

# London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 6 February 2018  
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  
LFEP A

Cllr Dominic Twomey  
Cllr Richard Cornelius  
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE  
Cllr M. A. Butt  
Cllr Colin Smith  
Cllr Georgia Gould  
Cllr Tony Newman  
Cllr Julian Bell  
Cllr Doug Taylor  
Cllr Denise Hyland  
Mayor Philip Glanville  
Cllr Sue Fennimore  
Cllr Claire Kober OBE  
Cllr Sachin Shah  
Cllr Roger Ramsey  
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE  
Cllr Steve Curran  
Cllr Richard Watts  
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell  
Cllr Kevin Davis  
Cllr Lib Peck  
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock  
Cllr Stephen Alambritis  
Cllr Ken Clark  
-  
Cllr Paul Hodgins  
Cllr Peter John OBE  
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE  
Mayor John Biggs  
Cllr Clare Coghill  
Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE  
-  
Ms Catherine McGuinness  
-

Under the provisions of Standing Order 2.5

CAPITAL AMBITION

Mr Edward Lord JP OBE CC

## Apologies:

BARKING AND DAGENHAM  
NEWHAM  
REDBRIDGE  
WESTMINSTER  
LFEP A

Cllr Darren Rodwell  
Mayor Sir Robin Wales  
Cllr Jas Athwal  
Cllr Nickie Aiken  
Ms Fiona Twycross AM

Officers of London Councils, Mr Tom Riordan and Ms Mariana Pexton of Leeds City Council, Ms Eleanor Kelly of the London Local Authorities Panel (LAP) and Ms Mary Ney were in attendance for item 4. *Independent Peer Challenge: London local government's collective resilience arrangements*

Before the meeting started Cllr Teresa O'Neill (Conservative group leader, Bexley) told Cllr Claire Kober OBE on behalf of the Conservative group that:

- They were sorry to hear that she intended to stand down as Leader of her borough and Chair of London Councils
- It was noteworthy that the leaders of the three parties on London Councils were all women and
- Her group deplored the treatment Cllr Kober had suffered as had been widely reported in the press.

This view attracted widespread endorsement by members of Leaders' Committee.

Cllr Kober thanked Cllr O'Neill for her kind words which she said were much appreciated.

The Chair then reported the death, aged 102, of Sir Alan Dawtry a long-standing chief executive of Westminster City Council who had also been Secretary of London Councils' predecessor body, the London Boroughs Association (LBA) 1965-78. Leaders' Committee agreed that London Councils' condolences should be conveyed to his widow.

### **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 5 December 2017**

The Chair asked Cllr Julian Bell (Labour, TEC, Ealing) to report back, as a matter arising, on negotiations with TfL. He did as follows:

- There had been a constructive cross-party meeting with Ms Val Shawcross CBE, Deputy Mayor for Transport which had secured the following commitments:

- Taxicard funding would remain at the level of the previous year with some uplift
- The Mayor would seek to make further progress in mitigating reductions in the budget for Local Improvement Plans (LIPs).

Cllr. Ravi Govindia (Conservative, Wandsworth) commended Cllr. Bell and TEC for the work it had done on this issue and urged that this robust approach be sustained in continued lobbying activity.

Cllr Colin Smith (Conservative, Bromley) pointed out that the minutes contained the following commitment from Deputy Mayor Pipe...

On Cllr Smith's point about population figure projection calculations he would be happy to set up a meeting to explain in detail how this was done

...but that this meeting had not been arranged. The Chair assured Cllr Smith that London Councils' officers would take this up with colleagues at the GLA.

Leaders' Committee agreed the minutes of the Leaders' Committee meeting held on 5 December 2017.

#### **4. Independent Peer Challenge: London local government's collective resilience arrangements**

The Chair welcomed Mr Tom Riordan and Ms Mariana Pexton of Leeds City Council, Ms Eleanor Kelly of the London Local Authorities Panel (LAP) and Ms Mary Ney.

The Chief Executive introduced the item:

- London Councils had commissioned an independent peer challenge in autumn 2017, focusing on the extent to which boroughs' collaborative resilience arrangements – recently strengthened by the Emergency Planning (EP) 2020 Prospectus - continued to provide assurance in the light of a range of incidents during 2017 and to identify ways in which the collective arrangements could be further strengthened
- Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council, and Mary Ney, former Chief Executive of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, were commissioned to conduct the peer challenge; they provided, respectively, experience from a large city outside of London and long experience of resilience arrangements in the capital. Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Southwark, had also been invited to attend

the meeting to represent the London Resilience Local Authorities' Panel (LAP, which would have managerial oversight of the peer review's implementation)

- Their brief was clear that they were not to look at individual incidents or boroughs but collective arrangements across London

The Chair then invited Ms Ney and Mr Riordan to report the Peer Challenge's findings to Leaders' Committee, with Ms Ney focusing on the context and Mr Riordan, the recommendations

Ms Mary Ney:

- With 625 Incidents recorded between September 2015 and 2016 in London there is a good deal of experience to benefit from
- The London Local Authority Gold Rota was instituted in 2004 and the report contains examples of how it had functioned
- EP2020 represented a pro-active approach to responding to a range of resilience issues
- There was a strong ethos of co-operation between boroughs
- Areas to note included:
  - Reduced resourcing, resulting in a loss of capacity, experience and expertise in boroughs
  - Sub-regional arrangements were not always as clear as they might be
  - Leaders and chief executives needed to give resilience issues high priority - no borough would be free of needing to manage some incidents
  - Self-evaluation could run the risk of being seen as tick-box exercise and thought needed to be given as to what best offered mutual assurance
  - There was a lack of articulation of the role of the Mayor of London and little reference to the role of leaders and directly-elected mayors in guidance on managing incidents.
  - Resilience arrangements themselves could not compensate for a lack of community engagement and communication with residents and businesses
  - More thought needed to be given to the evolving response in respect of the victims/survivors of particular incidents
  - There was a strong ethos of mutual aid in London local government; it should be the 'default position'
  - There could be more exercising of mutual aid and the recovery phase.

Mr Tom Riordan:

- There had been an excellent response from all those interviewed
- EP2020 should be the local point for a single implementation plan for the recommendations coming out of the Challenge, but needed regular updating and amendment
- Implementation needed to be led by the London Local Authorities Panel (LAP)
- Assurance mechanisms needed to be developed in a practical way across London
- Government wanted assurance that arrangements were robust and that they draw on contributions wider than individual teams
- Community engagement and liaison plans needed to be more strongly integrated and exercised
- There was a role for the Mayor as a voice for London but a clear distinction between his and the operational response was required
- A more singular point of contact from central government was needed when London local authorities were managing incidents.

Ms Eleanor Kelly

- LAP welcomed the report and would be receiving a high-level report on its implementation on the following day
- A mapping exercise would be carried out to try and ensure that resources could be deployed to support boroughs.

The Chair asked for questions and comments from the floor and these were among those that were put forward:

- Several members stressed the importance of exercises
- The constitutional nature of LAP and the arrangements underpinning the Gold Resolution, particularly in respect of working with individual councils, could be clearer
- Relationships with the hotel trade needed to be strengthened as it could be critical in the case of an evacuation
- The role and value of local political leaders – just as with national politicians – needed to be better understood by all resilience partners

- There were varying levels of capacity and experience in boroughs in responding to incidents
- The importance of working with faith groups was affirmed.
- Involvement of major employers and town centre managers was important
- There was a need to guard against the danger of a 'reactive spurt'. The response to every incident should be as good as the last one.

The responses from the Peer Challenge and LAP included:

- The Local Authority Panel (LAP) was a sub-group of the London Resilience Forum, operating as part of the Civil Contingencies Act framework which underpinned resilience arrangements nationally
- A pragmatic approach to augmenting the Gold Resolution - potentially via an agreed protocol – would be explored before committing to a process involving a revision of the Resolution itself among all 33 authorities. The regular conduct of exercises could go some way to compensate for churn of personnel and any lack of experience. These responsibilities Chief Executives recognised could not be delegated
- Government needed to grasp the issue of co-ordinating visits in response to incidents and requests for information
- Specialisms needed to be developed among officers in different areas – victim support, hotel liaison etc.
- There was an intention to report back on the content of the Implementation Plan later in the year and the progress against that early next year

During the discussion Cllr Elizabeth Campbell (Conservative, RBK&C) thanked all those boroughs that had helped in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Leaders' Committee agreed:

- To endorse the report's recommendations for strengthening resilience and emergency preparedness across London's local authorities
- That the London Resilience Local Authorities' Panel would oversee implementation of the recommendations

- That the Panel would report on the content of the Implementation Plan later in the year and would prepare a progress report on that implementation for Leaders' Committee, early in 2019.

## **5. Fire Safety Update**

Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Labour, Housing, Lewisham) introduced the report saying:

- Work continued on a day-to-day basis dealing with continuing short-term challenges for boroughs in addressing fire safety challenges
- Issues would be breaking over the next six months. In addition to the officer Fire Safety Group which London Councils and Housing Directors had facilitated it would be important to ensure that there was a route for some collective political considerations of these issues as appropriate.
- It was proposed to set up a small group of members, a practical body that would support borough officers in dealing with fire safety issues.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report and to set up a cross-party member steering group on fire safety.

## **6. Recommendations of the Homes for Londoners Board construction skills sub-group**

Cllr Peter John OBE (Labour, Business, Skills and Brexit, Southwark) introduced the report:

- London needed a significant increase in its skilled construction workforce to meet the need for new homes
- As well as training in traditional building skills, London also needed a construction workforce trained in new skills. New technologies like precision manufactured homebuilding offered the opportunity to increase build-out rates while delivering higher quality homes
- Cllr Peter John chaired a sub-group of the Homes for Londoners Board that also included Mayor Bullock and Cllr Govindia as well as other borough representatives and developers, housing associations and skills providers
- The sub-group reported back to the Homes for Londoners Board making 22 recommendations developed to support three overarching targets to be achieved by 2021, as follows:
  - At least 50% of construction qualifications gained in London should be translated into construction employment in the city

- Half of all homes built in London should have a pre-manufactured value of over 50% and the skills required for this should be reflected in London's training provision and
- As well as increasing the quality and quantity of construction training for Londoners, the capital should continue to secure necessary migrant labour for construction post Brexit, until at least 2021
- The Mayor, local authorities and the construction industry should work together to develop a new approach to local labour requirements and section 106 employment and skills targets. This new approach should move away from a focus on new apprenticeship and employment starts, towards completions of apprenticeships or movement into employment. It should also allow apprentices, trainees and workers to move between sites across local authority boundaries to enable them to complete their training. This should provide more meaningful employment and training opportunities for residents across London, while recognising the importance of housing developments for providing local employment opportunities.

Cllr Ravi Govindia (Conservative, Wandsworth) pointed out that there were limitations on the way section 106 funds could be pooled and to give this proposal legal effect would require change. He also urged that sub-regional aspects be improved before focusing too narrowly on the pan-London level.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

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

The Corporate Director, Policy and Public Affairs introduced the item saying it reported on London government's work on devolution and public service reform – including updates regarding the progress against the Memorandum of Understanding with Government on further devolution to London, particularly in relation to:

- Further Business Rates retention
- Development Rights Auction Model
- Adult Education Budget and wider skills devolution
- The London Work and Health Programme
- European Structural and Investment Funding
- Health devolution
- Criminal Justice devolution



- Housing

Cllr Kevin Davis (Conservative, Health and Child safeguarding, Kingston) reported on a useful meeting he had had with the Secretary of State for Health. Real opportunities existed for boroughs, Cllr Davis argued, and a report would come to Leaders' Committee in March setting out how some of this could be realised.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

## **8. Review of Scale of Election Fees for 2018/19**

The Chief Executive introduced the report saying that one was brought to Leaders' Committee at the start of each year proposing a set of fees that boroughs could consider adopting.

Cllr Richard Cornelius (Conservative, Barnet) expressed his continuing outrage that senior council staff who received fees as returning officers were effectively being paid twice and, in this respect, the report was designed to be duplicitous.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note and approve the proposed scale of fees and expenses, as set out in an appendix to the report, as guidance for the London boroughs, with effect from 1 April 2018.

## **9. London Councils' Urgencies Report**

Leaders' Committee agreed to note that London Councils' urgency procedure had been used to approve the continued delivery of HR Metrics SLA.

## **10. Minutes and summaries**

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

- Pensions – 13 September 2017
- GLPC – 19 October 2017
- TEC Executive Sub Committee – 16 November 2017
- Grants Committee – 22 November 2017
- Capital Ambition – 13 December 2017
- Executive – 16 January 2018.

## Action points

Item		Action	Progress
3.	<b>Minutes of Leaders' Committee meeting held on 5 December 2017</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the GLA delivered what it had promised Cllr Smith (Conservative, Bromley) on population figure projection calculations.</li> </ul>	<b>PAPA Strategic Policy</b>	In hand
4.	<b>Independent Peer Challenge: London local government's collective resilience arrangements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LAP would prepare a progress report for Leaders' Committee, early in 2019.</li> </ul>	<b>CG/ PAPA Strategic Policy</b>	LAP has met to consider the Peer Challenge and has initiated an implementation plan.
5.	<b>Fire Safety Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up a cross-party member group.</li> </ul>	<b>CG/ PAPA Strategic Policy</b>	Paper on the cross party member group setting terms of reference is before Leaders
7.	<b>Devolution and Public Service Reform</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A report to come Leaders' Committee in March setting out what was wanted from the Health service in London.</li> </ul>	<b>PAPA Health</b>	Completed