

# Subject: Motions

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 6 February 2020

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is asked to consider the motions set out which have been submitted by Assembly Members.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly considers the motions submitted by Assembly Members as set out below.**

## 3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Andrew Boff AM** and will be seconded by Fiona Twycross AM:

**“Autism is a hugely diverse and complex disability that affects thousands of people across London. It is currently estimated that there are around 88,000 autistic people living in London as well as the much wider group of people who live with, work with or come into contact with autistic people every day. Autism sits under the umbrella of neurodiversity. It is estimated that 10% of the population are neurodivergent. Despite this, autistic people and other neurodivergent people still face massive hurdles and health inequalities in their daily lives.**

**This Assembly notes the disproportionate challenges autistic people face, with research suggesting only 16% of autistic adults are in full-time paid work, over 50% of autistic people avoid public transport due to fears of disruption and 79% of autistic people feel socially isolated.**

**This Assembly believes that London should be a place for everyone and the Mayor should do all he can to tear down the unacceptable barriers and health inequalities faced by autistic people and other neurodivergent people across our city.**

**This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to develop an all-age London-wide autism strategy to be included within his Health Inequalities Strategy, working with Borough Councils, CCGs and others setting out how the right services and support will be provided, that all relevant professionals have the right level of autism understanding, and that our city is accessible to autistic people and open to neurodiversity.”**

- 3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Unmesh Desai AM** and will be seconded by Len Duvall AM:

**“This Assembly welcomes the Government’s announced ambition to recruit 20,000 police officers throughout England and Wales.**

**This Assembly notes that the Government announced £750 million of funding to support the introduction of these new officers, and that the Assembly called for 5,000 of the officers to be allocated to London; the Commissioner and Mayor have since called for 6,000.**

**This Assembly further notes that the Home Office has announced recruitment targets for each police force, with the Metropolitan Police expected to recruit 1,369 officers by 2020/21. While there has been no clarity over how many officers the Met will be expected to recruit in the subsequent two years, if the 1,369 figure were to be sustained, by 2023 the Met would still fall short of the number of officers asked for by the Assembly, Mayor and Commissioner.**

**This Assembly concurs with the Police Federation of England and Wales that police forces must be provided with a multiyear funding settlement in order to make their own long-term, strategic plans to battle crime and support our communities.**

**This Assembly therefore calls upon the Government to agree to a sustained funding settlement for the police forces of England and Wales, to give the Mayor assurance that he can recruit the police officers that London needs in the knowledge that he will have secure funding for them in the years ahead.”**

- 3.3 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Jennette Arnold OBE AM** and will be seconded by Onkar Sahota AM:

**“This Assembly welcomes the introduction of compulsory LGBT+ inclusive relationships education in schools from September this year, following a partial rollout of non-compulsory Relationships/Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) from September 2019. Groups such as Stonewall, the Catholic Education Service, Terrence Higgins Trust, the NSPCC and the End Violence Against Women Coalition have campaigned for and supported this move, which will see age-appropriate teaching of relationships education, including same-sex relationships, in primary school, and healthy relationships and sex education for older children, including LGBT+ issues.**

**This Assembly notes evidence from Stonewall showing that, nearly 20 years after the repeal of Section 28, just one in six LGBT+ young people have been taught about healthy same-sex relationships, but that in schools that teach about LGBT+ issues, LGBT+ young people are more likely to feel welcomed, included and accepted. Children and young people of all genders and sexualities should be equipped with the knowledge and confidence to make healthy, informed decisions.**

**This Assembly notes and welcomes the Mayor’s previously stated support for schools teaching LGBT+ education, but believes that he should do more to ensure that schools are fully prepared for this transition. Research by the National Education Union (NEU) and NSPCC showed that half of teachers said they lack confidence to teach compulsory RSE. We are concerned this could undermine the effectiveness of this important element of the curriculum. The Local Government Association (LGA) has also stated that local authorities and schools should work together with local communities to support a smooth and inclusive rollout of the programme.**

**Given the extent of cuts to local authority and schools funding across London, and the importance for London’s LGBT+ young people that RSE is introduced quickly and effectively, this Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to provide strategic support across London. Through his education programmes, such as Schools for Success and the London Curriculum, as well as by engaging directly with the Department for Education (DfE), Boroughs and Regional Schools Commissioners, the Mayor is well placed to share best practice and deliver tailored support on a pan-London basis.”**

- 3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Fiona Twycross AM** and will be seconded by Léonie Cooper AM:

**“This Assembly welcomes the steps the Mayor has taken to tackle food insecurity. It notes the Mayor has developed a measure of food insecurity which shows that 400,000 children in London have low or very low food security.<sup>1</sup> The Assembly further notes that 166,512 Londoners received assistance from a Trussell Trust foodbank – just under 60,000 of recipients were children.<sup>2</sup> This cannot be acceptable in one of the richest cities in the world. We are concerned that the chief operating officer of Food and Drink Federation has said that the Government’s planned future relationship with the European Union means that food prices are likely to rise at the end of the year.<sup>3</sup>**

**The Assembly praises the work of a number of voluntary organisations that are working to tackle food insecurity such as the Trussell Trust, Sustain, End Hunger UK and local food banks such as the Pecan foodbank in Southwark.**

**This Assembly agrees with the Mayor that London should be a zero-hunger city. We call on the Mayor to commit to undertake research which examines the benefits universal free school meal provision could have on educational attainment and health outcomes in London. This should be done with a view to the Mayor and Chair of the London Assembly**

---

<sup>1</sup> [The Mayor's food security survey results 2019](#)

<sup>2</sup> The Trussell Trust Data, email [sent 11th December 2019]

<sup>3</sup> Tim Rycroft chief operating officer of the Food and Drink Federation on the [Today Programme 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020](#) (1:43:00)

**jointly writing to the Secretary of State for Education to outline the case for extending the provision of universal free school meals.”**

- 3.5 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Tom Copley AM** and will be seconded by Tony Arbour AM:

**“This Assembly notes that this year is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Greater London Authority.**

**This Assembly further notes that the following year the Greater London Authority will have existed longer than the Greater London Council.**

**To commemorate this anniversary, this Assembly calls on the Chair of the Assembly and the Mayor to write jointly to the College of Arms to apply to have the Greater London Council’s coat of arms transferred to the Greater London Authority.”**

- 3.6 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Tony Arbour AM** and will be seconded by Shaun Bailey AM:

**“This Assembly condemns the proposed third runway at Heathrow.”**

- 3.7 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Sian Berry AM** and will be seconded by Len Duvall AM:

**“This Assembly notes the recent study by the University of Wolverhampton, commissioned by the Mayor, that estimated there are around 107,000 undocumented children and 26,000 18- to 24-year-olds in London.**

**The report also cautioned that the number of undocumented young people could rise dramatically after Brexit if the estimated 350,000 young European nationals in the UK are not helped to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme.**

**A young person’s irregular status could arise in variety of situations, including being trafficked, unaccompanied minors whose temporary leave to remain has been withdrawn when they turned 18, arriving without proper documentation or being born in the UK to parents without proper documentation.**

**Living without proper documentation means young people who are denied access to higher education, jobs, open a bank account or rent a home. They get left in limbo while their peers continue to progress. Living in fear of deportation, often to a country they have never known, is the cruel reality of the Government’s hostile environment policies. Children and young people who call the UK their home should be given access to a secure, and inexpensive, route to regularisation their status.**

**We recognise that efforts the Mayor has made to provide legal advice for Londoners with insecure status, and EU nationals, and ask him to call on the Government to support the regularisation of young people with insecure statuses, the majority of whom live and work in our city.”**

- 3.8 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM** and will be seconded by Onkar Sahota AM:

**“This Assembly notes the motion it passed unanimously on the 7 September 2017 calling on the Mayor to work with local residents in doing everything possible to campaign against RAF Northolt becoming a commercial airport.**

**This Assembly further notes the recent £23million runway renovation, which was undertaken with no public consultation at this RAF airport and that this renovation enables greater use by commercial aircraft.**

**This Assembly also notes a recent poll by Regional and Business Airports Group highlighting that 68% of neighbouring residents were not aware that the airfield was reopening for commercial use.**

**This Assembly believes commercial flights at this airport are not acceptable, especially when planning and public consultation processes have not been undertaken, as would be required at any other commercial airport.**

**This Assembly reiterates its long standing opposition to RAF Northolt airport becoming a commercial airport by stealth and urges the Mayor to actively oppose commercial flights, including by immediately writing to the aviation minister and local MPs in the area, and publishing all their responses on [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk).”**

## **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Assembly has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct finance implications arising from this report.

---

**List of appendices to this report:** None.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

List of Background Papers: None.

Contact Officer:	Davena Toyinbo, Principal Committee Manager
Telephone:	020 8039 1285
Email:	<a href="mailto:davena.toyinbo@london.gov.uk">davena.toyinbo@london.gov.uk</a>