

Meeting of the Capital Ambition Board

Tuesday 14 February 2017, 10.30am

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

Members

Edward Lord OBE JP
Cllr Stephen Alambritis
Cllr David Simmonds CBE
Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown
Cllr Fiona Colley

Borough

City of London (Chair)
LB Merton
LB Hillingdon
RB Kensington & Chelsea
LB Southwark

London Councils

Frank Smith
Guy Ware
Andy Pitcairn
Thomas Man
Lisa Henry
Hannah Barber
Jade Appleton

Director of Corporate Resources
Director: Finance, Performance & Procurement
Head of Budgetary Control and Procurement
Head of Capital Ambition
Capital Ambition Programme Manager
Capital Ambition Project Officer
Political Advisor - Conservative Group

Advisers

John Comber
Paul Najsarek
Fiona Fletcher-Smith

Chief Executive, RB Greenwich
Chief Executive, LB Ealing
Executive Director of Development, Enterprise and Environment, GLA

Board Secretariat

David Dent

Principal Corporate Governance Officer

West London Alliance*

Dan Gascoyne

WLA Director

EY

Victoria Evans
Shu Fei Wong

Senior Manager, Local Public Services
Consultant, Local Public Services

* until item 6

1. Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

2. Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies were received from Rob Leak (LB Enfield).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016

3.1 The minutes of the non-exempt part of the meeting held on 13 December 2016 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Capital Ambition - Director's Report

4.1 The report was noted by CAB.

5. West London Alliance Property and Asset Management Report

- 5.1 The Chair introduced Dan Gascoyne from WLA who presented to members on the Capital Ambition funded Property and Asset Management project.
- 5.2 Mr Gascoyne summarised the work of the programme which had started in 2011/12 and closed in 2015/16, details of which had previously been reported to CAB.
- 5.3 There were a number of strands in this project, the outcomes of which were summarised in the presentation. WLA used the Mayor's RE:FIT programme to improve the energy efficiency of a number of public sector buildings. The programme had achieved £80k of savings to date, with the potential of a further £400k as the scheme is applied to further buildings.
- 5.4 Through the children's residential care work stream, capacity has been increased to 22 beds across three children's homes with cost avoidance of approximately £500k.
- 5.5 Mr Gascoyne reported that the Schools Capital workstream had identified some governance lessons which impacted upon delivery, although a lot of work had gone into identifying sites and partner opportunities. Going forward the programme would no longer take a three borough approach to delivery.
- 5.6 CAB were informed that WLA were aware of the pan London housing supply debate and were looking to see what they could add in terms of increasing housing in west London through their One Public Estate programme. They were aware that a strategic approach with other partners, including the police, was needed. Over the last twelve months, despite issues with Charing Cross and Ealing Hospitals, the WLA had done well in the development of sites. The importance of developing relationships with Health and Wellbeing Boards and public access organisations was stressed.
- 5.8 The formation of a Joint Economic Property Board was seen as a key governance arrangement essential to facilitate the next steps of the programme.
- 5.9 In response to a question from John Comber about whether there was an investment strategy underpinning the disposal of buildings, Mr Gascoyne confirmed that while no strategy existed at the moment it was being looked at as part of the joint working arrangement.
- 5.10 Fiona Fletcher-Smith asked where the department for Work and Pensions fitted in, in terms of the planned closure of Job Centre Plus sites and the potential for co-location. Mr Gascoyne confirmed that a stronger relationship with DWP was being formed via the WLA projects and this potential would be investigated.
- 5.11 Mr Gascoyne confirmed, responding to a question from Cllr Alambritis, that WLA were looking at housing development vehicles, with the aim to increase both revenue and the supply of housing and local authorities were pursuing this using different approaches.
- 5.12 Paul Najsarek noted that within the NHS decision making was generally at higher levels, and it was important for CAB to engage at the relevant level.
- 5.13 Mr Gascoyne responded to a question from Fiona Fletcher-Smith regarding the eight step plan, commenting that now joint governance was in place engagement with CCGs was a priority.
- 5.14 CAB noted the conclusions made by Dan Gascoyne in the presentation and thanked him. Mr Gascoyne then left the meeting.

6. Applying Behavioural Insights – progress update

- 6.1. The Chair invited staff from London Councils to introduce the item.
- 6.2. Lisa Henry, Capital Ambition Programme Manager, outlined to CAB members the contents of the report, including the hospital discharge scoping study - delayed because of access issues at the hospital concerned. CAB was reminded that the costed proposals for future trials in the areas of: children's social worker decision making; foster care recruitment; and improvement of immunisation rates – are to be concluded for the May CAB meeting.
- 6.3. The BIT scoping report looking at the potential for using behavioural science to the hospital discharge study does not currently recommend any further trials. This was due to the continued difficulty in engaging with key personnel at St George's hospital. The Capital Ambition team were working with health and social care contacts within London Councils to identify alternative approaches if the trial at St George's was unable to go ahead.
- 6.4. Cllr Simmonds expressed concern that many of the benefits identified in the scoping report seemed to be geared towards the NHS rather than local authorities. The Chair commented that while there were benefits for the NHS there were also advantages for local authorities in improving health of local communities. It was however agreed that London Councils staff would review the focus here to ensure the benefits for boroughs were tangible.
- 6.5. Paul Najsarek felt that there may be opportunities within the proposed health and social care integration work in relation to a possible trial, although Cllr Simmonds felt that any additional services would likely have to be funded from within existing resources.
- 6.6. CAB agreed to note the progress of the work with the Behavioural Insights team, and to receive costed proposals at CAB's May 2017 meeting.

7. London Ventures Programme Update

- 7.1 Thomas Man, Head of Capital Ambition, led the presentation on the development of the London Ventures programme. He confirmed that extensive activity had taken place since the last meeting. A significant amount of work had been undertaken to develop the London Ventures brand, this included the development of a logo and identity, a full refresh of the website, and creating LinkedIn and Twitter accounts. The launch event planned for the 23 February had generated significant levels of interest with 82 local authority representatives signed up to attend and in total 223 registered delegates.
- 7.2 A number of boroughs had expressed interest in the general ventures portfolio. A number of demonstrations and meetings were arranged to introduce borough leads to various venture partners. Decisions relating to the general ventures strand were part of the exempt agenda item.
- 7.3 In relation to the targeted ventures programme, the Head of Capital Ambition stated that there had been very significant interest and engagement with local authorities, the third sector, housing providers, think tanks and other public sector bodies. This included the several workshops and meetings as well as engaging in existing professional networks and political leads. Appendix One of the report 'Our journey so far,' provided a visual timeline of the activity to date on both general and targeted ventures. The team were pleased to see their approach being met with high levels of enthusiasm and engagement. The targeted ventures programme was now moving into the solution development phase.
- 7.4 CAB noted the progress of the London Ventures programme.

8 Any Other Business

7.1 None.

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

The meeting finished at 11.25