



Leaders' Committee

Housing Proposition: Update

Item no: 7

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Summary

Since the Mayoral elections on 5th May discussions have been continuing with City Hall and with the Government on shared principles in respect of the London Housing Proposition. Leaders' Committee reviewed the position reached at their last meeting.

This paper updates the Leaders' Committee on the progress of the tripartite discussions since 7th June, and on plans for the further development of boroughs' proposals for joint working on housing delivery.

Recommendations

Leaders' Committee is asked to use this report as an opportunity to discuss progress and offer further advice.

London Housing Proposition: Update

Background and context

1. Discussions on the London Housing Proposition have continued with City Hall and with the Government following the Mayoral election on 5th May. Engagement to date indicates that the Mayor and the new Deputy Mayor for housing are keen to work collaboratively with the boroughs to reach an agreement in principle with the Government.
2. Leaders discussed the initial engagement with the new Mayor on 7th June and agreed that discussions should continue with the aim of reaching an agreement with the Mayor and the Government in line with the direction set out in the London Housing Proposition.

Progress of tripartite discussions

3. Since the last Leaders' meeting Sir Steve Bullock and Cllr Ravi Govindia have been involved in further dialogue with the new Deputy Mayor for Housing. They have also met with Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to discuss housing supply in the capital. Discussions have taken place within party groups and at Leaders' Executive on 22nd June. At the time of dispatch discussions with City Hall were continuing at a political level, and Mayor Sir Steve Bullock and Cllr Ravi Govindia with the London Mayor again met the Secretary of State on 28th June.
4. Recent discussions have focused on a potential headline agreement between Government, the Mayor and boroughs. This might form the first stage of a two-stage process, which might provide an opportunity open more detailed discussions aimed at securing some of the flexibilities around housing and planning set out in the earlier London Housing Proposition.
5. Considering the process for taking forward any possible headline agreement towards implementation raises the issue of the potential need for improvements to governance and arrangements for closer engagement with the Mayor's team on housing and planning policy development and delivery.

Cross borough collaboration

6. Leaders Committee on 7th June considered the headline proposals developed as part of the London Housing Proposition for a more collaborative approach to borough-led housing delivery, and indicated that officers should continue to develop these proposals further.
7. The chief executive led Housing Devolution Group convened in support of London Councils' work on devolution and public service reform has begun more detailed consideration of how a voluntary collaborative housing delivery vehicle could add value to the work of individual London boroughs.
8. Reflecting discussion at Leaders' and Executive Committees, this work is being framed as an entirely voluntary vehicle, focused on delivering practical benefits for participating boroughs and facilitating the sharing of best practice, joint working and joint investment. Once viable options have been developed this work will be reported to Leaders' Committee.

Next steps

9. The Leaders Committee may wish to use this report as an opportunity to discuss progress on the tripartite discussions, note proposed work on a collaborative vehicle, and offer further advice.

Financial Implications for London Councils

1. None

Legal Implications for London Councils

2. None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

3. None