



Japan Local Government Centre, London

Monthly Report for May 2011 – New leadership structure for GLA

Following the death of Deputy Mayor and Mayoral Chief of Staff Sir Simon Milton¹ in April, a number of senior appointments have been made at the Greater London Authority, as the Mayor enters the final year of his term ahead of the May 2012 elections. Sir Simon was replaced as Deputy Mayor for Planning and Chief of Staff by Edward Lister, Leader of the London Borough of Wandsworth (since 1992). Lister has been a councillor at the flagship Tory council since 1976, the era in which it first pioneered local authority outsourcing, a policy later adopted wholesale by the Conservative governments of the 1980s and 1990s. He also served as a member of GLA's Forensic Audit Team appointed by Boris Johnson on taking office in 2008.

As a result of Lister's appointment, the Mayor has also decided to reshuffle the remainder of his top team at City Hall, with Mayoral Advisor for Environment Isabel Dedring² becoming the first ever Deputy Mayor for Transport, charged with overseeing transport improvement in the capital ahead of the Olympic Games. She is replaced as Director of Environment by Kulveer Ranger³, currently the Mayoral Advisor for Transport. Anthony Browne, Mayoral Advisor for Economic Development, will leave his post in order to serve on Boris Johnson's election campaign, to be replaced by outgoing London Development Agency Chief Executive Sir Peter Rogers⁴. Other Mayoral Advisors and Deputy Mayors are not affected by the changes.

Leadership roles at City Hall were also given a shake-up in January when a value for money review of staffing structures by GLA Chief Executive Leo Boland recommended his own post be deleted ahead of the Localism Bill and its stipulations about avoiding overlapping roles between chief executives and mayors. His recommendation was accepted by the Mayor, with another senior officer now acting as the statutory Head of Paid Service but on a smaller salary and with fewer responsibilities.

Any opinions expressed in this report are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of JLGC or CLAIR.

¹ Sir Simon previously served as Chairman of the Local Government Association and Leader of the City of Westminster before his appointment as Deputy Mayor

² Ms Dedring, an American, previously served as Chief of Staff to the Commissioner of Transport for London

³ Ranger previously served as Vice Chairman (Cities) of the Conservative Party

⁴ Sir Peter previously served as Chief Executive of the City of Westminster