

MINUTES

Meeting: Confirmation Hearings Committee
Date: Monday 23 February 2015
Time: 2.30 pm
Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Copies of the minutes may be found at: www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/meetings/whole-assembly

Present:

Tony Arbour AM
Andrew Boff AM
Tom Copley AM
Andrew Dismore AM
Darren Johnson AM
Stephen Knight AM
Valerie Shawcross CBE AM
Richard Tracey AM
Fiona Twycross AM

1 Election of Chair (Item 1)

- 1.1 In accordance with Standing Order 1.5F, the Clerk to the Committee sought nominations for the office of Chair of the Committee for this meeting.
- 1.2 It was moved by Stephen Knight AM and seconded by Darren Johnson AM that Valerie Shawcross CBE AM be appointed as the Chair for this meeting.
- 1.3 There being no other nominations, it was:
- 1.4 **Resolved:**

That Valerie Shawcross CBE AM be appointed Chair of the Confirmation Hearings Committee for this meeting.

2 Term of Reference (Item 2)

2.1 The Committee noted its term of reference, which is as follows:

“In accordance with Section 60A and Schedule 4A of the Greater London Authority Acts 1999 and 2007, to hold confirmation hearings and, as necessary, to make recommendations to the Mayor on proposed appointments”.

3 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 3)

3.1 Apologies were received from Len Duvall AM, for whom Andrew Dismore AM attended as a substitute; from Joanne McCartney AM, for whom Fiona Twycross AM attended as a substitute; from Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, for whom Stephen Knight AM attended as a substitute; from Steve O’Connell AM, for whom Tony Arbour AM attended as a substitute; and from Jenny Jones AM, for whom Darren Johnson AM attended as a substitute.

4 Declarations of Interests (Item 4)

4.1 In addition to noting Committee Members’ declarations of interest, the Chair invited Gareth Bacon AM to declare any interests relevant to the business of this meeting or in relation to his appointment to the office of Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. Gareth Bacon AM declared no additional interests.

4.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the list of memberships of functional bodies and London Borough Councils, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 4, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests;**
- (b) That Andrew Boff AM’s interest of a relative employed by LFEPA, be noted as a non-pecuniary interest; and**
- (c) That the gifts and hospitality received by Members, as set out in the Authority’s gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

5 Confirmation Hearing in Respect of the Appointment to the Office of Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (Item 5)

- 5.1 Before moving to the question and answers session the Chair asked the Committee formally to note the background information circulated with the agenda for the meeting and the information received after publication of the agenda (attached at **Appendix 1** to the minutes).
- 5.2 Gareth Bacon AM attended the meeting to answer the Committee's questions in relation to his proposed appointment to the office of Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA).
- 5.3 The transcript of the question and answer session is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 5.4 Following the question and answer session, the Committee discussed its recommendation to the Mayor in relation to this appointment. The Committee agreed to recommend that the Mayor should proceed with his appointment of Gareth Bacon AM to the office of Chairman of LFEPA.
- 5.5 During the discussion concern was expressed by some Members of the Committee regarding the potential impact of Mr Bacon's existing time commitments on his ability properly to discharge the full range of duties of the office of Chairman of LFEPA.
- 5.6 The Committee noted and was reassured by Gareth Bacon's affirmation that he would make his work with the Fire Authority his priority, and that he would review his other commitments should he find it difficult to meet the demanding role of Chairman of LFEPA.
- 5.7 **Resolved:**
- (a) That:**
- (i) The letter from the Mayor to the Chairman of the London Assembly (dated 3 February 2015) advising the Assembly of his proposed appointment of Gareth Bacon AM to the position of Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, and any information received after publication of the agenda, as set out in Appendix 1, be noted;**
- (ii) The letter from the Chairman of the Assembly to Gareth Bacon AM (dated 11 February 2015) which confirms notice of the Confirmation Hearings Committee meeting and the formal notice from the Head of Paid Service, as set out in Appendix 2 to the agenda, be noted;**

- (b) That following the questioning of the Mayor's proposed appointee for the office of Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, Gareth Bacon AM, the Committee recommends his appointment to that office.

6 Date of Next Meeting (Item 6)

- 6.1 The Committee noted that the date of the next meeting of the Committee had not been scheduled.

7 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 7)

- 7.1 There were no items of urgent business.

8 Close of Meeting

- 8.1 The meeting finished at 3.28pm.

Chair

Date

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