

London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 14 July 2015
Mayor Jules Pipe 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
LFEP

Cllr Darren Rodwell
Cllr Daniel Thomas
Cllr Teresa O'Neill
Cllr M. A. Butt
-
Cllr Sarah Hayward
Cllr Tony Newman
Cllr Julian Bell
Cllr Doug Taylor
Cllr John Fahy
Mayor Jules Pipe
Cllr Mike Cartwright
Cllr Alan Strickland
Cllr Keith Ferry
Cllr Roger Ramsey
Cllr Philip Corthorne
Cllr Steve Curran
Cllr Richard Watts
-
Cllr Kevin Davis
Cllr Lib Peck
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock
Cllr Stephen Alambritis
Cllr Ken Clark
Cllr Jas Athwal
Cllr Lord True
Cllr Peter John
Cllr Ruth Dombey
Mayor John Biggs
Cllr Clyde Loakes
Cllr Ravi Govindia
Cllr Tim Mitchell
Mr Mark Boleat
-

Apologies:

BARNET
BROMLEY
GREENWICH
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
HARINGEY
HARROW
HILLINGDON
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA
NEWHAM
WALTHAM FOREST
WESTMINSTER

Cllr Richard Cornelius
Cllr Stephen Carr
Cllr Denise Hyland
Cllr Stephen Cowan
Cllr Claire Kober
Cllr David Perry
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE
Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown
Mayor Sir Robin Wales
Cllr Chris Robbins
Cllr Philippa Roe

Apologies (contd):

GRANTS

Cllr Paul McGlone

Ex officio (under the provisions of Standing Order 2.2)

CAPITAL AMBITION

Mr Edward Lord JP OBE CC

Officers of London Councils were in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence and Announcement of Deputies

The deputies listed above were announced.

2. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Leaders' Committee AGM held on 2 June 2015

Leaders' Committee agreed the minutes of the AGM held on 2 June 2015

4. Minutes of Leaders' Committee meeting held on 2 June 2015

Leaders' Committee agreed the minutes of the Leaders' Committee meeting held on 2 June 2015.

5. Spending Review 2015: update

The Chair introduced the report saying the Spending Review 2015 was expected to be in late autumn, and was likely to outline departmental spending limits for the next four years. London local government was again likely to face a disproportionate level of funding reductions. This came during a period of growing demand driven, primarily, by a rapidly growing population.

The Spending Review provided an opportunity for London Councils to put a persuasive case to Government about the challenge facing London that must be addressed if local services

were to be maintained, and further economic growth achieved, in this Parliament.

The development of the Spending Review submission sat alongside, and was closely linked to, the work to secure further devolution and reform in public services in London.

London Councils' submission would propose three broad themes:

- public service reform;
- changes to the finance system; and
- fiscal devolution

Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE (Conservative, Health, Bexley) pointed out the decrease in the funding of Public Health, a responsibility that had only come down to boroughs last year and a likely consultation over the summer that London Councils would want to feed into. She went on to mention 0-5s and the possibility of getting a London response to the issue of parity across London.

Cllr Lord True (Conservative, Richmond) reaffirmed Cllr O'Neil's point about money being transferred down by Government and then disappearing and cautioned against undertaking unfunded fresh activities when boroughs were facing increasing challenges in delivering existing services.

Input from borough officers would be sought over the summer and a final submission would be put to the London Councils Executive in September.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

6. Moving Forward on Health and Care Reform

Cllr O'Neill introduced the report saying:

- While devolution would be important to unlock additional powers to drive reform, there was already much that could be done within existing powers and responsibilities and this report focused on that

- There were good foundations to build on – for example the Better Care Fund and the work in reforming public health
- The Executive discussed a similar paper to this one at their last meeting and agreed that three particular areas were ones in which we should seek to make real progress across London this year:
 - strengthening Health & Wellbeing Boards;
 - establishing sub-regional working and
 - increasing the scale and pace of integration.
- To support London Councils' overall position and maximise influence regionally and nationally, there was a need to be able to demonstrate collective commitment to making ambitious progress in tackling the big health and care challenges facing London
- The Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP and Health, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP had both been written to and ministers had responded positively.

Cllr Peter John (Labour, Children and Young People, Southwark) agreed with Cllr O'Neill and urged colleague leaders to get involved in their Health and Wellbeing boards which, if they were not made to work, would be crowded out of the market.

Cllr Ruth Dombey (Liberal Democrat, Sutton) agreed with Cllr John on Health and Wellbeing boards and pointed to the scale of the prize that could be won, in Manchester's case it was £6bn, in London case it could be £21bn.

Cllr Richard Watts (Labour, Islington) counselled against sub-regional working that replicated the unpopular former NHS model. He supported effective sub-regional working, the footprint of acute hospitals was important in the configuration of health economies, but wanted to emphasise the importance of the local element in health care integration.

Leaders' Committee:

- Agreed that all London's Health and Wellbeing Boards should be strengthened as system leaders for locally driven health and care reform during 2015/16 and that London Councils' should refresh the stocktake of London Boards at the end of the year
- Agreed to establish effective sub-regional arrangements between boroughs and the NHS in London during 2015/16 and note that a project that the Capital Ambition Board had agreed in principle to fund should be developed to support this
- Committed to working with local partners to secure a significant further step change in integration to deliver on London Councils' core principles for the Better Care Fund in 2016/17 and
- That progress around the capital on each of these goals for the current financial year should be reported back to Leaders' Committee regularly.

7. London CIV: Progress report and proposed next steps towards a London LGPS CIV

The Chair introduced the report saying solid progress was being made even though the initial stages had taken a little longer than originally anticipated. Mr Hugh Grover had been appointed Interim Chief Executive and Mr Mark Boleat was the chair of the sectoral joint committee.

Mr Mark Boleat (Independent, City) commented:

- Discussions had been had with fund managers
- Recruiting permanent Executive and Non-Executive Directors was underway
- Considerable savings were already being made
- The establishment of the CIV was proving a more complex and larger exercise than had been anticipated but the potential prize was massive, not just for boroughs but for others who might follow the model
- The sectoral joint committee was working well in giving political oversight.

The Chair concluded by saying that the investment needed to set the CIV up was already being rewarded in terms of savings being made.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

8. No Recourse to Public Funds: update

The Chair introduced the report saying:

- Since March, London Councils' officers had undertaken work to further understand and raise awareness of this issue including:
 - *A round of public affairs engagement* that highlighted the issue London boroughs were facing
 - *Briefings* including the production of a member briefing for London's councillors
 - *A Roundtable event* with senior borough officers to facilitate learning at both a strategic and operational level on this issue, and to inform London Councils' lobbying
 - *A meeting with Government officials* London Councils officers had an initial meeting with Home Office and DCLG officials (outside of the NRPF steering group), to understand their plans and update on the progress of work.
 - *Information gathering* London Councils officers have undertaken further analysis of the NRPF Connect database to understand the level and nature of the financial impact on London local government and establish where information gaps currently existed.

London Councils officers were developing a survey of all London boroughs to gather a strong pan-London evidence base that filled some of these information gaps and fully articulated the level and nature of the financial impact on London local government from NRPF clients. This data gathering exercise would commence over the next two months and the results would inform London Councils' submission to the 2015 Spending Review.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

9. Minutes and Summaries

Leader's Committee agreed to note the draft minutes and summaries:

- Executive – 12 May 2015
- Pensions CIV Sectoral Joint Committee – 27 May 2015
- Executive – 23 June 2015

The meeting, which had begun at 11:30, ended at 12:00 noon.

Action Points

Item		Action	Progress
5.	Spending Review 2015: update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from borough officers to be sought over the summer and a final submission to be put to the London Councils Executive in September. 	Fair Funding	Done
6.	Moving Forward on Health and Care Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all London's Health and Wellbeing Boards should be strengthened as system leaders for locally driven health and care reform during 2015/16 and that London Councils' should refresh the stocktake of London Boards at the end of the year • establish effective sub-regional arrangements between boroughs and the NHS in London during 2015/16 • work with local partners to secure a significant further step change in integration to deliver on London Councils' core principles for the Better Care Fund in 2016/17 • progress around the capital on each of these goals for the current financial year to be reported back to Leaders' Committee regularly. 	PAPA Health	Ongoing