

MDA No.: 1362

Title: Crossrail Letter

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Transport Committee meeting on 16 November 2021 the Committee resolved that:

6.5 (b) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the meeting.

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed the Committee's letter to Mark Wild, Chief Executive of Crossrail, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

2.1 **That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead Members, agree the letter to Mark Wild, Chief Executive of Crossrail, 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: **Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**

Date: **18 January 2022**

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 the Deputy Chairman and party Lead Group Members on 21 October 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 Transport Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): Paul Goodchild

Printed Name: Paul Goodchild

Date: 13 January 2022

Telephone Number: 07842 600832

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:

Telephone Number:

Legal Implications:

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

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Date: 13 January 2022

Telephone Number: 020 7983 6550

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Keith Prince AM (Deputy Chairman)
- Elly Baker AM
- Sian Berry 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: Luis Alvarado

Printed Name: Luis Alvarado

Job Title: Senior Policy Adviser

Date: 13 January 2022

Telephone Number: 07733 305791

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 14 January 2022

Telephone number: 07729 10898



Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

Mark Wild
Chief Executive
Crossrail

cc Andy Byford, Heidi Alexander, Seb Dance,

(Sent by email)

19 January 2022

Dear Mark,

Crossrail investigation

Thank you for attending the Transport Committee's investigation into Crossrail on 16 November 2021. As you know, the Transport Committee has a long-standing interest in Crossrail and its progress towards opening. It was therefore good to hear that significant progress appears to have been made on Crossrail since the last Committee investigation over a year ago, and that you are still confident of opening in the first half of 2022.

The Committee is, however, concerned about the impact of the Omicron variant on Crossrail trial operations. Can you please update the Committee on what impact you expect this to have on trial operations, *particularly planned mass evacuation exercises*, and whether *planned progress* is still viable with current levels of transmission and restrictions.

As well as welcoming the progress made, the Committee noted some further points around funding, governance and lessons learned on which we have some recommendations:

Governance review

Firstly, the Committee understands the reasons why TfL has not launched a review into Crossrail's new governance arrangements to date. However, we welcome the response that this may be something you would consider this year. The Committee recommends that you carry out this review once the Elizabeth Line central section has opened. Before the review is launched, the Committee would also like oversight of the draft terms of reference, with a chance to input and comment.

Publication of reports

The Committee would also like to express its concerns about the time taken for the publication of the Project Representative (PRep) reports. The Committee believes this is hampering public scrutiny, given the timeframes involved in producing the reports and having these checked by the Elizabeth Line Committee before publication. This means that by the time they are published, the reports are weeks, if not months, out of date. The Committee appreciates that you have attempted to tighten up these timeframes, however it also recommends that you review whether the current set of approvals before publication is appropriate, given the delay this causes to the publication of the reports.

Finances

On the subject of finances, the Committee notes that the Crossrail board were quite clear in August 2020 that the project may require an additional £1.1 billion to complete and this point was reiterated in the meeting by both Heidi Alexander and Andy Byford. Following negotiations between the Government and TfL an additional £825 million in borrowing was made available in December 2020. We acknowledge that a further discussion between TfL and the DfT would be required if TfL were not able to complete Crossrail within the current budget. The Committee would like to understand what plans are in place to secure further funding from the Government, if it is required, and what plans are in place if Government does not provide that required funding.

Learning lessons

The Committee was particularly interested in your responses to the questions about lessons learned, which included a reference to the potential for using more of a factory build with modular technology on future projects. This would have involved more offsite construction, and therefore the Committee would be interested to understand a bit more about this potential approach and whether it was considered as an approach earlier in the process, and where it was used successfully on the project.

The Committee also believes there is a need for a deeper learning exercise when it comes to community engagement with different groups, including local residents and businesses, as well as the wider communication carried out by the Crossrail project. Learning from the Crossrail Ombudsman and this review, will help inform engagement and communications with future major infrastructure projects.

We look forward to your response to these points. Please copy your correspondence to Luis Alvarado, Senior Policy Adviser for Transport at luis.alvarado@london.gov.uk by the end of 31 January 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Pidgeon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee