

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive
Tuesday 17 January 2017 9:30am**

Cllr Claire Kober OBE was in the chair

Present

Member	Position
Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Chair
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Vice chair
Mr Mark Boleat	Vice chair
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Vice chair
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Cllr Julian Bell	
Cllr Kevin Davis	
Cllr Lib Peck	
Cllr Darren Rodwell	

In attendance: London Councils officers and Mr John Barradell (City of London Chief Executive) in his capacity as Chair of the London Resilience Local Authorities' Panel.

1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Peter John OBE.

2. Declaration of interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 13 September 2016

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 13 September 2016 were agreed.

4. Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Review

The Chair invited Mr John Barradell, Chair of the London Resilience Local Authorities' Panel to introduce the report. He did as follows:

- Resilience arrangements in London were put in place before the 7/7 attacks and have been updated after every significant exercise since
- The report outlined proposals for strengthening London's emergency planning arrangements, following a review commissioned by the London Resilience Local Authorities Panel early in 2016.
- The Panel was keen to build on the foundation of lessons learned during the major multi-agency 'Exercise Unified Response'
- The report also took account of the issues raised in Lord Toby Harris' subsequent review of London's preparedness for a major terrorist attack, commissioned by the Mayor of London in May 2016, which focused on a Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack
- The report looks at how different parts of local government are affected, such as Housing.

Cllr Teresa O'Neill drew attention to recommendation 72:

Local authorities should be prioritising an effective functioning CCTV network for the detection and prevention of terrorist (or indeed criminal) activity across the Capital in the interests of public safety. The level and functionality of CCTV provision should be kept under review by the Mayor's office.

She said that the previous mayoral administration had initiated a discussion of pan-London CCTV with the aim of emulating best practice in other major cities. She said that most of the CCTV in London was TfL's and the Mayor needed to combine it with boroughs to produce a comprehensive approach.

The Head of Strategic Policy reported that London Councils had reviewed provision in boroughs and MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) had set up a CCTV Task Force which was meeting on the following day and a strategy was under consideration.

The Executive agreed to:

- Note the report

- Approve the approach recommended by the Local Authority Panel for strengthening resilience and emergency preparedness across London's local authorities
- Bring a report to Leaders' Committee in February to enable all Leaders to consider the issues raised by the reviews alongside the proposed improvement measures.

5. National Funding Formula for schools – stage 2

The Head of Children's Services introduced the report saying:

- The government had published the second phase of its consultation on the introduction of a National Funding Formula for Schools in December 2016, which had included details of school and local authority level allocations across the country.

Whilst London had fared better than previously indicated - largely due to the £400m extra funding announced by government and a 3% cap on overall reductions for each school - 70% of London's schools would still face a reduction as a result of the introduction of the NFF and each London borough had at least one school affected by these cuts. London was the worst hit region in the country.

- These reductions would be felt keenly in the current financial climate. The NAO had recently shown that schools across the country would face 8% additional unfunded costs by 2020 so that, even in schools that gained through the NFF, they would lose funding overall.
- Lobbying would continue and businesses, head teachers and MPs would be briefed over the course of the consultation period. An APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) meeting on school funding was scheduled for 7th February and a further report would go to Leaders' Committee in February.
- Cllr Peter John OBE Executive member for business, skills and Brexit and Cllr David Simmonds CBE, his Conservative shadow, met Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for

Schools, on the previous Wednesday to make the case for protecting schools' budgets fully from the NFF. Cllr Kober also met with the minister on 16th January. The minister was quite open to London Councils' views but was keen to stress that the Department had shifted considerably to give London a better funding settlement and this needed to be recognised in London Councils' consultation response.

The Chair believed that London needed to make a case around trying to ensure no detriment to individual schools and to build upon both London performance and the clear concern being expressed by parents in seeking to change the approach being taken by Government.

Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE called on London Councils to try to ensure that Schools Forums were made aware that reductions in school funding were as a result of these national decisions. He went on to argue that given the direction of travel on funding and powers, the role of local authorities in retaining responsibility for school places would be called into question.

Cllr Teresa O'Neill raised an issue concerning Schools Forums. She said she would be grateful for guidance on her understanding which was that the Schools Forum had to agree two funding streams from the Dedicated Schools Grant:

- First, "Retained duties" which the local authority has for the whole school sector (dependent on the local offer that could include School Improvement, Statutory & Regulatory Duties, Education Welfare Service, Asset Management, etc.)
- Second, ESG (Education Services Grant) for maintained schools

On the first point it was clear that the Schools Forum needed to make a formal decision whether to approve but it was not clear what would happen if schools refused to approve the expenditure.

For the second point above the local authority could retain some of the schools block funding to cover the statutory duties they carried out for maintained schools (which was previously funded through ESG) by setting a simple per pupil rate for mainstream schools (a differential rate could be applied for special schools & pupil referral units). Although the amount to be top sliced must be approved by the maintained schools

members of Schools Forum, in the event of failure to reach agreement the adjudication process was with the Secretary of State.

The Head of Children's Services said she would clarify matters with her outside of the meeting.

Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE argued that London had a good story to tell and its success over the past five or ten years was a case study in what could be achieved with investment in schools even in some of the most deprived areas in the country.

Cllr Kevin Davis said that overspending the DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) would be an increasing problem for many boroughs.

The Chair concluded by saying:

- She noted ministerial enthusiasm for multi-academy trusts, but many were small and were not likely to be a complete answer.
- That she agreed with Cllr Puddifoot's concern about councils being wrongly blamed for the shortcomings of the education system without sufficient power to influence this. She felt that we should be campaigning to retain powers for local authorities, both by soft and hard power.

The Executive agreed:

- The position that London Councils' Leaders' Committee agreed in March 2016 - to ensure that fairer funding through a NFF should not result in a reduction in funding for London's children – was still applicable in relation to the NFF as set out in the second stage of the consultation.
- That London Councils draft a response to the NFF that made the case for continued investment in London's schools, taking into account current pressures in the system. The response would draw on the wider context of budgetary reductions as identified by the NAO (National Audit Office) report and focus on the impact that any reduction could have on school standards across the capital.

- That London Councils continue to work with head teachers, MPs and businesses to inform them of the risk to the standards of education in London and financial viability of London's schools.
- The deadline for consultation responses is 22 March and a report will go to Leaders' Committee to seek support for a collective position on school funding.

6. Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2017-18

The Chief Executive introduced the item saying it outlined the main headlines from the provisional settlement for London local government, including changes to flexibility to raise the Social Care Precept, the new Adult Social Care Support Grant funded by a cut to New Homes Bonus and changes to the business rates retention scheme resulting from the 2017 Revaluation. London Councils response had already been cleared and submitted and this report offered the opportunity for the Executive to discuss it further if they chose to.

The Executive agreed to note the report.

7. Policy Developments: Devolution and Public Service Reform

The Chief Executive introduced the report saying it provided an update on London Councils' work on two areas of devolution:

- Health devolution
- Devolution of the Work and Health Programme

On Health Devolution he reported discussions since the Leaders' Committee report in December involving London Councils' Chair, the Health portfolio-holder (Cllr Kevin Davis) and our other nominees on the London Health Board (Cllr. Hayward and Cllr. Watts). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was being worked towards with national partners and was likely to be ready for sign-off in the next couple of weeks.

On the Work and Health Programme (Employment Support), after the success of securing the devolution of the Work and Health programme to London (announced in the Autumn Statement) discussions had continued with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on a joint approach. The Chair pointed out that she had met the Mayor on the previous Friday and had discussed the importance of getting some dates and a Congress meeting in diaries.

At the last meeting of the MDG (Member Devolution Group), it had been agreed that London's narrative needed to be more strongly rooted in the emerging Government emphasis on a place-based industrial strategy. A date was currently being sought for a further meeting of the MDG to begin to consider some of the broader governance issues flowing from devolution. The Chair pointed out that she had met the Mayor on the previous Friday and had discussed the importance of getting some dates and a Congress meeting in diaries.

Cllr. Darren Rodwell expressed his concern about Sustainability and Transformation Plans in his area.

The Executive agreed to note the report.

8. Nominations to Outside Bodies

The Executive agreed to note the following appointments:

Cllr Fiona Colley (Southwark) to the LFEPA

Cllr Denise Hyland (Greenwich) to the London Regional Council of the Arts Council England

Cllr Nick Draper (Merton) to the LVRPA

Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee (HACC)

Cllr Steve Curran (LB Hounslow)

Deputy - Cllr Tim Coleridge (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

Thames Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC)

West – Cllr Dean Cohen (LB Barnet)

South West – Cllr Nick Draper (LB Merton)

South East – Cllr Alan Smith (LB Lewisham)

North East – Cllr Lynda Rice (LB Barking & Dagenham *(post meeting note)*)

Central North – Cllr Tim Coleridge (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

Central South – Cllr Jenny Brathwaite (LB Lambeth)
North – Cllr Daniel Anderson (LB Enfield)

London Sustainable Development Commission
Cllr Claudia Webbe (LB Islington)

Urban Design London (UDL)
Cllr Daniel Moylan (RB Kensington & Chelsea)
Cllr Nigel Haselden (LB Lambeth)

London Waterways Commission
Cllr James Beckles (LB Newham)
Cllr Lynda Rice (LB Barking & Dagenham)
Cllr Terry Paton (RB Kingston)

Thames River Basin District Liaison Panel (Thames LP)
Cllr Alan Smith (LB Lewisham)

London Waste & Recycling Board
Cllr Feryal Demirci (LB Hackney)
Cllr Ian Wingfield (LB Southwark)
Cllr Bassam Mahfouz (LB Ealing)
Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

London Cycling Campaign (LCC)
Cllr Feryal Demirci (LB Hackney)

9. Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2016/17

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the item saying that the headline figures had been in the budget paper that went to Leaders' Committee in December. For audit purposes the figures also needed to go to the Executive. They would have gone in November only that meeting was cancelled.

The Executive agreed to note:

- The overall forecast surplus as at 30th September 2016 (Month 6) of £1.758 million and
- The position on reserves as detailed in the report.

10. Audited Accounts 2015/16

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced this item with a similar caveat to the previous item, that it came to the Executive as an audit requirement. It represented the final piece in the jigsaw of the 2015/16 accounts.

The Executive agreed to:

- Note that there was no significant change to the pre-audited financial outturn for 2015/16 for each of London Councils' three committees and
- Formally adopt each of the three statutory accounts attached as appendices to the report.

11. Report of decision taken under the Urgency Procedure

The Executive agreed to note the decision taken under the urgency procedure to agree the London Councils submission to the Cities Growth Commission.

Action points

Item	Action	Progress
4. Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report to go to Leaders' Committee in February. 	Strategic Policy and CG	Report drafted for Leaders' Committee in February 2017.
5. National Funding Formula for schools – stage 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A response to the NFF to be submitted that made the case for continued investment in London's schools, taking into account current pressures in the system. The response to draw on the wider context of budgetary reductions as identified by the NAO (National Audit Office) report and focus on the impact that any reduction could have on school standards across the capital. 	PAPA Children's Services	First draft of response being drafted and will be shared with borough children's finance leads on 22 February before being finalised and submitted to the DfE by 22 March.

The meeting ended at 10:30