

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive
Tuesday 13 September 2016 9:30am**

Cllr Claire Kober was in the chair

Present

Member	Position
Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Chair
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Vice chair
Mr Mark Boleat	Vice chair
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Cllr Julian Bell	
Cllr Baroness Couttie	
Cllr Lib Peck	
Cllr Peter John OBE	
Cllr Ravi Govindia	In attendance

London Councils officers were in attendance.

Cllr Claire Kober OBE opened the meeting by pointing out that it was her first as Chair of London Councils and that it was intended to fill both the vacancy on the Executive and the position of Deputy Chair at the Leaders' Committee meeting on 11 October.

1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE.

2. Declaration of interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 21 June 2016

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 21 June 2016 were agreed.

4. Business Rates Devolution and London Finance Commission

The Director, Finance, Performance and Procurement introduced the report saying:

- The report represented a 'work-in-progress' summarising the set of asks developed over the summer following the joint submission to the Government by London Councils and the GLA in July
- The number of 'asks' had been increased to fourteen and it was hoped that these could gain joint sign-off ready for submission to government in the following week so this meeting represented a last opportunity for the Executive to comment on them
- There were two issues that needed to be taken forward:
 - o That the burden of appeals disproportionately hit London
 - o On revaluation, the proportion of the national Business Rates 'take' that came from London was likely to increase as would always happen if one part of the property market rose and another fell when there was a fixed yield. This presented both a problem and an opportunity for London.
- The London Finance Commission had reconvened and was working towards making a submission before the Autumn Statement.

Cllr Ravi Govindia and Cllr Baroness Couttie raised questions around whether, given the changes over the summer, it was thought that the Government's position on this topic was likely to have remained the same. The Director, Finance, Performance and Procurement replied that although these points were yet to be tested nothing had happened to indicate any change to the essential policy intent of devolving business rates to the sector. The Chair pointed out that the LGA group working on the issue was thinking on similar lines.

Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE argued that we needed to look at developing a broader base of local funding to balance the national economy.

Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE called for the issues around Needs Assessment, a consultation on which was just beginning, to be reflected in our submission.

Cllr Peter John OBE argued that the voice of business needed to be heard, possibly through the LEP.

The Executive agreed to note the report.

5. Devolution and Public Service Reform – Next Steps

The Chief Executive introduced the report saying the Mayor of London had convened a meeting of stakeholders in July 2016 to consider further devolution for London. The Mayor had subsequently met with the Chancellor to discuss the impact of the European referendum result on London's economy and a submission was now being prepared setting out options for further devolution to London, with a view to this informing the Autumn Statement. In addition, officers from across London had been working with DWP, CLG and the Treasury to seek devolution of actual funding in respect of the Work and Health Programme in London. Senior official meetings had taken place, but it was not yet clear whether these negotiations would secure a better outcome for the boroughs.

The Chair pointed out that she had spoken to the Mayor about broadening political oversight of the work on devolution by London Councils and to inform discussions with the Mayor on this topic.

The Chair proposed that a Member Devolution Group (MDG) be established with the following composition:

- Chair
- Conservative Group Leader
- Lead portfolio holder for Skills and Employment
- Lead portfolio holder for Housing
- Conservative Group Lead on Devolution and Public Service Reform
- 4 Sub-Regional Lead representatives (to be nominated by relevant sub-regions respectively)

Supported by:

- officers
- the Chair of the officer level Devolution and Public Service Reform Group
- the Chair of CELC

with theme lead chief executives from the wider supporting infrastructure as required.

It would report to the Executive and Leaders' Committee.

Cllr Ravi Govindia argued that the Crime Reduction Partnership would provide a key test in our relationship with the new Mayor and Cllr Peter John OBE felt that members needed to do more to provide officers with clear guidance on devolution.

The Chair responded to Cllr John's point by saying an Executive awayday was proposed for the latter part of November to discuss what came out of the London Councils Challenge report (discussed elsewhere on the agenda) but it would be sensible to take stock of the overall devolution position as well.

The Executive agreed to:

- Note the progress reported, including the emerging joint initiative championed by the Mayor of London
- Note the position achieved in discussions with the DWP on the Work and Health Programme
- The establishment of a Member Devolution Group (MDG).

6. Health and care devolution – emerging asks

Cllr O'Neill introduced the report saying:

- Boroughs have reacted differently to the STP process. It was important to address the issues that some devolution pilots were experiencing as this would impact on both reputation for London local government and the substance of the devolution asks beyond December
- She did not propose bringing a report to the October Leaders' Committee but, instead, to bring a fuller report on the whole process to the December meeting.

Cllr John agreed and asked whether anything needed to be done before the Autumn Statement and went on to express his view that the Health Service was facing the strain of the cuts to its and the councils' adult social care budgets. Mayor Sir Steve Bullock agreed arguing that the seriousness of the situation was in was not as widely appreciated as it needed to be.

Cllr Puddifoot argued that it would be worth putting to Government that some efficiency savings may be able to be made but after that there was no capacity for local

government to be responsible for securing large health savings. Cllr Julian Bell pointed out that the major reorganisation of health services underway in north-west London had left some unable to sign up to the STP process.

7. Developing the 2017-20 Police and Crime Plan

Cllr Lib Peck introduced the report saying:

- She had had several meetings with Ms Sophie Linden, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime about the evolution of the Police and Crime Plan, the underpinning themes of which were:
 - o Neighbourhood and local policing
 - o Keeping children and young people safe
 - o Tackling violence against women and girls
 - o Tackling violent extremism, terrorism and hate crime
 - o Ensuring an effective Criminal Justice System.
- London Councils had organised a roundtable session for Community Safety lead councillors, two thirds of whom had attended.
- The time table for the development Police and Crime Plan was:
 - o July – October 2016: Early engagement and Police and Crime Plan development
 - o November 2016 – January 2017: Twelve week consultation period on formal draft
 - o March 2017: Police and Crime Plan published
- It may be appropriate to provide a report to Leaders' Committee in October and to invite the deputy Mayor to the Leaders' Committee meeting in December 2016, covering the development of the Police and Crime Plan and the future of MOPAC's borough funding.

The Executive agreed to note the report.

8. London Councils Challenge

The Chief Executive introduced the report saying that it set out a number of themes flowing from the Challenge Team's report.

Members debated various approaches to next steps.

The Executive agreed to alert Leaders to the contents of the report and to hold a discussion at the end of Leaders' Committee on 11 October. The Executive would hold an awayday to discuss the findings in greater detail at the end of November.

The Executive agreed to note the report.

9. Month 3 Revenue Forecast 2016/17

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the report saying that it analysed actual income and expenditure after three months of the current financial year and highlighted any significant variances emerging against the approved budget. After excluding the £639,000 projected underspend on taxicard, the projected surplus of £999,000 included:

- A projected net underspend of £141,000 in respect of officer employee costs due to the policy on filling vacancies
- A projected net deficit of £182,000 in respect of TEC traded services
- A projected net underspend of £46,000 relating to commissions in respect of the S.48 grants scheme
- A net projected underspend of £235,000 relating to slippage in the start of the new 2016+ joint borough/ESF funded programme

He pointed to the discussion of the position of the reserves set out in the report and concluded by saying that the external audit report had been received in draft was positive.

Cllr Puddifoot expressed his satisfaction with the report which he said reflected a sound financial position and the Executive agreed to note the overall forecast surplus as at 30 June 2016 (Month 3) of £999,000 and note the position on reserves as detailed in the report.

10. Debtors Update Report

The Director of Corporate Resources also introduced this report saying that he could update the figures - since the report had been circulated the figure for outstanding debt had fallen from £4,530,000 to £1,004,000.

In response to a question from Cllr Puddifoot the Chief Executive pointed out that the mediation provisions in the contract with the BPA were due to come into play in the next few weeks.

Cllr Puddifoot went on to explore the option of a surcharge on late payers of debts and the Director of Corporate Resources cautioned that to be able to do that may require the variation of governing agreements with boroughs. A warning that such a step was discussed could be useful.

The Executive agreed:

- To note the level of outstanding debt of £52.50 in relation to borough, TfL and GLA invoices raised up until 31 December 2015, a reduction on the outstanding figure of £1.352 million reported to the Executive at its meeting on 1 March 2016
- To note the level of outstanding debt of £4.064 million in respect of borough, TfL and GLA invoices raised in the period 1 January to 31 July 2016
- The total level of debt had now been reduced to £1,004,000
- To note the level of outstanding debt of £466,364.58 in relation to other debtors invoices raised up until 31 July 2016;
- To approve the write-off of £1,517.93 in respect of the invoice to the Mosaada Centre for Single Women to recover unused European Social Fund (ESF) community grant funding and
- To note the specific action being taken in respect of significant debtors, as detailed in the report.

	Item	Action	Progress
4.	Business Rates Devolution and London Finance Commission Issues around Needs Assessment, a consultation on which was just beginning, to be reflected in our submission.	Fair Funding	In hand
5.	Devolution and Public Service Reform – Next Steps - Establish a Member Devolution Group (MDG) comprising: - Chair - Conservative Group Leader - Key portfolio holder for Skills and Employment - Key portfolio holder for Housing - Conservative Group Lead on Devolution and Public Service Reform 4 Sub-Regional Lead representatives (to be nominated by relevant sub-regions respectively).	CG and CX's office	Completed
6.	Health and care devolution – emerging asks - London Councils to clearly define its position, to drive that agenda and to bring a report to the December Leaders' Committee meeting while reporting any developments that happened in that time - Firm proposals to be brought to the November meeting of the Executive.	PAPA Health	In hand
7.	Developing the 2017-20 Police and Crime Plan A report may be brought to Leaders' Committee in October or December 2016, covering the development of the Police and Crime Plan and the future of MOPAC's borough funding.	PAPA C&PP	Completed
8.	London Councils Challenge Alert leaders to the contents of the report and hold to a discussion at the end of Leaders' Committee on 11 October. The Executive to hold an awayday to discuss the findings in greater detail at the end of November.	CX's office/CG	Completed

The meeting ended at 10:50