

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive
Tuesday 19 January 2016 9:30am**

Mayor Jules Pipe was in the chair

Present

Member	Position
Mayor Jules Pipe	Chair
Cllr Claire Kober	Deputy Chair
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Vice chair
Cllr Ruth Dombey	Vice chair
Cllr Philippa Roe	
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	
Cllr Peter John	
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Mr Jeremy Mayhew	Substituting for Mr Mark Boleat
Cllr Imogen Walker	Substituting for Cllr Lib Peck
Cllr Ravi Govindia	

London Councils officers were in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Mark Boleat for whom Mr Jeremy Mayhew substituted, Cllr Lib Peck for whom Cllr Imogen Walker substituted and Cllr Julian Bell.

2. Declaration of interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 17 November 2015

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 17 November 2015 were agreed.

4. Devolution and Public Service Reform – Health, Skills and Employment Update

The report was introduced by the Chair:

- The report noted progress on components of the London Proposition for devolution since the Spending Review and alerted the Executive to consequential challenges that would require action during 2016
- The paper described specific aspects of the skills, employment and complex dependency and health and care devolution propositions that were being developed with partners in London and with central government
- There were five pilots agreed with the Government under the London Health and Care Collaboration Agreement which were intended to result in plans for the next four to five years when all boroughs, not just the pilots, would benefit from the learning achieved by them.
- There had been a number of meetings with DWP officials on employment since the CSR and it was intended to have a programme in place by March and a commissioning strategy by the summer
- There was pressure to see boroughs agree sub-regional geographies for commissioning both employment and skills provision in the near future, subject to the progress of devolution discussions with government.

In response to a question from Cllr Philippa Roe about whether there were opportunities for non-pilot boroughs to become a pilot, the Corporate Director, Policy and Public Affairs replied that the five pilots had been agreed with Government but if individual boroughs could produce innovative approaches they would be in a position to adopt them as soon as new powers came into existence.

Cllr Ray Puddifoot stressed the importance of the pilots but expressed his scepticism about the NHS's preparedness to change and pointed out that, unlike local government which had had to operate in the context of significant reductions in its funding, the NHS had not had to face such challenges.

The Executive agreed to note:

- The extent of sub-regional collaboration that would be needed to deliver effective employment and skills devolution
- That further decisions on an agreed sub-regional geography for devolved employment and skills provision in London were likely to be needed shortly.

5. *Legislation affecting Housing in London* was deferred.

6. Crossrail 2 update

Cllr Claire Kober introduced the report saying:

- An announcement about Crossrail 2 had been expected in the recent Spending Review and Autumn Statement but none was made
- A £300 million national Transport Development Fund was announced in the Spending Review
- The allocation of the fund would be influenced by the report of the recently established National Infrastructure Commission but funding for Crossrail 2 was by no means guaranteed
- We were looking into the possibility of a joint letter supporting Crossrail 2 between London Councils, East of England and South East Region before the National Infrastructure Commission reported in March 2016
- Lord Adonis who was chairing the National Infrastructure Commission, was attending a London Councils meeting on 9 February.

Cllr Teresa O'Neill mentioned an extension from Abbey Wood to Ebbsfleet supported by Kent County Council that would have a significant impact on growth in south-east London.

The Executive agreed to note the report.

7. Preparing for a new Mayoral Administration

The Director of Communications introduced the report saying that the Executive had agreed to produce a document outlining common areas where London Councils and

London Boroughs would seek to influence Mayoral candidates and the draft *Working Together for London* document was circulated.

In response to a question from Cllr Roe about the relative brevity of coverage of Housing, the Director of Communications replied that a balance was being struck between information that it was thought expedient to publish in detail and information that it was thought could better be developed in direct discussions. Mayor Bullock and Cllr Govindia concurred with this point and developed their thinking under item 5 (below).

Mr Jeremy Mayhew made the point that the language could be improved, whereas the form *...would expect...* was used in relation to London Councils the form *...will...* was used in relation to the Mayor of London and this seemed slightly presumptuous, especially as there was certain to be a new Mayor after May.

The Executive agreed to note the report and members would feed back detailed drafting points to the Director of Communications by 26 January..

At this point item 5 **Legislation affecting Housing in London** was taken.

The report was introduced by Mayor Sir Steve Bullock:

- Lobbying on the Housing and Planning Bill on behalf of borough interests was proceeding in the way set out in the report.
- Discussions on a collaborative vehicle to boost housing supply continued – both with City Hall and with Government. Inevitably, both the passage of the Bill and the impending Mayoral election were impacting upon these discussions and the pace of them.

Cllr Ravi Govindia argued that it was recognized that local authority land and other funds would need to be brought into play to achieve ambitions around the level of replacement homes for high value asset sales. He went on say that there needed to be a conversation about hard and soft infrastructure.

The Executive agreed to note:

- the update on the progress of legislation
- the recent announcement about homelessness and London Councils' approach to discretionary housing payments

8. Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2016-17

The Chair introduced the report by reporting on a meeting that he and Cllr O'Neill had had with Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State at CLG. The London Councils response to the consultation had been agreed by Group Leaders to meet the deadline, the response was circulated.

Cllr John pointed out that there was a strong feeling in the finance world that the counties would be successful in their lobbying to revisit the distribution approach that was contained in the Provisional Settlement. It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Secretary of State to continue to lobby on London's behalf.

In response to a point made by Cllr Claire Kober about *No Recourse to Public Funds* the Interim Director: Finance, Performance & Procurement replied that it was almost entirely a London issue and had not been mentioned in the settlement despite claims that it had been taken into account.

The Executive agreed to note the report and that the Chair would continue to lobby on London's behalf before the final Settlement.

9. London Councils Challenge

The Chief Executive introduced the report saying:

- This proposal originated from a discussion with party group leaders last year
- It was considered that now was a good time to reflect on what London Councils had achieved but also what was needed from it over the next five years

- It would be more a peer-based challenge and less a review

Cllr Kober questioned the proposal to use currently serving leaders. She did not see it necessarily as a conflict of interest issue but more about proximity whereby people who were too close to an issue may not be able to attain a perspective on it.

Cllrs O'Neill and Roe suggested that a combination would be the best approach.

The Executive agreed to note the intention to undertake a peer based London Councils Challenge process in the first half of 2016 aimed at helping inform the organisation's thinking about what London local government required from London Councils over the next five years.

The Executive ended at 10:50

	Item	Action	Progress
6.	Crossrail 2 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the possibility of a joint letter supporting Crossrail 2 between London Councils, East of England and South East Region before the National Infrastructure Commission reported in March 2016 	Transport and Env'ment	In progress
7.	Preparing for a new Mayoral Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the language in the document. 	Comms	In hand
8	Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2016-17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair to write to SoS to further lobby on London's behalf 	Fair Funding	Letter sent on 22/01/16