

# Subject: Action Taken by the Chair Under Delegated Authority

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 15 January 2014

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines recent action taken by the Chair of the London Assembly, in accordance with the GLA's Standing Orders.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly notes recent action taken by the Chair of the London Assembly, Darren Johnson AM, in accordance with the authority delegated to him, namely to agree that the attached joint letter signed by the Mayor of London, Chair of the Assembly and the Chair of London Councils, be sent to The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, to provide a summary response to the ONS *Beyond 2011 Consultation* (Appendix 1).**

## 3. Background and Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 During autumn 2013, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) undertook a consultation on the census and the future provision of population statistics in England and Wales. Following the completion of each census, the ONS reviews the future needs for information about the population and housing in England and Wales and how those needs might be met. The last census was conducted in 2011 and the ONS then established its 'Beyond 2011' programme to review the best way in which to collect population statistics in the future in order to understand and plan for population changes. The ONS research indicated that improvements in technology and in government data sources could offer opportunities to either modernise the existing census process or to develop an alternative census method that reused existing data already held within government. A link to the consultation document is set out [here](#). The consultation invited comments on the approaches set out in the consultation document.

3.2 The Chair of the London Assembly, Darren Johnson AM, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and the Chair of London Councils, Mayor Jules Pipe submitted a joint response to the consultation on 13 December 2013 (the letter to The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General is attached at **Appendix 1**). Before taking the action, the Chair of the London Assembly consulted with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Leaders on the London Assembly.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 The GLA's Standing Orders (SO 10.2A) states: "The Chair of the Assembly, and the Chairs of every ordinary or advisory committee or sub-committee, may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any of that body's functions..."

4.2 As such, the Chair had the power to take the action set out in this report.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

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#### **List of appendices to this report:**

**Appendix 1** – Joint letter with the Mayor of London and Chair of London Councils (and submissions to the ONS).

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
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