

# Meeting of the Capital Ambition Board

**Wednesday 13 December 2017, 11am**

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

## **Members**

Edward Lord OBE JP  
Cllr Fiona Colley  
Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown

## **Local Authority**

City of London (Chair)  
LB Southwark  
RB Kensington and Chelsea

## **Advisers**

John Hooton  
Paul Najsarek  
James Rolfe

Chief Executive, LB Barnet  
Chief Executive, LB Ealing  
Executive Director of Finance, Resources and  
Customer Services, LB Enfield

## **London Councils**

Frank Smith  
Guy Ware  
Andy Pitcairn  
Thomas Man  
Lisa Henry  
Harry Richardson

## **Role**

Director of Corporate Resources  
Director, Finance, Performance and Procurement  
Head of Budgetary Control and Procurement  
Head of Capital Ambition  
Capital Ambition Programme Manager  
Capital Ambition Project Manager

## **Board Secretariat**

Ana Gradiska  
Joe Harris

Principal Governance and Projects Officer  
Business Administration Apprentice

## **EY**

Victoria Evans  
Shu Fei Wong

Senior Manager, Local Public Services  
Manager, Local Public Services

**The Chair welcomed John Hooton to his first meeting of Capital Ambition.**

### **1. Declarations of Interest**

1.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr David Simmonds CBE (LB Hillingdon) and Cllr Stephen Alambritis (LB Merton).

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2017**

3.1 The minutes of the non-exempt part of the meeting held on 18 October 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **4. Capital Ambition - Director's Report**

4.1 The report was noted by CAB.

## **5. London Ventures Progress Report**

- 5.1 The Head of Capital Ambition said that good progress has been made since the October CAB meeting and the London Ventures team had continued to promote and advocate the London Ventures programme with local authorities as well as with other key stakeholders including social investors. A number of London local authorities have been proactive in their engagement with the programme, and of particular note was the very successful Cornerstone virtual reality launch event at City Hall which had generated a lot of publicity. There has also been a positive step-change in levels of engagement and awareness about the programme. He finished by saying that there were still significant challenges for the programme, but also a great deal of opportunity.
- 5.2 The Chair said that it sounded like excellent progress had been made and that momentum needed to be kept going through January and February 2018, before the local elections purdah period begins in mid-March 2018.
- 5.3 The London Ventures team had undertaken a review of the first targeted ventures cycle (which focused on tackling homelessness, temporary accommodation and housing) to inform their approach to the second targeted ventured cycle. The team had a workshop to consider the process in detail and to identify elements that were effective as well as those that could be improved upon. The team felt that having a sponsoring CAB Member and Advisor for the issue being targeted would be very beneficial.
- 5.4 In addition the London Ventures team has been considering the overall thematic area for the next targeted cycle, and through engagement activity with CAB members and advisors as well as other key stakeholders the topic of children and families was identified. A key programme priority over the next few months will be to continue with the initial engagement and to start to build momentum with sector leaders and the relevant pan-London professional network.
- 5.5 It was reported that Cllr David Simmonds CBE and Paul Najsarek had both volunteered to be the CAB sponsors for the next cycle of targeted ventures.
- 5.6 EY added that some of the key highlights of the work carried out since the October 2017 meeting was the increase in the level of local authority engagement, the access to external funding, local authorities providing match funding and sponsorship to support the development of the four targeted ventures concepts. EY recognised the need for raising the profile of the programme so that local authorities could better see the value created by London Ventures. So far, local authorities have committed £200,000 of match funding to support the development of London Ventures concepts and CAB has committed £93,850 for seed funding at the October 2017 meeting.
- 5.7 The Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement said that there was a broad range of activity and initiatives addressing various aspects children and families including initiatives from central government, so it was important for CAB to have clarity as to which aspect of children and families, in order to add value and not replicate work that is already being carried out.
- 5.8 Members made the following points in the ensuing discussion:
- The new targeted approach was clearly showing progress, and the leveraging of external funding e.g. from the GLA was encouraging.
  - The development of the targeted ventures strand effectively created an issue driven, sector led approach to problem solving which echoed the origins of some of the earlier Capital Ambition funded activity. CAB's work on the new cycle of targeted ventures would need to be integrated into other currently ongoing London-wide work.

- There are a number of areas within the children and families theme that could benefit from a targeted focus including placement costs, recruitment of graduate social workers and recruitment of foster carers.
- Local authorities were facing significant cost and service quality pressures; however, good service quality and outcomes would prove to be cost effective and would save money in the long run.

#### 5.9 Members:

- Noted the overview of London Ventures activity since October 2017.
- Noted the review of the homelessness, temporary accommodation and housing targeted venture process and value generated.
- Approved the overall theme and approach for the second cycle of targeted ventures.
- Approved the appointment of David Simmonds CBE and Paul Najsarek as the sponsors for the second cycle of targeted ventures.

### 6. Any Other Business

#### 6.1 None.

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

The meeting finished at 11.30