

# MDA No.: 1385

## Title: Transport for London Funding Agreement

### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Transport Committee meeting on 9 February 2022 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 The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, 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 The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, 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:** 16 February 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 January 2022 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: 14 February 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 pp Rebecca Arnold, Assistant Director, Committee & Member Services

Date: 14 February 2022

Telephone Number: 020 7983 4421

### **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

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## **Lead Officer / Author**

Signature: Gino Brand


Printed Name: Gino Brand

Job Title: Senior Policy Adviser

Date: 11 February 2022

Telephone Number: 07511 213765

**Countersigned by Executive Director:**

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen, Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat

Date: 15 February 2022

Telephone Number: 07729 108986





**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**  
**Chair of the Transport Committee**

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport

cc Andy Byford, Seb Dance, Simon Kilonback

(Sent by email)

16 February 2022

Dear Grant,

## **Transport for London (TfL) funding agreement**

You may be aware that the London Assembly's Transport Committee recently held an investigation into TfL's finances, including a Committee meeting on 9 February 2022. The meeting was attended by Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Transport; Andy Byford, Commissioner for TfL; and Simon Kilonback, Chief Finance Officer for TfL, and the meeting allowed the Committee to gain a fuller understanding of the benefits that a long-term funding arrangement between TfL and government would bring. Ahead of the 18 February 2022 deadline for the end of the latest extension to the current funding agreement, the Committee is writing to ask you to urgently consider the points below as part of the negotiations and to consider a long term agreement.

The Committee understands that negotiations between the DfT and TfL are ongoing. We learnt from Andy Byford that TfL felt the funding agreement proposed by government on 4 February was "unacceptable" to TfL in terms of the conditions attached. The Committee was also surprised to hear that this agreement would have only taken funding up until June this year.

Andy Byford put on record how grateful TfL is for the £5 billion of support it has already received and that government is prepared to offer capital investment for TfL that will allow it to better plan for the future. This is against the recognised challenges of the unprecedented ongoing impact of the pandemic across a range of sectors.

The Committee has heard evidence on several occasions about how unique TfL is in its dependence on fare revenue for its funding streams, compared to international comparators. The Mayor has made a commitment to raising at least £500 million of additional funding per annum, including through fares increases and the council tax precept, to support the running of the transport network, which would represent a positive contribution to TfL's financial sustainability and will help to provide much-needed funding for London's transport system. The Committee acknowledges that the Mayor has a responsibility to ensure these funds are in place. The Committee also acknowledges the exceptional financial circumstances caused by the pandemic. TfL has stated that it still needs a further contribution from government before it can be financially self-sufficient from 2023-24 and is asking for similar certainty of investment that other public transport infrastructure agencies in the UK have, in order to be an economic and efficient operator.

The Committee also heard evidence about the impact of TfL's work outside of London, which seems to closely align with the government's levelling up agenda. TfL has stated that 55 pence in every £1 that London Underground spends goes outside London. This means that the recovery of London, which is dependent on sustainably financed transport, also has an impact on the recovery of the UK as a whole. Alongside this, there are 43,000 jobs across the UK that are dependent on contracts that TfL holds, including the building of new trains for the Piccadilly Line in Goole, Yorkshire. There appears to be significant added benefit for the UK from any investment the government makes in TfL and the improvement of London's transport network.

The evidence heard by the Committee provided several examples of where London's transport network would benefit from the security of a long-term funding agreement that would allow TfL to plan and allocate their resources. TfL described the current short-term funding arrangements as leaving them "paralysed". Areas of concern for the Committee include:

- due to the continued short-term funding agreements, TfL cannot plan ahead to efficiently and effectively procure necessary services and investment, such as the Bakerloo line and Central line trains or investment Healthy Streets and active travel infrastructure. There is an inherent inefficiency to this way of working.
- TfL cannot invest in new rolling stock and cannot invest in new projects to promote active transport in boroughs. TfL is also not able to deliver any more step-free access schemes, other than those that are currently in construction, without further funding.
- TfL has not started any new capital enhancement projects since summer 2021 and is reducing the amount of expenditure it can invest on an in-year basis, to maintain the operability and reliability of its assets.
- some TfL staff are being redeployed away from paused projects that they were hired to work on, and in some cases are being released. This has created a feeling of uncertainty within the organisation and has led to a number of staff leaving.

- TfL is currently unable to make the commitments into the future that it needs to. This includes commitments of five to seven years on the bus contracts side, and 30 to 50 years on the infrastructure side.
- the time spent by senior TfL officials on negotiating the funding agreements is significant. Andy Byford estimated that as much as 60 per cent of his time is spent on budgetary matters. This is not a good use of scarce management resource. Officials in your own department must be similarly consumed with the time taken for these regular negotiations.
- the Committee also heard evidence that if there is no long-term funding agreement, TfL may not be able to move away from its current 'managed decline' scenario – even with the additional £500 million the Mayor has pledged to provide. This could lead to 9 per cent cuts in service to the Tube and potentially up to 19 per cent cuts to the bus network, which could equate to the cancellation of around 100 bus routes.
- TfL has warned that cutting services can lead to a downward spiral that is very difficult to recover from, as customers lose confidence in the frequency and reliability of services and begin to abandon the public transport system. This vicious circle would generate less and less revenue in the future, with further cuts and service reductions inevitably having to follow.
- TfL was expected to benefit from the opening of the new Siemens train factory in Goole, to build new trains for the Central and Bakerloo Lines following the building of the Piccadilly Line fleet. Those orders are now at risk, due to funding uncertainty, which as we've mentioned, has wider economic uncertainty beyond London.

We trust you will consider these points as part of the next round of funding negotiations and we look forward to your response. Please copy your correspondence to Luis Alvarado, Senior Policy Adviser for Transport at [luis.alvarado@london.gov.uk](mailto:luis.alvarado@london.gov.uk) by the end of 28 February 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM  
**Chair of the Transport Committee**