



City of Westminster

Cabinet Committee Report

Item No:	3
Date:	6 February 2006
Classification:	For General Release
Title of Report:	Response to ODPM consultation paper "The Greater London Authority: The Government's proposals for additional powers and responsibilities for the Mayor and Assembly"
Report of:	Graham Ellis, Director of Policy & Communications
Wards involved:	All Wards
Policy context:	The consultation paper covers the following specific policy areas: Housing; Planning; Waste; Learning & Skills; Culture; Water; Energy; Sustainable Development; Transportation; Community Protection; relations with the Mayor's functional bodies (TfL, MPA, LDA and LFEPA); and the role of the London Assembly.
Financial Summary:	No direct financial implications at this stage.
Report Author:	Justin Homer, Cabinet Support
Contact Details:	Telephone: 020 7641 1864

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks the Committee's approval of the City Council's formal response to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) consultation paper on the review of the powers of the Mayor and Greater London Authority (GLA). The response, responding to each of the questions set out in the consultation paper, is attached as a separate document at Annex A.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the detailed response at Annex A and responds to the ODPM by their deadline of 22 February 2006.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 6 September ODPM made a general announcement that they were intending to carry out a review of the GLA's and Mayor's powers. On 23 September 2005, the Mayor responded to this announcement by outlining his plans for rationalising and extending his powers. The ODPM consultation paper was then published on 30 November 2005.
- 3.2 The ODPM consultation document asks for views on options and proposals in four key policy areas: housing; learning and skills; planning; and waste.
- 3.3 It also asks for feedback on other issues, such as the Mayor's role in cultural strategies; public health promotion; an energy strategy for London; water issues; sustainable development; and appointments to functional bodies. The paper also poses questions with respect to enhancing the role of the London Assembly.
- 3.4 The consultation paper reflects the proposals for increased powers sought by the Mayor but also sets out alternatives, including the options of minimal change or retaining the status quo in some areas.
- 3.5 The attached formal response is the result of consultation with lead officers on the respective policies, across the City Council. The response also raises a number of further considerations, not directly addressed in the consultation paper, which officers recommend the City Council uses this opportunity to raise with ODPM – this covers how the GLA consults with London Boroughs; and a call for greater transparency in the Mayor's precept.
- 3.6 Should any further changes be required, following the meeting, there will be time to reflect these before the final deadline for responses (22 February 2006).

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 Response to Government consultation.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT JUSTIN HOMER, CABINET SUPPORT, ON 020 7641 1864.
--

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Summary of ODPM Consultation Paper on Review of GLA Powers
(2 December 2005)