

Subject: Motions

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 11 March 2015

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 **Dr Onkar Sahota AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

“This Assembly welcomes the ongoing campaign by London health workers to secure fair NHS pay and regrets that Government has not respected the Independent Pay Review Body's recommendation of a 1% pay rise in 2014 and 2015. The Assembly notes that the NHS is one of the largest employers in London.

The Assembly notes with concern the report by the Royal College of Nursing in December which showed that 14% of London NHS nursing posts are vacant, while the London Ambulance Service is recruiting over 100 paramedics from Australia and New Zealand to cover the gaps in its own workforce.

In a separate study 83% of RCN student members in London said the Government's decision had made them worried they would not be able to afford to be a nurse in the city and the last CEO of the LAS stated that the ‘cost of living’ was a recruitment and retention problem for paramedics.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London to:

- Establish a key worker strategy and set out plans to better support nurses, paramedics and other key workers with the cost of living, so that they are able to enjoy a decent quality of life in London, and help safeguard the quality of key services.”

3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name **Murad Qureshi AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

“Low pay is an increasingly critical issue in London, with average pay rates continuing to fall in the capital. Office for National Statistics data shows that in 2013, average weekly pay was £613 compared to £700 in real-terms (adjusted for RPI) in 2009¹. The most recent London Poverty Profile shows the number of jobs paying less than the London Living Wage has also increased sharply since 2007 in both absolute terms (from 420,000 to 600,000) and as a proportion of all jobs in the capital (from 13% to 17%)².

Few industries highlight the chronic income disparities that characterise modern London better than the highest levels of professional football. This was highlighted by the London Assembly’s January 2014 motion, which denounced the wage inequality between the highest and lowest earners at Premier League football clubs.

Since that motion was passed, this Assembly notes the positive decision by some Premier League clubs to pay their staff the London Living Wage. Nevertheless, the Assembly is concerned that two-thirds of Premier League clubs in London are failing to pay their employees enough to live on in the capital. Whilst star players can earn up to £180,000 per week, some contract staff employed by the same club earn the minimum wage of £6.50 per hour.

The Mayor has supported, and been actively involved in, stadium-led regeneration to create job opportunities and improve facilities for local people. With several Premier League clubs benefiting from the Mayor’s support in building new, or expanding existing, stadiums, it is essential that he urges clubs to pay the London Living Wage.

This Assembly calls upon the Mayor to use his influence during stadium-led development schemes to advance the case for the London Living Wage and to use the platform provided by these schemes to urge London’s other non-Living Wage employers to pay their workers a fair wage.”

3.3 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Tom Copley AM** and will be seconded by **Andrew Dismore AM**:

“This Assembly is concerned by the rising level of overcrowding in London. The most recent Census found that more than one-in-ten London households are now overcrowded (11.3 per cent), equating to 379,990 households across the capital, with increases across all housing tenures between 2001 and 2011. One of the most effective solutions to this problem is to increase the supply of larger family-sized homes in London.³

¹ Figures for pay regional pay rates and Retail Price Index inflation taken from the Office for National Statistics

² London Poverty Profile 2013, Trust for London & New Policy Institute, 2013, p.63

³ ‘Crowded houses: Overcrowding in London’s social rented housing’, London Assembly Planning and Housing Committee, March 2011, p.12

We believe it is unacceptable that the Department for Communities and Local Government has decided to no longer sponsor a question in the Integrated Household Survey relating to the number of bedrooms in a household, and that the question will therefore no longer be included. This means that annual overcrowding data at a borough level will no longer be available. We call on the Government to reconsider this decision, and for the Mayor of London to lobby Government Ministers towards this end.”

3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Jenny Jones AM** and will be seconded by **Darren Johnson AM**:

“This Assembly recognises the statement from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Fifth Assessment Report, that:

- Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history.
- Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems.
- Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems.
- Limiting climate change would require substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions which, together with adaptation, can limit climate change risks.
- Substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades can reduce climate risks in the 21st century and beyond, increase prospects for effective adaptation, reduce the costs and challenges of mitigation in the longer term, and contribute to climate-resilient pathways for sustainable development.

This Assembly also recognises the warning given by the Chair of the IPCC that “we have little time before the window of opportunity to stay within the 2°C of warming closes”.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London to fully reflect the Fifth Assessment Report and its urgent call for action in his economic, social and environmental policies and programmes for London, and through partnerships such as the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, for the remainder of his term of office.”

3.5 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Jenny Jones AM** and will be seconded by **Dr Onkar Sahota AM**:

“This Assembly welcomes the growing movement to divest from fossil fuels in order to, in the words of Desmond Tutu, “break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change.”

This Assembly believes that the GLA Group and the London Pension Fund Authority could contribute positively towards the Mayor’s aim of reducing London’s carbon emission levels by 60% by 2025, and towards securing London’s future prosperity, and avoid the risks associated with over-valued assets highlighted by the London Assembly Economy Committee and the Bank of England, by joining this movement and divesting from fossil fuels.

This Assembly also notes that the UK's low carbon and environmental goods and services sector has been steadily growing at 4.8%, even during the recession. In London specifically, the Assembly recognises that the sector is worth approximately £25.4bn to the capital's economy, with 9,211 green firms providing skilled employment opportunities. Divesting from fossil fuels would therefore open up investment opportunities in a growing sector, which alongside other non-fossil fuel related investments would ensure that the pension fund was not harmed by divestment.

This Assembly therefore calls on:

- the Mayor of London to make a public statement supporting the principle of divestment; a commitment to avoid investment in any bonds, stock or shares connected with fossil fuel extraction; and a commitment not to accept sponsorship and advertising from fossil fuel companies in any part of the GLA Group;
- the London Pension Fund Authority, subject to meeting its fiduciary requirements and following consultation with members of the scheme, to immediately freeze any new investment in fossil fuel companies, including those made by externally managed and pooled funds; to offer a fossil fuel free pension scheme to members; and to draw up a plan for a managed divestment from the top 200 companies with the largest known carbon reserves (oil, gas and coal) within five years."

3.6 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Darren Johnson AM** and will be seconded by **Andrew Dismore AM**:

"This Assembly believes that building social rented homes must be the core of the Mayor's strategy to tackle London's housing crisis.

This Assembly regrets that funding social rented housing has become increasingly marginalised in favour of the less affordable and less secure 'affordable rent' policy, and regrets that existing social rented homes are being lost due to conversions to affordable rent, sales through the revived right to buy and demolitions assisted by the Estate Regeneration Fund.

This Assembly therefore resolves to support the SHOUT (Social Housing Under Threat) campaign, taking a lead in affirming the positive value and purpose of social rented housing. This Assembly also calls on the Mayor of London to publicly support the campaign, and to consider how the GLA can deliver a programme of new social rented homes."

3.7 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM** and will be seconded by **Darren Johnson AM**:

"This Assembly notes that Transport for London has forecast to spend £82 million on measures to improve junctions and cycling infrastructure in the current financial year, despite initially allocating £107 million. Furthermore, as of October 2014, just £29 million had been spent.

This Assembly further notes that TfL has underspent its cycling budget in 2012/13 and 2013/14 and that Sir Peter Hendy, when appearing before the Transport Committee on the 12th March 2014, stated: "*What this underspend represents is frankly an embarrassment.*"

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor to publish:

- the latest predictions for investment in cycling that will be undertaken by the end of the financial year 2014/15.
- details of the cycling investment that has been allocated to each London Borough in 2014/15 and for the year 2015/16.
- the Mayor's specific plans to ensure that in 2015/16 the planned investment in cycling is fully spent.

Finally, this Assembly believes that Transport for London should look to allocate greater funds to London Boroughs who have many cycling schemes that are ready to be delivered."

List of appendices to this report: None.

<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p>

<p>List of Background Papers: None.</p>

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