

# London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 11 October 2016  
Cllr Claire Kober chaired the meeting

## Present:

BARKING AND DAGENHAM  
BARNET  
BEXLEY  
BRENT  
BROMLEY  
CAMDEN  
CROYDON  
EALING  
ENFIELD  
GREENWICH  
HACKNEY  
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM  
HARINGEY  
HARROW  
HAVERING  
HILLINGDON  
HOUNSLOW  
ISLINGTON  
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA  
KINGSTON  
LAMBETH  
LEWISHAM  
MERTON  
NEWHAM  
REDBRIDGE  
RICHMOND UPON THAMES  
SOUTHWARK  
SUTTON  
TOWER HAMLETS  
WALTHAM FOREST  
WANDSWORTH  
WESTMINSTER  
CITY OF LONDON  
LFEPA

Cllr Darren Rodwell  
Cllr Richard Cornelius  
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE  
Cllr M. A. Butt  
Cllr Stephen Carr  
Cllr Sarah Hayward  
Cllr Tony Newman  
Cllr Julian Bell  
Cllr Bambos Charalambous  
Cllr Denise Hyland  
Mayor Philip Glanville

-

Cllr Claire Kober  
Cllr Sachin Shah  
Cllr Roger Ramsey  
Cllr David Simmonds CBE  
Cllr Steve Curran  
Cllr Richard Watts  
Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown  
Cllr Terry Paton  
Cllr Lib Peck  
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock  
Cllr Martin Whelton  
Cllr Ken Clarke  
Cllr Jas Athwal  
Cllr Lord True  
Cllr Peter John OBE  
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE  
Mayor John Biggs  
Cllr Clyde Loakes  
Cllr Ravi Govindia  
Cllr Baroness Couttie  
Mr Edward Lord JP OBE CC<sup>1</sup>

-

## Apologies:

ENFIELD  
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM  
HILLINGDON  
KINGSTON  
MERTON  
NEWHAM  
WALTHAM FOREST  
CITY OF LONDON  
GRANTS

Cllr Doug Taylor  
Cllr Stephen Cowan  
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE  
Cllr Kevin Davis  
Cllr Stephen Alambritis  
Mayor Sir Robin Wales  
Cllr Chris Robbins  
Mr Mark Boleat/Ms Catherine McGuinness  
Cllr Paul McGlone

---

<sup>1</sup> Also Capital Ambition

Officers of London Councils were in attendance:

The Chair opened the meeting by congratulating:

- Cllr Baroness Couttie (Conservative, Westminster) on her appointment to the House of Lords. The Chair reported that, on appointment, Cllr Baroness Couttie had resigned from London Councils Executive.
- Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Liberal Democrat, Sutton) on the receipt of her OBE and
- Mayor Philip Glanville (Labour, Hackney) on his election to that role.

### **1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies**

The apologies and deputies listed above were noted.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

### **3. Minutes of Leaders' Committee meeting held on 12 July 2016**

Leaders' Committee agreed the minutes of the Leaders' Committee meeting held on 12 July 2016.

### **4. Election of Deputy Chair and Membership of London Councils Executive**

The Chair asked for nominations to the position of Deputy Chair, a vacancy created when she had been elected Chair.

She nominated Cllr Peter John OBE (Labour, Southwark), seconded by Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE (Conservative, Bexley) and in the absence of any other nominations Cllr John was elected Deputy Chair

The Chair asked for the Party Groups to put forward names to fill the two places on the Executive created by the resignations of Mayor Jules Pipe and Cllr Baroness Couttie.

Cllr Darren Rodwell (Labour, Barking and Dagenham) and Cllr Kevin Davis (Conservative, Kingston) were put forward by the party Groups and appointed by Leaders' Committee as members of the Executive.

The Executive portfolios were agreed as follows:

xxx

## **5. Local Government Finance update: Business Rates Devolution, London Finance Commission & Autumn Statement 2016**

The Interim Director: Finance, Performance & Procurement introduced the report saying:

- London's proposals, as set out in the fourteen "asks", sought to address two fundamental issues with the current system:
  - the negative impact of business rates appeals, which currently impeded growth and made funding unstable and
  - the premise that revaluations should be to a fixed yield nationally.
- Under London Councils' proposals London's business rates would be de-coupled from the rest of the country, to prevent economic growth in the capital artificially constraining business rates growth across the rest of the country
- This approach would not only help London manage its future sustainable economic growth, and the financial sustainability of its local public services, but would benefit local government in the country as a whole.
- London's response to the Government consultation was in line with the broad principles agreed by the London Finance Commission which had been reconvened.

In response to a question from Cllr Stephen Carr (Conservative, Bromley) about Attendance Allowance the Interim Director: Finance, Performance & Procurement confirmed that local government was unanimously of the view that it should not be one of the additional responsibilities that should transfer under Business rate devolution.

Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Conservative, Hillingdon) asked how the differential picture for Business Rates across London – with some boroughs obtaining a lot from it and others less – would be captured. He went on to raise the question of the Schools National Funding Formula and the potential consequences for boroughs of changes there. Under the existing system there were pressures on the High Needs Block of funding, which had resulted in a boroughs topping up funding rates to meet demand. With demand showing no signs of

easing, and local government due to retain one hundred per cent of Business Rates, there may be a risk that business rates funding could be seen as a way to meet the High Needs Block funding shortfall. The Interim Director: Finance, Performance & Procurement confirmed that London Councils would resist the moves described by Cllr Simmonds.

In response to a question from Cllr Richard Cornelius (Conservative, Barnet) on what needed to be done to protect individual and minority borough interests in a new system, the Interim Director: Finance, Performance & Procurement replied that the change would be easier to manage as a two-stage process over the next two years with the allocation to London identified first and then the distribution within London.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

## **6. Police and Crime Plan: 2017-20**

Cllr Lib Peck (Labour, Crime and Public Protection, Lambeth) introduced the report saying:

- She had had a number of useful discussions with Ms Sophie Linden, the new Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, discussions with which Cllr Cornelius and the Chair had also been closely involved
- It was hoped that Ms Linden would be able to attend Leaders' Committee in December to answer any questions about the Plan, which was organised around the following themes:
  - Neighbourhood policing
  - Keeping children and young people safe
  - Tackling violence against women and girls
  - Criminal justice system that works for London
  - Standing together against hate, extremism and terror in all its forms.
- There were parallel proposals by the MPS to pilot a new way of delivering services, operating across two or three boroughs (known as the One Met Model)
- In relation to the pilots for the One Met Model, the importance of securing full borough support had been emphasised, building on principles that had been agreed earlier with London Councils
- A set of principles was being developed with the MPS:
  - Testing needs to be a partnership and not imposed on local authorities

- The pilots will be reversible
  - The governance of the tests would be joint, to ensure transparency.
- MOPAC were also consulting on changing their £18m pa programme of funding for borough crime prevention projects.
  - Their starting point was a welcome retention of the overall scale of the budget for the period starting from April 2017– but with changes to the allocation formula - and a proposed 30% top-slice to allow a pan-London fund for innovative work including devolution and reform initiatives.
  - Cllr Peck still needed to be convinced about the added value that a top-slice would bring, weighed against the potential loss of valuable local provision.
  - It would be important to continue the conversation with the Deputy Mayor to seek transparency about the proposed new fund.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

## **7. Annual Audit Report – 2015/16**

Cllr Roger Ramsey (Conservative, Audit Committee, Havering) introduced the report saying that a smooth transition had been achieved when KPMG had taken over from PWC as London Councils' auditors and had issued an unqualified report which he could recommend to Leaders' Committee.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the contents of the Annual Audit Report for 2015/16 attached as an appendix to the report.

## **8. Report of decision taken under Urgency Procedure**

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the decision taken under Urgency Procedure.

## **9. Minutes and summaries**

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the minutes and summaries of:

- TEC Committee – 16 June 2016
- Audit Committee – 22 June 2016
- Capital Ambition Board – 11 July 2016
- Grants Committee AGM – 13 July 2016

- YPES – 14 July 2016
- TEC Exec Sub Committee – 21 July 2016
- Executive – 13 September 2016.

Leaders' Committee agreed to remove the press and public.

The meeting ended at 12:10.