

Subject: Motions

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 9 December 2014

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is asked to consider the motions set out which have been submitted by Assembly Members.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly considers the motions set out below.**

3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Valerie Shawcross CBE AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

“This Assembly welcomes the fact that Govia Thameslink Railway aims to extend Oyster Pay As You Go (PAYG), in partnership with TfL and other TOCs, to London Gatwick and London Luton Airports.

This Assembly notes that the 35 million passengers at London Gatwick Airport and the 1 million passengers at London Luton Airport will join the 72 million passengers at London Heathrow Airport and the 3 million passengers at London City Airport in being able to use an Oyster card or a Contactless Payment Card if they plan to visit London.

This Assembly believes that the 18 million passengers at London Stansted Airport and the 1 million passengers at London Southend Airport will welcome the same opportunities to use an Oyster card or a Contactless Payment Card if they plan to travel to London.

This Assembly further notes that both airports are within the East Anglia franchise and that the consultation on the new franchise period will begin next year.

This Assembly therefore urges the Mayor to write to the Department for Transport, London Stansted Airport, London Southend Airport and Transport for London to urge them to work together to include extending Oyster to both airports as part of the new franchise.”

- 3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name **Joanne McCartney AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

“This Assembly welcomes the fact that Network Rail is currently consulting on its Anglia route study document, but we are disappointed that it has not prioritised the four-tracking of the route between Liverpool Street and Stansted Airport.

This Assembly notes that the Mayor has announced that Crossrail 2 could be open by 2029 and that would require four tracking of the Lea Valley line, but that Network Rail sees four-tracking as one of the options for meeting passenger demand up to 2043.

This Assembly further notes that the document confirms that, “prior to publication of the final Route Study, more detailed work with stakeholders will be undertaken to better understand the benefits and potential funding sources in relation to any early four-tracking to the Lea Valley”

This Assembly believes that the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area will create over 15,000 new jobs and over 20,100 new homes by 2031 and that four-tracking is vital to support these plans.

This Assembly therefore urges Network Rail to work with Transport for London, and other stakeholders, to develop a sound business case and timetable for progressing with four-tracking of the line between London Liverpool Street and Stansted Airport as soon as possible.”

- 3.3 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Tom Copley AM** and will be seconded by **Jennette Arnold OBE AM**:

“This Assembly condemns the actions of Westbrook Partners in their approach to the New Era estate in Hoxton. We believe it is entirely unacceptable that this community, with many long-standing tenants including many key workers, can be subjected to such practices, with many facing extreme rent hikes that will make it impossible for them to remain in their homes beyond Christmas.

This Assembly urges the owners, Westbrook Partners, to either continue renting homes at affordable rents or sell the estate to a reputable and willing housing association. Given the restrictions placed on the London Borough of Hackney as a result of the arbitrary cap on Housing Revenue Account borrowing, we also urge the Mayor of London to explore what legal options are available to the GLA to issue a Compulsory Purchase Order for the estate, with a view to selling it to a reputable social landlord.

Fundamentally, however, this Assembly notes that the treatment of tenants on the New Era estate highlights why we need reform of the private rented sector. As a minimum, we believe the Mayor should be lobbying the Government to introduce on a statutory basis longer-term tenancies with predictable rent rises and ending no fault eviction.”

- 3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Fiona Twycross AM** and will be seconded by **Andrew Boff AM**:

“This Assembly believes that improving enforcement of the National Minimum Wage should be made a key priority for the Government, with the failure to properly enforce the National Minimum Wage allowing many rogue businesses to undercut wages and drive down pay for people on low-incomes. While regional data on enforcing the National Minimum Wage is not available, the Centre for London and the Trust for London estimates that more than 300,000 people in the UK earn less than the legal minimum wage. Despite this, only nine employers have ever been prosecuted for breaching this law, while only one employer has ever been ‘named and shamed’. These figures demonstrate that the current enforcement regime is not sufficient.

This Assembly believes the Mayor should champion means by which enforcement can be improved in London. To this end, the Assembly calls on the Mayor to lobby the Government to take forward many of the recommendations put forward by the Trust for London and Centre for London report, 'Settling for Nothing Less: Enhancing National Minimum Wage Compliance and Enforcement' in London. In particular, we support proposals for:

- Devolving enforcement responsibilities to local authorities and allowing them to retain funds that are generated through fines, as part of a wider need to increase the number of proactive investigations into National Minimum Wage violations;
- Removing the upper-limit on fines for violating the National Minimum Wage; and
- A more rigorous approach that ensures that every company that breaches the National Minimum Wage is 'named and shamed'.

Furthermore, we call on the Mayor to undertake an audit of the Greater London Authority's supply chain to ensure it holds no contracts with companies paying less than the National Minimum Wage. We believe the Mayor should use his business engagement team to urge all private sector businesses in London to also undertake such audits."

3.5 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Tom Copley AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

"This Assembly notes the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation on planning and Travellers and further notes the proposal to treat Gypsies and Travellers who moved into fixed accommodation as having given up their traveller status.

This Assembly believes that this is incompatible with equalities and human rights laws, and incompatible with the positive steps that some local authorities have taken in recent years to help meet the needs of these communities for secure sites and support. The effect of it will be to undercount those who identify as travellers, meaning councils will not have to build the pitches that are needed to sustain this culture and way of life.

Though the DCLG's consultation deadline has passed, this Assembly calls on the Mayor – given his obligations under London Plan Policy 3.8B(i)¹ – to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government urging him to drop the proposals regarding the relationship between occupancy and traveller status."

3.6 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Stephen Knight AM** and will be seconded by **Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**:

"This Assembly recognises the important role that London & Partners – the official promotional company for London – plays in attracting businesses, events, students and visitors to our capital.

This Assembly also notes:

¹ **London Plan Policy 3.8B(i):** "boroughs should work with the Mayor and local communities to identify the range of needs likely to arise within their areas and ensure that...the accommodation requirements of gypsies and travellers (including travelling show people) are identified and addressed"

- i. that London & Partners continues to be majority funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and has received over £50 million of funding from the GLA since the organisation was launched in April 2011²; and
- ii. that the Mayor has committed to making London government more transparent and believes the GLA should lead the way in “transparency and openness”.³

This Assembly believes

- i. that there is a fundamental public interest in seeing how public money is being spent in order to demonstrate whether, and how, value for money is being achieved; and
- ii. that, notwithstanding the outcome of the Assembly’s independent investigation into the Royal Albert Dock tendering process (and London & Partners involvement in that process), a number of immediate steps can be taken to improve London & Partners’ accountability to Londoners.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London to write to London & Partners instructing them to:

- i. abide by the principles of the GLA Group Corporate Governance Framework;
- ii. publish a register of gifts, expenses and hospitality for all board members and senior staff;
- iii. proactively disclose information and to respond to requests for information as if they were covered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA);
- iv. provide the Assembly’s Budget and Performance Committee with a full business plan during the course of its annual scrutiny of the Mayor’s budget; and
- v. provide the GLA Oversight Committee with full details of senior employee pay, as previously requested.

This Assembly further calls on the Mayor to make these points a condition of providing any future funding to London & Partners.”

List of appendices to this report: None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
--

List of Background Papers: None.

Contact Officer:	John Barry, Principal Committee Manager
Telephone:	020 7983 4425
Email:	John.barry@london.gov.uk

² Mayoral Decision ‘1327’: <http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/MD1327%20LP%20business%20plan%202014-15%20PDF.pdf>

³ Boris Johnson, 2012 Election Manifesto: ‘cutting waste and council tax’: <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/boris-johnson-2012-manifesto-council-tax>