

MINUTES

Meeting: London Assembly (Plenary)
Date: Thursday 6 February 2020
Time: 10.00 am
**Place: Chamber, City Hall,
The Queen's Walk, London, SE1
2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/whole-assembly>

Present:

Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair)

Nicky Gavron AM

Tony Arbour AM (Deputy Chairman)

Susan Hall AM

Gareth Bacon MP AM

David Kurten AM

Shaun Bailey AM

Joanne McCartney AM

Siân Berry AM

Steve O'Connell AM

Andrew Boff AM

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Léonie Cooper AM

Keith Prince AM

Tom Copley AM

Caroline Russell AM

Unmesh Desai AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Tony Devenish AM

Navin Shah AM

Len Duvall AM

Fiona Twycross AM

1 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Andrew Dismore AM, Florence Eshalomi MP AM and Peter Whittle AM.
- 1.2 On behalf of the Assembly the Chair thanked the emergency services for their bravery in dealing with the attack in Streatham on 2 February 2020, and offered condolences to those who had been injured, their families and loved ones, and everyone affected by the attack.
- 1.3 The Chair provided an update on some recent Assembly activity, including: the Police and Crime Committee's recommendations that the Mayor task the London Modern Slavery Partnership Board with developing a coherent strategy for modern slavery, specific to London; the Transport Committee's questioning of the outgoing TfL Commissioner, Mike Brown MVO; and the Police and Crime Committee questioning of the Metropolitan Police Service Commissioner, Dame Cressida Dick DBE QPM on the recent Streatham Attack, tackling violent crime, financial fraud and Operation Midland.
- 1.4 The Chair on behalf of the Assembly congratulated Tom Copley AM on his appointment as Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, expected to begin in March 2020.
- 1.5 The Chair informed the Assembly that it was the United Nations day for Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, and thanked the Mayor on behalf of Assembly Members and activists in London for his commitment in working with activists to bring Female Genital Mutilation in London to an end.
- 1.6 During the course of the meeting, the Chair welcomed to the public gallery pupils from Christchurch Primary School in Redbridge.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

- 2.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 2.2 **Resolved:**

That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 3, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) meeting held on 16 January 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 Draft New London Plan 2020 (Item 4)

Part A:

- 4.1 The Chair explained that the principal purpose of the meeting was for the Assembly formally to receive and, in accordance with Section 42B of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended), consider the Mayor's draft new London Plan 2020.
- 4.2 The Assembly received an oral statement from the Mayor on his draft new London Plan 2020.
- 4.3 A copy of the Mayor's statement is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Part B:

- 4.4 The Chair of the London Assembly's Planning Committee, Andrew Boff AM, presented the Committee's response to the Mayor's draft new London Plan 2020.
- 4.5 A copy of the statement by the Chair of the London Assembly's Planning Committee is attached at **Appendix 2**.

Part C:

- 4.6 Assembly Members then put questions to the Mayor on the draft new London Plan 2020.
- 4.7 Jules Pipe CBE, Deputy Mayor for Planning Regeneration and Skills and Housing and Residential Development; Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy; and Jennifer Peters, Head of London Plan and Growth strategies, were also in attendance for the duration of the question and answer session.
- 4.8 The record of the questions put by Members, together with the Mayor's answers, is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- 4.9 At 10.36am, Under Standing Order 2.12 the Chair gave a formal warning to persons in the public gallery to desist from disrupting the meeting.

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4.10 At 10.37am, the Chair adjourned the meeting to allow persons in the public gallery to be escorted from the chamber. The meeting reconvened at 10.38am.

4.11 During the course of the discussion the Mayor undertook to:

- Consider the amalgamation of the Environment, Culture, Food, Transport and Health GLA teams into a virtual team, working to further protect and enhance the benefits of the Green Belt;
- Write to Siân Berry AM providing a list of all environmental enhancements in relation to the Green Belt; and
- Consider carrying out work on the impact and quality of tall buildings and whether specific guidance might be required for high-rise residential developments.

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills and Housing and Residential Development undertook to:

- Explore, together with the new Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development and interested Assembly Members, the possibility of commissioning a London Household Survey.

Part D:

4.12 The Chair moved the motion set out on the agenda in her name, namely:

“That that the Assembly notes the new draft London Plan 2020”

4.13 During the course of the meeting, under Standing Order 2.9, the Assembly resolved to extend the meeting in order to finish the business on the agenda.

4.14 Andrew Boff AM proposed and Shaun Bailey AM seconded, the following amendment to the motion:

“That the word **“notes”** be replaced with **“hereby resolves to reject”** and the word **“Mayor’s”** be added before new draft London Plan 2020, and the following words be added after “the draft new London Plan 2020:”

“The Assembly notes with concern:

- The lack of sufficient support in the draft London Plan for the provision of new family-sized homes in London, and the excessive priority given in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for one-bedroom flats.

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- The removal of the ‘density matrix’, which will make it more difficult for local planning authorities to ensure that developments are of suitable density, scale and height for their type and location, reflect local transport availability, and resist inappropriate skyscrapers.
- The removal of support for boroughs to introduce protections against the loss of garden land. Without these protections, the Small Sites policy and targets could result in the widespread loss of back gardens and existing family homes.
- The blanket policy of ‘no net loss’ of brownfield land in Strategic Industrial Locations (SIL), regardless of local circumstances, which will jeopardise the delivery of new homes in key locations and potentially put the Green Belt at risk.
- The excessive and blanket restrictions on off-street parking spaces in new developments, which will be unsuitable in many locations, especially suburban areas, and will cause congestion, harm quality of life and discourage the take-up of electric vehicles.

The Assembly wishes to make clear that it strongly supports the protections for the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land in the draft London Plan, and would not wish to see these protections reduced. The Assembly also strongly opposes a review of London’s Green Belt, as was recommended by the Planning Inspectors to the London Plan Examination in Public.

The Assembly urges the Mayor to bring forward a revised draft London Plan for consideration by the Assembly, which addresses all the above concerns, whilst maintaining its strong level of protection for the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land.”

4.15 Following debate, with 9 votes being cast in favour and 13 against the amendment was not carried.

4.16 Upon being put to the vote, the motion in the name of the Chair, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the draft new London Plan 2020”

was carried by 11 votes in favour, and 10 votes against (with the Chair using their additional and casting vote.

4.17 Under the provisions of Section 42B of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Assembly was deemed to have not rejected the Mayor’s draft new London Plan 2020.

5 Motions (Item 5)

5.1 Andrew Boff AM moved, and Fiona Twycross AM seconded, the following motion:

“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.”

5.2 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed unanimously.

5.3 Unmesh Desai AM moved, and Len Duvall AM seconded, the following motion:

“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.”

5.4 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed unanimously.

5.5 The Deputy Chairman assumed the Chair from 13.18pm to 14.00pm for the duration of the debate on the motion moved by Jennette Arnold OBE AM.

5.6 Jennette Arnold OBE AM moved, and Dr Onkar Sahota AM seconded, the following motion:

“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.”

5.7 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed (15 votes cast in favour, 1 vote cast against).

5.8 Fiona Twycross AM moved, and Léonie Cooper AM seconded, the following motion:

“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.¹ The Assembly further notes that 166,512 Londoners received assistance from a Trussell Trust foodbank – just under 60,000 of recipients were children. 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.

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

5.9 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed (12 votes cast in favour, 4 votes cast against).

5.10 Tom Copley AM moved, and Tony Arbour AM seconded, the following motion:

“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.”

5.11 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed unanimously.

5.12 Tony Arbour AM moved, and Keith Prince AM seconded, the following motion:

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

5.13 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed unanimously.

5.14 Siân Berry AM moved, and Len Duvall AM seconded, the following motion:

“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.”

5.15 Following debate, the motion was agreed by general consensus.

5.16 Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM moved, and Dr Onkar Sahota AM seconded, the following motion:

“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.”

5.17 Following debate, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed unanimously.

6 Mayoral Commitments (Item 6)

6.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of the Secretariat.

6.2 **Resolved:**

That the commitments made by the Mayor of London during the London Assembly (Mayor’s Question Time) meetings between May 2016 and January 2020 be noted.

7 Date of Next Meeting (Item 7)

- 7.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly was the Mayor's Question Time meeting which will take place at 10.00am on Monday 24 February 2020 in the Chamber, City Hall. The Chair said that the meeting would be used principally to receive and consider the Mayor's Final Draft Consolidated Budget for 2020-21.

8 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 8)

- 8.1 There were two items of urgent business which had been accepted by the Chair, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(B) of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds that both matters arose after the publication of the agenda and should be received by the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Appointment Made by the Mayor Under Section 67 of the GLA Act 1999 (Item 8a)

- 8.2 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of the Secretariat.

8.3 **Resolved:**

That the recent appointment made by the Mayor under Section 67(1) of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), of Tom Copley AM as the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, with an indicative start date of 23 March 2020, be noted.

Change to Committee Memberships (Item 8b)

- 8.4 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of the Secretariat. Further to the proposals set out in the report, the Chair explain that it was now additionally proposed that Fiona Twycross AM be appointed as a member of the Planning Committee, to replace Tom Copley AM, further to the London Assembly GLA Labour Group's nomination.

8.5 **Resolved:**

- (a) That Unmesh Desai AM be appointed as a member and Chairman of the Housing Committee, to replace Tom Copley AM, further to the London Assembly GLA Labour Group's nomination;**
- (b) That Tom Copley AM be appointed as a member of the Police and Crime Committee, to replace Florence Eshalomi MP AM, further to the London Assembly GLA Labour Group's nomination; and**

- (c) That Fiona Twycross AM be appointed as a member of the Planning Committee, to replace Tom Copley AM, further to the London Assembly GLA Labour Group's nomination.

9 Close of Meeting

9.1 The meeting ended at 2.24pm

Chair

Date

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