that of the lowest worker, and the Equality Trust’s proposal to aim for pay inequality to be reduced to no more than ten times. The Assembly also notes that within the GLA Group there are approximately 90 staff paid more than ten times the London Living Wage.

This Assembly calls on the GLA Chief Executive, the Mayor, the Police Authority, the Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, the Board of Transport for London and the Board of the London Development Agency to commit themselves to reducing the difference in pay between the lowest and highest paid staff to no more than 20 times, with a long term goal of no more than 10 times.”

7.2 Following debate and upon being put to the vote, the motion, namely:

“This Assembly notes the Prime Minister’s pledge to limit the highest public sector pay settlement to no more than twenty times that of the lowest worker, and the Equality Trust’s proposal to aim for pay inequality to be reduced to no more than ten times. The Assembly also notes that within the GLA Group there are approximately 90 staff paid more than ten times the London Living Wage.

This Assembly calls on the GLA Chief Executive, the Mayor, the Police Authority, the Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, the Board of Transport for London and the Board of the London Development Agency to commit themselves to reducing the difference in pay between the lowest and highest paid staff to no more than 20 times, with a long term goal of no more than 10 times.”

was agreed (13 votes in favour and 11 votes against).

7.3 During the debate on this motion, at 12.30pm, the Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to allow the extension of the meeting in order to consider the remaining business on the agenda.

- 7.4 Murad Qureshi AM moved and Tony Arbour AM seconded the following motion:

"This Assembly welcomes the government's decision to refuse a third runway at Heathrow and the BAA announcement that it would not seek planning permission for a further runway at Heathrow. However, this Assembly remains concerned that BAA may seek to increase the number of flights from its airports in and around London by other means, such as mixed mode operations, more night flights etc.

This Assembly calls upon the Government to ensure that we are fully consulted on any plans to increase flights."

- 7.5 In accordance with Standing Order 3.6, Murad Qureshi AM, as mover of the motion, proposed the following alteration:

Amend to read:

"This Assembly welcomes the government's decision to refuse a third runway at Heathrow and the BAA announcement that it would not seek planning permission for a further runway at Heathrow. However, this Assembly would strongly oppose any increase in the number of flights from its airports in and around London by other means, such as mixed mode operations, more night flights, or expansion at London's airports.

This Assembly notes the long standing opposition of the parties in the Coalition Government to any increase in flights, mixed mode operations, night flights or expansion at London's airports, and calls on the Government to firmly and openly reject any increase in the number of flights at BAA's London airports."

- 7.6 Upon being out to the vote, the motion, as altered, namely:

"This Assembly welcomes the government's decision to refuse a third runway at Heathrow and the BAA announcement that it would not seek planning permission for a further runway at Heathrow. However, this Assembly would strongly oppose any increase in the number of flights from its airports in and around London by other means, such as mixed mode operations, more night flights, or expansion at London's airports.

This Assembly notes the long standing opposition of the parties in the Coalition Government to any increase in flights, mixed mode operations, night flights or expansion at London's airports, and calls on the Government to firmly and openly reject any increase in the number of flights at BAA's London airports."

was agreed unanimously.

8. Date of Next Meeting (Item 8)

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Assembly would be the London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) meeting which would be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 14 July 2010 in the Chamber, City Hall.

9. Any Other Business (Item 9)

Executive Director of Development and Environment (Item 9a)

- 9.1 The Assembly received the report of the Head of Paid Service which had been circulated under cover of a supplementary agenda for the meeting.
- 9.2 **Resolved:**

That it be agreed not to nominate a Member to sit on the appointments panel for the maternity cover for the post of Executive Director, Development and Environment.

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting – 21 July 2010 (Item 9b)

- 9.3 The Chair explained that she had admitted Item 9(b), which was set out on the second supplementary agenda for the meeting, to the agenda as an urgent item, noting that this was the last opportunity for the matter to be discussed by the Assembly before the publication of the agenda for the 21 July 2010 London Assembly Plenary meeting.
- 9.4 **Resolved:**

That it be agreed that the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting to be held on 21 July 2010 be used to put questions to Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, about the Government's priorities in relation to matters falling within the remit of the GLA group.

10. Close of Meeting

- 10.1 The meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

Chair

Date

Contact Officer: Rebecca Arnold
Committee Services Manager
GLA Secretariat, City Hall
The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

Telephone: 020 7983 4421

Email: rebecca.arnold@london.gov.uk