

MAYOR OF LONDON

John Biggs AM

Chairman of the Budget & Performance Committee
City Hall
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Our ref: MGLA220115-7328

Date: 27 JAN 2015

Dear John

Response to recommendations on Consultation Budget

Thank you for your comments on my "Consultation Budget and draft Capital Spending Plan for 2015-16". Responses to your recommendations are set out below.

Recommendation 1

The Mayor should ask the Met to publish the results of annual staff surveys since 2012 immediately. He should commit that the Met will publish the results of future surveys on a timely basis (i.e. within three months of conducting the survey).

MOPAC will ask the Metropolitan Police Service to publish the results of previous annual staff surveys and ask that they devise a method by which future surveys can be published in a timely fashion.

Recommendation 2

The Mayor should publish a set of guidelines regarding the disposal of land and property at below market price, applicable across the GLA Group. This should set out his priorities for how surplus assets should be used (such as affordable housing or education), how functional bodies will be compensated for the financial loss, and how bidding costs will be handled.

I have asked the Single Property Unit to review the current procedures in light of this recommendation.

Recommendation 3

Prior to the Assembly's plenary meeting on 28 January, TfL must provide a clear explanation of the £154 million transfer from its capital to revenue budget in 2015 16.

My Draft Consolidated Budget for 2015-16 published on 20 January sets this out.

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Recommendation 4

The Mayor's Apprenticeships Action Plan, due to be published in spring 2015, must include evidence to explain the below-forecast performance to date, and details of funding and outcomes for each element of the plan.

I agree that the plan will set out the reasons why apprenticeship numbers have not continued to increase in London, although the Action Plan, as the name suggests will be more about the activity we are taking forward on this area.

Recommendation 5

Prior to the Assembly's plenary meeting on 28 January, the LLDC should publish a detailed breakdown explaining how it intends to make savings and efficiencies of £15 million in 2015-16.

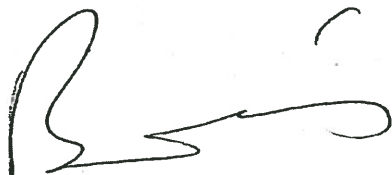
LLDC's 2015-16 budget includes savings as follows: reductions in Park operating costs, venue operating costs and costs associated with opening the Park in 2014 (£6m); new income generation from the Park and increases in planning fees (£1m); reductions in corporate overheads including professional fees and irrecoverable VAT savings assuming s33 status (£5m); miscellaneous across a range of minor budgets (£3m).

Recommendation 6

The LLDC should commit to publishing the contract with the Olympic Stadium operator, making limited redactions where necessary for commercial sensitivities.

The operator contract is not signed yet and as it is a joint contract with E20 LLP it would require the approval of the E20 partnership as well as the operator. Subject to these constraints, publication would be appropriately redacted for commercial sensitivity.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson

Mayor of London

Cc: Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff, GLA
Martin Clarke, Executive Director of Resources, GLA
David Gallie, Assistant Director Group Finance, GLA