

MINUTES

**Meeting: London Assembly
(Mayor's Question Time)**
Date: Wednesday 19 November 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/whole-assembly>

Present:

Roger Evans AM (Chairman)	Nicky Gavron AM
Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair)	Darren Johnson AM
Tony Arbour AM	Jenny Jones AM
Gareth Bacon AM	Stephen Knight AM
John Biggs AM	Kit Malthouse AM
Andrew Boff AM	Joanne McCartney AM
Victoria Borwick AM	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
James Cleverly AM	Murad Qureshi AM
Tom Copley AM	Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Andrew Dismore AM	Fiona Twycross AM
Len Duvall AM	

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Steve O'Connell AM, Navin Shah AM, Valerie Shawcross CBE AM and Richard Tracey AM.
- 1.2 During the course of the meeting the Chairman welcomed to the public gallery guests from the Department for Communities and Local Government, the City of London Senior Group and the Dialogue Society, which had brought along Noah's Pudding to share with the Assembly following the meeting as part of an annual celebration of the common heritage of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. He additionally welcomed pupils from Charlton Manor Primary School, Greenwich.
- 1.3 The Chairman referred to the delegated authority granted to him by the Assembly at the 17 September 2014 Mayor's Question Time meeting, to submit a joint response with the Mayor to the Government's proposed expansion of permitted development rights. He explained that that delegated authority had not been exercised as it not been possible for a joint response to be agreed.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

- 2.1 The Assembly received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.
- 2.2 **Resolved:**
- (a) **That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests; and**
 - (b) **That Kit Malthouse AM's declaration of a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4 (Mayor's Report), arising from his role as Chairman of London & Partners, be additionally noted.**

3 Minutes (Item 3)

- 3.1 **Resolved:**

That the minutes from the London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) meeting held on 22 October 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 Mayor's Report (Item 4)

- 4.1 The Assembly noted the Mayor's Report covering the period from 9 October to 5 November 2014
- 4.2 In accordance with Standing Order 5.4A, the Mayor gave an oral update on matters occurring since the publication of his report. The record of the oral update is attached at **Appendix 1**.

[See also Agenda Item 2 – Declarations of Interest.]

5 Questions to the Mayor (Item 5)

- 5.1 The record of the discussion with the Mayor, including oral answers given by the Mayor to Members' questions, is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 5.2 The written answers to those questions not asked or unanswered during the meeting is attached as **Appendix 3**.
- 5.3 During the course of the question and answer session the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that Standing Order 2.9B be suspended to extend the meeting in order to allow the remaining questions on the priority order paper to be put to the Mayor and for the remaining items of business on the agenda to be considered.
- 5.4 At the conclusion of the question and answer session, the Chairman moved the motion set out on the agenda, namely:
- 5.5 Len Duvall AM moved and Darren Johnson AM seconded the following amendment to the motion:

“That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked”.

After “That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.” add:

“Further, the London Assembly is deeply concerned at the Mayor's failure to address fully concerns regarding the granting to Advanced Business Park (ABP) of the tender to develop the 35-acre site at the Royal Albert Dock, which includes 3.2 million square feet of office space, leisure facilities, and 845 residential flats.

“This Assembly is also troubled by the fact that, despite compelling evidence calling into question ABP's human rights record in China, neither the Mayor's Office nor London and Partners assessed ABP's human rights record as part of the evaluation process in respect of the Royal Albert Dock development. In particular, this Assembly is disappointed by the Mayor's

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recent admission that ABP's human rights record in China "wasn't relevant to the tendering process."¹

"This Assembly notes the comments of Sir Alistair Graham, a former chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, who has publicly stated that the tendering process "has the smell of a semi-corrupt arrangement..."²

"Given the gravity of the concerns raised by Channel 4 News' investigation into the Albert Docks Development, this Assembly calls on:

The Mayor to:

- Appoint an independent investigation into the tendering process and relationship between the Greater London Authority and allied agencies, and ABP, in the awarding of the Royal Albert Dock development.

The London Assembly Audit Panel (with authority delegated to the committee Chair in consultation with Group leads to agree the terms of reference) to:

- Launch a scrutiny session on the internal audit process undertaken by the Mayor in relation Royal Albert Dock development, and seek a commitment from the Mayor to appear before the Panel as part of the scrutiny.

The London Assembly Economy Committee and Planning Committee (with authority delegated to the committee chair(s) in consultation with group leads to agree the terms of reference) to:

- Launch a joint scrutiny session on the economic and planning aspects of Royal Albert Dock development, and seek a commitment from the Mayor to appear before the Committee as part of the scrutiny.

"The London Assembly also notes revelations in the *Guardian* on 18.11.14 that Mayoral advisors have proposed cuts of up to 90% in funding for education and youth schemes – including mentoring, volunteering, supplementary schooling, healthy eating, and services for young people excluded from schools – targeted at some of London's most deprived young people³.

"Given the extent of the proposed cuts, and the Mayor's acknowledgement that the GLA "need[s] to scale up 10 times the efforts to ensure Londoners can compete successfully in a changing and competitive market place"⁴, this Assembly calls on the Mayor to reject the proposals of officers and deliver the funding vulnerable young Londoners need to avoid the trap of long-term unemployment and increased risk of offending.

"This Assembly also calls on the London Assembly's Education Panel to conduct an urgent impact assessment of the proposed cuts."

¹ *Big questions for Boris over billion dollar property deal*, Channel 4 News, 13.11.14

² *Ibid*

³ *Syal. R & Muir. H, Boris Johnson to consider 90% funding cuts to youth and education schemes*, The Guardian

⁴ *Ibid*

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- 5.6 Following debate, and in accordance with Standing Order 2.7, Jennette Arnold AM requested that a recorded vote be taken upon this amendment.
- 5.7 Upon being put to the vote, the votes in respect of the amendment in the name of Len Duvall AM were cast as follows:

For the amendment: John Biggs AM, Tom Copley AM, Andrew Dismore AM, Len Duvall AM, Nicky Gavron AM, Darren Johnson AM, Jenny Jones AM, Stephen Knight AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Murad Qureshi AM, Onkar Sahota AM, Fiona Twycross AM and Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair).

Against the amendment: Tony Arbour AM, Andrew Boff AM and Roger Evans AM (Deputy Chairman).

- 5.8 There being 14 votes in favour of the amendment and 3 votes against, the amendment was agreed.
- 5.9 Upon being put to the vote, the motion as amended, namely:

“That the Assembly notes the answers to the questions asked.

“Further, the London Assembly is deeply concerned at the Mayor’s failure to address fully concerns regarding the granting to Advanced Business Park (ABP) of the tender to develop the 35-acre site at the Royal Albert Dock, which includes 3.2 million square feet of office space, leisure facilities, and 845 residential flats.

“This Assembly is also troubled by the fact that, despite compelling evidence calling into question ABP’s human rights record in China, neither the Mayor’s Office nor London and Partners assessed ABP’s human rights record as part of the evaluation process in respect of the Royal Albert Dock development. In particular, this Assembly is disappointed by the Mayor’s recent admission that ABP’s human rights record in China “wasn’t relevant to the tendering process.”⁵

“This Assembly notes the comments of Sir Alistair Graham, a former chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, who has publicly stated that the tendering process “has the smell of a semi-corrupt arrangement...”⁶

“Given the gravity of the concerns raised by Channel 4 News’ investigation into the Albert Docks Development, this Assembly calls on:

⁵ *Big questions for Boris over billion dollar property deal*, Channel 4 News, 13.11.14

⁶ *Ibid*

The Mayor to:

- **Appoint an independent investigation into the tendering process and relationship between the Greater London Authority and allied agencies, and ABP, in the awarding of the Royal Albert Dock development.**

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The London Assembly Economy Committee and Planning Committee (with authority delegated to the committee chair(s) in consultation with group leads to agree the terms of reference) to:

- **Launch a joint scrutiny session on the economic and planning aspects of Royal Albert Dock development, and seek a commitment from the Mayor to appear before the Committee as part of the scrutiny.**

“The London Assembly also notes revelations in the *Guardian* on 18.11.14 that Mayoral advisors have proposed cuts of up to 90% in funding for education and youth schemes – including mentoring, volunteering, supplementary schooling, healthy eating, and services for young people excluded from schools – targeted at some of London’s most deprived young people⁷.

“Given the extent of the proposed cuts, and the Mayor’s acknowledgement that the GLA “need[s] to scale up 10 times the efforts to ensure Londoners can compete successfully in a changing and competitive market place”⁸, this Assembly calls on the Mayor to reject the proposals of officers and deliver the funding vulnerable young Londoners need to avoid the trap of long-term unemployment and increased risk of offending.

“This Assembly also calls on the London Assembly’s Education Panel to conduct an urgent impact assessment of the proposed cuts.”

was agreed (14 votes cast in favour, 3 votes cast against).

6 Date of Next Meeting (Item 6)

- 6.1 The next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly was the Plenary meeting which would take place at 3pm on Tuesday 9 December 2014 in the Chamber, City Hall.

⁷ Syal. R & Muir. H, Boris Johnson to consider 90% funding cuts to youth and education schemes, The Guardian

⁸ Ibid

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

Proposed Correspondence in relation to London City Airport's Consultation on the London Airspace Management Programme (Item 7a)

7.1 The Chairman, in accordance with section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, had agreed to accept Agenda Item 7(a) (Proposed Correspondence in relation to London City Airport's Consultation on the London Airspace Management Programme) – which had been circulated under cover of a Supplementary Agenda for the meeting – as urgent business in order to allow representations regarding the consultation process for the London Airspace Management Programme to be made as soon as possible, noting that the consultation closed on 27 November 2014 and that the next London Assembly (Plenary) meeting after that meeting would not take place until 9 December 2014.

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

7.3 **Resolved:**

That the letters to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority, attached at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, setting out concerns about London City Airport's consultation on the London Airspace Management Programme be agreed.

8 Close of Meeting

8.1 The meeting closed at 1.23pm.

Chairman

Date

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