

MDA No.: 1318

Title: London's Engagement with COP26

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Environment Committee meeting on 13 July 2021 the Committee resolved that:

"Authority be delegated to the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the discussion."

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed the Committee's letter to the Mayor of London on realising the opportunities from COP26, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

2.1 **That the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, agree the Committee's letter to the Mayor of London on realising the opportunities from COP26.**

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: *Zack Polanski*

Printed Name: Zack Polanski AM

Date: 11 August 2021

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this investigation were agreed by the Chair, in consultation with relevant party Lead Group Members and Deputy Chairs, on date 5 July 2021 under the standing authority granted to Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees. Officers confirm that the letter and its recommendations fall within these terms of reference.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letter will be formally noted at the Environment Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services):



Printed Name: Davena Toyinbo

Date: 28 July 2021

Telephone Number: 020 8039 1285

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

Telephone Number: N/A

Legal Implications:

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

Signature (Legal):



Printed Name: Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Date: 3 August 2021

Telephone Number: 020 7983 6550

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Tony Devenish AM;
- Léonie Cooper AM; and
- Hina Bokhari 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:



Printed Name: Luis Alvarado

Job Title: Senior Policy Advisor

Date: 29 July 2021

Telephone Number: 07733 305791

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: *Joanna Davidson*

Printed Name: Joanna Davidson

Date: 3 August 2021

Telephone Number: 07813 796 175



Zack Polanski AM
Chair of the Environment Committee

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

(Sent by email)

13 August 2021

Dear Sadiq,

Realising the opportunities from COP26

The Environment Committee held an investigation into London's engagement with COP26 at its recent meeting on 13 July 2021. Following that, I am writing on behalf of the Committee to ensure London proactively seizes the range of opportunities presented by COP26 being held in Glasgow in the autumn.

COP26 provides an historic moment for London to internationally showcase the progress being made towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2030, and to consider how the capital can make even stronger progress towards the targets you have put in place. It is also an opportunity to highlight the work of C40 Cities and show how action and engagement by cities across the world is crucial to addressing the impacts of the climate emergency.

The lead up to COP26, as well as cross-sector engagement from London during the event, provides the chance to encourage different parts of London's economy to make even bolder commitments. This includes business and finance sector investment in new and green technology, training for new green jobs, raising awareness of how investment can contribute to wider climate goals and incentivising positive changes like using cargo bikes or scrapping polluting vehicles as seen with ULEZ. London's Mayor has the convening power to mobilise

sectors and work closely with them to do more. Net Zero and decarbonisation in London will not only be achieved by the Mayor's action, but we need every industry in the city to reach net zero too. We know the climate change emergency exacerbates health and social inequalities, and it is important to work with business and financial institutions in London to ensure that plans are in place to mitigate this and protect Londoners. COP26 poses a unique opportunity for the Mayor to ensure that all relevant stakeholders in the city are aligned and working towards common goals.

The Committee is keen to know how COP26 presents opportunities for all Londoners to get involved in the move to net zero, and the small changes that we can all make that will help drive this. This is an opportunity to inspire and mobilise everyone - individuals, local authorities, business, community groups etc - to do more. The committee would like to know how this opportunity will be used to best effect, and how you will use your convening powers to drive forward progress.

During the Committee investigation we heard that the GLA already has some plans in place for COP26, with others yet to be developed or confirmed. The Committee would like to see opportunities being used to raise the profile of London and its move to net zero. As such we request regular updates on the additional work you will be doing in the lead up to COP26 and during the event itself in November.

The Committee recognises there are opportunities COP26 brings for London to advocate for more ambitious policy change nationally and to seek more powers to enable targets in the capital to be met at pace. The Conference will shine a light on what needs to be done to reduce the social and health inequalities and improve community resilience. It is important that the Government puts in place appropriate measures to address emissions and resolve the serious health risks that Londoners face as a result of them. We would like to know more about how you will engage with the UK Government on these matters over the coming months and who you will be meeting with.

The Committee is pleased that brings London the opportunity to advocate for more ambitious policy change nationally and to seek powers to enable targets in the capital to be met at pace. We would like to know more about how the Government will be engaging with you on these matters over the coming months.

We look forward to hearing from you by the 3rd of September by 17:00pm with your written response.

Yours,

Zack Polanski

Zack Polanski AM

Chair of the Environment Committee