

From: Rebecca Arnold
Sent: 26 August 2009 17:32
To: John Barry; Kirk Sutton; William Roberts; Ian Williamson; Tim Jarvis
Subject: Response to Section 60 Request re Environment Spend

Dear all,

Please find set out below an excerpt from the Mayor's Report setting out the Mayor's response to the Section 60 request re environment spend.

Kind Regards
Rebecca

Section 60 Response

Response to the London Assembly on its Section 60 request on GLA group environment spend

Given that all the recommendations bar two in the Assembly's scrutiny report on GLA group environment spend are predicated on my re-introducing an annual report detailing such expenditure, I am providing a composite response which tackles all those recommendations together. At the end of this response I comment on the other two recommendations – one of which relates to the LDA environment programme and the other to GLA staff numbers.

The decision I took last year to discontinue the annual report on environment spend was based on a desire to mainstream environmental expenditure within the GLA group and not to treat environmental programmes in isolation from all other programmes – programmes which could be regarded as the GLA group's "core business". This was precisely because I wish to see all programmes contribute to environmental improvements and not just those labelled as "environmental".

I am sure the Assembly appreciates that much of the work of TfL and the LDA contributes to making environmental improvements to London. I would not want to be seen to somehow restrict those efforts just to certain programmes. For example, so much of TfL's work – and a high proportion of its budget – is dedicated to achieving a modal shift in transport use in the capital. Much of this work would not normally be classified as directly environmental spend although its impact does bring about huge environmental improvements.

I would of course welcome the Assembly's views on the sort of key performance indicators that should be included in our future monitoring work. I know we all agree that the main measure should always be CO2 emission reductions (and the value for money associated with achieving them) it would be beneficial to open up a dialogue about what should be tracked beyond that.

You will be aware that my environment direction of travel statement has recently been released and that it commits the Mayoralty to reporting on progress made in achieving environmental objectives. We are all acutely aware that we are entering an era of austerity in public finance. The statement therefore seeks to pinpoint those areas in which we can get greatest return on our investment. You will not be surprised to hear that my environment adviser and I are absolutely focused on those areas in which we can make the biggest difference and our work with the LDA on its energy

programmes testifies to that commitment and is a critically important workstream going forward.

Finally, I would like to address the two recommendations that do not involve re-introducing an annual report on environmental spend:

- On the LDA environment programme, we are making strenuous efforts to ensure that the LDA environmental budget is only fully spent but that there is a staffing capacity in place to deliver the programme to greatest effect. A recruitment exercise has been conducted for certain key environment posts at the LDA and that will provide the capacity required.
- On the GLA environment team, Assembly Members will be aware that the restructuring proposals were revised by the Chief Executive to take account of the comments that both they and I fed in to the consultation process. The Director of Development & Environment is leading on getting the new team in place and I am confident that it will emerge in the autumn better equipped for future challenges.