

# London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 11 July 2017  
Cllr Claire Kober OBE 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  
LFEPA

Cllr Darren Rodwell  
Cllr Richard Cornelius  
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE  
Cllr M. A. Butt  
Cllr Stephen Carr  
Cllr Georgia Gould  
Cllr Tony Newman  
Cllr Julian Bell  
Cllr Doug Taylor  
Cllr Denise Hyland  
Mayor Philip Glanville  
-  
Cllr Claire Kober OBE  
Cllr Sachin Shah  
Cllr Roger Ramsey  
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE  
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 Paul Hodgins  
Cllr Peter John OBE  
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE  
Mayor John Biggs  
Cllr Clare Coghill  
Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE  
Cllr Nickie Aiken  
Ms Catherine McGuinness  
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## Apologies:

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM  
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA  
NEWHAM

Cllr Stephen Cowan  
  
Mayor Sir Robin Wales

Ex officio (under the provisions of Standing Order 2.2)

CAPITAL AMBITION  
GRANTS

Mr Edward Lord JP OBE CC  
Cllr Paul McGlone

Officers of London Councils were in attendance.

Before opening the meeting the Chair welcomed the new members of Leaders' Committee:

- Cllr Georgia Gould (Camden)
- Cllr Paul Hodgins (Richmond Upon Thames)
- Cllr Clare Coghill (Waltham Forest)
- Ms Catherine McGuinness (City)

#### **1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies**

The apologies and deputies listed above were noted.

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

#### **3. Minutes of Leaders' Committee meeting held on 21 March 2017**

Leaders' Committee agreed the minutes of the Leaders' Committee meeting held on 21 March 2017.

#### **4. London Business Rates Pilot Pool 2018-19**

The Director: Finance, Performance & Procurement introduced the report saying it:

- Updated Leaders' Committee on the progress of the proposals to pilot 100% business rates retention via a London pool in 2018-19
- Noted the lack of clarity about the Government's policy intentions in this area following the General Election and set out an approach by which London government could remain in a position to negotiate a 2018-19 pilot pool, should the Government renew its commitment to this approach.

Leaders' Committee agreed:

- To note the uncertainty around the Government's future approach to 100% retention intentions

- That a draft prospectus for a potential pool based on such information as is currently available would be circulated to Leaders and the Mayor of London as a basis for consideration over the summer and
- The need, should the Government agree to continue piloting 100% retention, to be in a position to indicate in-principle support for a pan-London pilot pool by the time of the Leaders' Committee and Congress of Leaders meeting with the Mayor on 10 October 2017.

## **5. Devolution and Public Service Reform**

The Chair introduced the item saying it was a progress report for noting.

Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Liberal Democrat, Sutton) referred to the Criminal Justice section of the report and complained of the lack of performance of the London Community Rehabilitation Company from whom, she said, her borough had received no data. She would provide Cllr Peck, as the relevant portfolio-holder with details of this.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

## **6. School funding update**

Cllr Peter John OBE (Labour, Business, Skills and Brexit including Work and Employment and Schools, Southwark) introduced the item saying that:

- A vigorous campaign had been mounted by the London school community against the National Funding Formula (NFF)
- A response had been submitted to the Schools and High Needs National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation to make the case to protect funding for London's schools
- London Councils' *Talking Heads* research had been published which set out how head teachers across London had been coping with funding cuts
- The Government had committed to ensuring that no school would lose funding as a result of the introduction of the NFF and to increasing the annual school budget. The Conservative manifesto had set out a funding commitment of £4bn per year, on top

of existing spending plans. However, this amount had not been confirmed since the election

- The issue was whether the commitment meant schools would not lose out in real terms. In order to make such an assessment, London Councils had undertaken analysis, taking into account:
  - rising pupil numbers
  - the cost of protecting schools from cuts arising from the NFF
  - the impact of reductions in the Education Services Grant
  - the range of additional pressures such as increases in pensions and national insurance contributions
- The analysis showed that to protect all schools from funding cuts in real terms up until 2021/22 the government would need to invest around £5.6bn. If the government honoured its manifesto commitment of £4bn, this would mean that schools would face a shortfall of around £1.6bn. The equivalent funding gap in London would be £300 million over the same period
- In addition, the case would be made to government for greater funding for SEND pupils. London had seen exponential growth in the number of children with SEND

Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE (Conservative, Wandsworth) agreed with the SEND point and spoke of the desirability of the analysis being congruent with that of other analysts, such as the Institute of Fiscal Studies.

Cllr John concluded by saying that the case for levelling up, not down, would continue to be made and Leaders' Committee agreed the lobbying strategy set out in the report and to note the report.

## **7. Local Policing Model**

Cllr Lib Peck (Labour, Crime and Public Protection, Lambeth) introduced the item saying:

- The final shape of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)'s proposals was still to be determined

- The MPS faced a base savings target of £400 million for the period to 2020. This followed £600m of cumulative savings since 2010. She was optimistic that the new Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime were both open to considering constructive suggestions, whilst recognising the fiscal constraints they faced
- The MPS had begun to make provisional appointments to potential BCU Commander Positions, based on the current proposed geography of borough clusters
- The MPS's position was that these *'appointments are a provisional position, which won't be implemented before final decisions are made on the roll out'*
- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden and senior MPS officers would attend Leaders' Committee in October.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

## **8. Minutes and summaries**

In connection with the Grants Committee minutes of 8 February 2017 Cllr Stephen Carr (Conservative, Bromley) pointed out that he intended to raise the question of the London Youth Games at the Grants Committee later in the week.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the minutes and summaries of:

- Grants Committee – 8 February 2017
- YPES – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017
- Audit – 23 March 2017
- TEC – 23 March 2017
- Pensions – 12 April 2017
- TEC – 15 June 2017
- Executive – 20 June 2017

The meeting ended at 12:15.