

Meeting of the Capital Ambition Board

Monday 11 July 2016, 10.30am

London Councils, Conference Suite, 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL

Members

Edward Lord OBE JP
Cllr Stephen Alambritis
Cllr Paul McGlone
Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown

Borough

City of London (Chair)
LB Merton
LB Lambeth
RB Kensington and Chelsea

London Councils

Nick Lester-Davis
Frank Smith
Thomas Man
Lisa Henry
Jen Kimber
Andy Pitcairn
Mehboob Khan

Corporate Director, Services
Director of Corporate Resources
Head of Capital Ambition
Capital Ambition Programme Manager
Capital Ambition Project Officer
Head of Budgetary Control and Procurement
Political Advisor to the Labour Group

Advisers

Paul Najsarek
Mike O'Donnell
Fiona Fletcher-Smith

LB Ealing
LB Camden
GLA

Board Secretariat

David Dent
Derek Gadd

Principal Corporate Governance Officer
Head of Governance

EY

Victoria Evans
Louise Warman

Manager, Local Public Services
Manager, Local Public Services

1. Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

2. Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Jas Athwal (LB Redbridge) and Cllr David Simmonds CBE (LB Hillingdon). Apologies were also received from Rob Leak (LB Enfield) and John Comber (RB Greenwich).

2.2 The Chair welcomed Paul Najsarek from LB Ealing to his first Capital Ambition Board.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2016

3.1 The minutes of the non-exempt part of the meeting held on 18 February 2016 were agreed as an accurate record.

3.2 In response to a question from Cllr McGlone regarding the Croydon Behavioural Insights project (item 5) Lisa Henry from the Capital Ambition team confirmed that she had made contact with LB Lambeth, who had carried out similar work using behavioural insights to increase Council Tax collection.

4. Capital Ambition – Operational matters and accounts 2015/16

- 4.1 Members noted the report, which provided an update on the Capital Ambition Board membership, relevant changes to London Councils' governance, the financial position, work programme and news items.
- 4.2 In relation to the section of the report concerning Board appointments (2.3), Lisa Henry confirmed that Cllr Govindia was no longer a Conservative substitute member, only Cllr Davis. The Chair wished to record his thanks to Cllr Govindia for his work on Capital Ambition Board.

5. Visbuzz Change request

- 5.1 Members noted and approved the change requests in the report.

6. London Ventures Programme Summary

- 6.1 Victoria Evans from EY introduced their report, provided a brief summary and asked for any questions. She reported that because of the procurement process the report was briefer than usual, but that some progress had been made in terms of organisations and boroughs seeking to join the programme. She also commented that EY remain committed to participating in the programme, and learning lessons from previous projects.
- 6.2 Cllr McGlone asked about a project from the previous Capital Ambition programme of projects – Programme Athena - which had failed to deliver a shared service platform and asked what lessons had been learned from this. Nick Lester-Davis responded that a lot of the difficulties with the project were associated with the boroughs all having different contract periods with the providers and being on different versions of the software. Mike O'Donnell added that the project had made some progress and some shared services were operating albeit in a limited way, although he felt that the original project had been overambitious.
- 6.3 The Chair added that the inflexibility of software providers had been an issue with this project. He also confirmed that some projects in the London Ventures programme had also failed to deliver, for example the shared platform for football pitches, and the Board had acknowledged this.
- 6.4 The Chair asked about the position regarding the London Counter Fraud Hub and the commitment of boroughs. Ms Evans reported that all local authorities had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to indicate their interest. The procurement process to find a delivery partner was almost concluded and a contract would be awarded this month, following which a pilot would be put together with six boroughs, which would run for six months. Mr Lester-Davis added that although boroughs may have signed up that does not require them to commit to the hub, and that further work would be needed here.

7. Any other business

- 7.1 There was no other business.

Members resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the exempt part of the meeting.

The meeting finished at 11.00am.