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New report calls for increased powers for the London Assembly

- [A new report by Andrew Boff AM has called for more powers to be given to the London Assembly](#)
- [The report comes as Sadiq Khan requests greater mayoral powers](#)

A new report written by Andrew Boff AM has called for increased powers for the London Assembly, so that it can more effectively hold the Mayor to account and ensure value for money for Londoners.

This comes as Sadiq Khan has requested greater powers for himself, without detailing any corresponding increase of power to the London Assembly.

The report, 'Powering Up', outlines the imbalance which exists between the Mayor of London and the London Assembly; while the Assembly has some ability to hold Sadiq Khan to account, its powers have not kept pace with the Mayor's growing remit.

Without proper accountability, the report claims that powers which the Mayor possesses can be misused and public money squandered – meaning that Londoners suffer.

Andrew Boff has put forward a number of recommendations for reform such as ensuring that all major decisions and strategies are passed by the Assembly by a simple majority, rather than the current two-thirds majority, and giving AM's the opportunity to review and overturn mayoral decisions.

Commenting Andrew Boff AM said:

"Khan's power-grab must have checks and balances.

A strong Mayor needs a strong assembly to keep him in check. The absence of accountability leads to bad decisions which aren't in line with the needs and desires of Londoners. For example, the Mayor is approving planning applications for tall buildings that boroughs want to reject – and he can do this without any challenge from the Assembly.

It's time we changed the rules and allow the Assembly to stand up for Londoners against a Mayor who is continuously amassing power"

ENDS.

Notes:

- 'Powering Up' is available [here](#).
- Details of Sadiq Khan's request for more mayoral powers is available [here](#)
- The following recommendations are included in the report:
 - Ensure all major decisions and strategies/plans are passed by the London Assembly by a simple majority.
 - Establish an independent Budget Office for London, thereby giving the London Assembly power of the purse.
 - Grant the London Assembly the power to call-in Mayoral decisions.
 - Transfer the Mayor's planning powers to a Planning Decisions Committee.
 - Permit the London Assembly to approve all Mayoral appointees who are not Assembly Members.
 - Allow London Assembly Members to ask Urgent Questions.
 - Reform Mayoral Question Time so it occurs twice a month.
 - Grant the London Assembly legislative functions over licensing, trading and environmental issues.

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact the press office below.

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