

Subject: People's Question Time

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Date: 9 July 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates and consults the Committee on the proposals for the 31st People's Question Time (PQT).

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes and comments on the proposals for People's Question Time, on Thursday 26 November contained in this report, particular views are sought on: (i) the geographical area; and (ii) the Chair of the event; and**
- 2.2 **That the Committee provides any views, ideas or suggestions on further ways to improve People's Question Time as a consultative event.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to update and consult the Assembly on plans for People's Question Time in the **London Borough of Hillingdon on Thursday 26 November 2015**. This will be the 31st PQT the GLA has held.
- 3.2 By way of recap, the selection of PQT locations for this Mayoral term were determined in October 2012 and shared with the Assembly via email. The full schedule of PQT dates and locations was presented to GLA Oversight Committee in July 2013.
- 3.3 People's Question Time is one of the statutory requirements under the GLA Act 1999. It is a joint event between the Mayor and the Assembly. PQTs are organised and funded by the External Relations Directorate through a Project delivery team, which also involves the External Relations Team, the Mayor's Office and the Assembly Secretariat.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 Chair, time and date

The proposed chair of this PQT event will be Dr Onkar Sahota AM. The meeting will be held from **7pm – 9pm on Thursday 26 November 2015.**

4.2 PQT venue

The External Relations Team has identified **The Beck Theatre**, Grange Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 2UE as the preferred venue. The venue has a capacity of 600 people and has acceptable local transport links.

4.3 Agenda

The proposed agenda for this event is as follows:

1. Growing London's economy;
2. Housing;
3. Transport & Environment;
4. Policing & Community Safety; and
5. Other issues

4.4 Public Engagement

The PQT Project team will work with the host local authority (London Borough of Hillingdon) to target specific groups within the area to enable the GLA to further leverage their established consultation networks.

4.5 Use of such local networks and a number of other marketing and promotional initiatives, using both traditional marketing techniques (such as posters, leaflets and local press) and digital marketing techniques (listed below) will ensure that PQTs continue to reach out to potential new audiences, whilst continuing to ensure audiences reflect the host boroughs and London's diversity.

4.6 A number of digital marketing initiatives are currently being used and developed, including:

- Widening the use of social media tools, including Twitter to engage with Londoners to have their say prior to, during and post event;
- Specific channels targeted at younger Londoners, such as internal newsletters/databases including Capital Child and the Children and Young People's Unit, populating online listing sites via Bullseyehub, and schools and library email lists;
- More robust and responsive email databases gathered from policy areas, local authorities and previous events;
- Opportunities for Londoners who are unable to attend in person to view/access the event online (via podcasts, video and transcripts); and
- Offering the chance for people to request and receive e-tickets via on-line registration.

4.7 Assembly Consultation

We continue to address the Committee's previous concerns regarding the lack of consultation with

constituency Assembly Members on venue choices; Dr Sahota AM, as chair of the event, has been consulted on the choice of date and venue. The date has been set around his availability and he has approved the venue choice.

4.8 **Accessibility**

In selecting the Beck Theatre as the proposed venue, the External Relations Team will undertake an accessibility audit, to ensure that the event is accessible to all. As with all PQT events, there will be access facilities such as British Sign Language and palantypist translation. The PQT programme will be available, on request, in alternative formats, eg braille and large print.

4.9 **Feedback**

The External Relations Team encourages people to complete feedback forms at the end the event, data which is compiled as an evaluation report. E-flyers including an online feedback survey are also sent out post event.

4.10 **Strategy Implications**

PQT is an important part of the consultation calendar providing an excellent forum for Londoners to communicate with the organisation on the issues that are important to them. The consistency of delivering this event twice a year means that it contributes to establishing the GLA as an organisation that is listening to Londoners. As already indicated, PQT is a corporate and joint statutory responsibility for the Mayor and Assembly.

4.11 **Future Dates**

The borough and date identified for the last PQT of this Mayoral term is Croydon, a paper will be tabled at a future meeting later this year.

5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 Twice in every financial year, the Mayor and the Assembly must hold and attend a meeting that will be open to all members of the public, called "the People's Question Time" ("PQT"). The purpose of PQT is to afford an opportunity to members of the public to put questions to the Mayor and Assembly members, and to enable them to respond. Section 48 of the GLA Act 1999 sets out various requirements for the meeting:

- The Mayor approves the form of the PQT meeting, and can make formal procedures about how it is to be held, following consultation with the Assembly about them. These procedures can regulate how the public can put questions, and could include provisions for suppressing or preventing disorderly conduct or other misbehaviour at the meeting, including a power of exclusion.
- Members of the public who attend or speak at PQT do so subject to, and in accordance with, those procedures.
- The Mayor decides the date of PQT meetings, following consultation with the Assembly, the date of which must be not less than one month before or one month after the State of London Debate.
- The Mayor must decide the venue for the meeting not later than one month prior to the date on which the PQT is to take place.

- The Mayor must give adequate notice of the date and place of the meetings to members of the public at least one month prior to it taking place.
- Following consultation with the Assembly the Mayor may appoint any person to preside at the PQT meeting, whether or not that person has a connection with the GLA.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 For 26 November 2015 it is envisaged that that the costs for the event will be up to £25,000, which can be met from the existing PQT budget, which is managed by the External Relations Team.

List of appendices to this report:

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
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List of Background Papers:

None

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