

# MINUTES

**Meeting: Housing Committee**  
**Date: Wednesday 12 February 2014**  
**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/housing>

**Present:**

Darren Johnson AM (Chair)  
Tom Copley AM (Deputy Chair)  
Andrew Boff AM  
Nicky Gavron AM  
Stephen Knight AM  
Steve O'Connell AM

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

- 1.1 An apology for absence was received from Fiona Twycross AM for whom Valerie Shawcross CBE AM attended as a substitute member.

## **2 Declarations of Interest (Item 2)**

2.1 **Resolved:**

- (a) **That the list of officers held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests; and**
- (b) **That Nicky Gavron AM's position as a patron of the Hackney Community Law Centre be noted as a non-pecuniary interest.**

### **3 Minutes (Item 3)**

#### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2013 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

### **4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)**

4.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

#### **4.2 Resolved:**

- (a) That the completed actions arising from previous meetings of the Housing Committee be noted; and**
- (b) That the letter sent from the Chair of the Committee to the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property in response to correspondence received on overcrowding be noted.**

### **5 Old Theatre Site Visit (Item 5)**

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

#### **5.2 Resolved:**

**That the record of the Committee's site visit to the Old Theatre Hostel on 15 January 2014 be noted.**

### **6 Welfare Reform (Item 6)**

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to putting questions to the following invited guests:

- Councillor Karen Alcock, Cabinet Member for Property and Housing Service, London Borough of Hackney;
- Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Community, London Borough of Sutton; and
- Councillor Dudley Mead, Deputy Leader (Statutory) (Capital Budget and Asset

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Management) and Cabinet Member for Housing, London Borough of Croydon.

- 6.2 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 6.3 During the course of the discussion, Councillor Alcock agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the London Borough of Hackney's indicators for the casework impact of the recent welfare reforms on housing.
- 6.4 For the second half of the meeting, the Committee were joined by the following guests:
- Richard Blakeway, Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, Greater London Authority (GLA); and
  - Jamie Ratcliff, Assistant Director – Programme, Policy and Services, GLA.
- 6.5 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 6.6 During the course of the discussion, the Committee noted the following commitments from the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property to provide clarification on the following information after the meeting:
- The number of local authorities which have a housing programme with the GLA; and
  - The amount of additional assistance funding allocated to local authorities to help tackle temporary accommodation.
- 6.7 **Resolved:**
- (a) That the summary note of the informal evidence-gathering seminar held on 12 December 2013 be agreed;**
  - (b) That the report and discussion be noted; and**
  - (c) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree a short report on the impact of welfare reform on housing.**

## **7 Specialist Housing for Older Londoners (Item 7)**

7.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

7.2 **Resolved:**

**That the report *Homes for older Londoners: Building healthy homes for a comfortable and independent retirement* be agreed.**

## **8 Encouraging Diversity in London's Housing Building Industry (Item 8)**

8.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

8.2 **Resolved:**

**That the outline for a short investigation on encouraging diversity in London's house building industry at the Committee's next meeting be agreed.**

## **9 Housing Committee Work Programme 2013/14 (Item 9)**

9.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

9.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the work programme, as set out in the report, be noted;**
- (b) That the first investigation topic for the forthcoming municipal year on Housing Estate Renewal be agreed;**
- (c) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree a short report on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping; and**
- (d) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to formally agree the Committee's response to the Mayor's Draft Housing Strategy consultation.**

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**10 Date of Next Meeting (Item 10)**

- 10.1 The next Housing Committee meeting was scheduled for 25 March 2014 at 10.00am in Committee Room 5, City Hall.

**11 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 11)**

- 11.1 There was no other business the Chair considered urgent.

**12 Close of Meeting**

- 12.1 The meeting ended at 12.13pm.

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Chair

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Date

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