

London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 20 March 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
LFEPA

Cllr Darren Rodwell
-
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 Danny Thorpe
Mayor Philip Glanville
Cllr Sue Fennimore
Cllr Claire Kober OBE
Cllr Kiran Ramchandai
Cllr Roger Ramsey
Cllr David Simmonds
Cllr Steve Curran
Cllr Janet Burgess
-
-
Cllr Paul McGlone*
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock
-
-
Cllr Jas Athwal
Cllr Paul Hodgins
Cllr Peter John OBE
Cllr Simon Wales
Mayor John Biggs
Cllr Clyde Loakes
Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE
-
Sir Mark Boleat
-

*Also Grants Committee (under the provisions of Standing Order 2.5)

Apologies:

GREENWICH
HARROW
HILLINGDON
ISLINGTON
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA
KINGSTON
LAMBETH

Cllr Denise Hyland
Cllr Sachin Shah
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE
Cllr Richard Watts
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell
Cllr Kevin Davis
Cllr Lib Peck

NEWHAM
SUTTON
WALTHAM FOREST
WESTMINSTER
CITY OF LONDON
LFEPA
CAPITAL AMBITION

Mayor Sir Robin Wales
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE
Cllr Clare Coghill
Cllr Nickie Aiken
Ms Catherine McGuinness
Ms Fiona Twycross AM
Mr Edward Lord JP OBE CC

Officers of London Councils and Mr Rob Whiteman (Chief Executive of CIPFA) and Mr Ian O'Donnell (Executive Director of Resources at L.B. Ealing) were in attendance for item 5.

London Counter-Fraud Hub

Before the meeting started the Chair pointed out that this meeting represented the end of the four-year cycle between council elections and she would like to thank all members of Leaders' Committee for their participation, contributions and support during that time and, in particular, over the past two years in her time as Chair. She paid tribute to three members who were not standing again at the upcoming elections:

- Cllr Paul McGlone (Labour, Grants, Lambeth) who had chaired the Grants Committee since 2012 in a quiet and effective way and was stepping down after twenty years as a councillor in Lambeth
- Mayor Sir Steve Bullock, the long-standing Mayor of Lewisham who had been a former Vice-chair of the organization and Labour Group leader and had given leadership to the Grants Committee at a critical time in its reshaping in 2010 and since then with the Housing brief on the Executive
- Mayor Sir Robin Wales, a previous chair of London Councils

Cllr David Simmonds (Conservative, Hillingdon) asked to be associated with the Chair's comments on Mayor Bullock and the others.

Mayor Bullock thanked the Chair for her comments and also for her valuable contribution to London Councils, including as Chair since 2016.

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 6 February 2018

Cllr Colin Smith (Conservative, Bromley) raised the matter, recorded in the minutes, of the undertaking made by GLA Deputy Mayor Pipe to arrange a meeting for him on Housing and population figures which had not been organised to Cllr Smith's satisfaction. The Chief Executive assured Cllr Smith that London Councils' officers had taken this up with GLA colleagues and would do so again.

Leaders' Committee agreed the minutes of the Leaders' Committee meeting held on 6 February 2018.

4. Health and Social Care Devolution in London

The Chair announced that this report had been withdrawn with a view to bringing it back at a future date.

5. London Counter-Fraud Hub Update

The Chair welcomed Mr Rob Whiteman (Chief Executive of CIPFA) and Mr Ian O'Donnell (Director of Resources at L.B. Ealing)) and asked them to introduce the report.

Mr Rob Whiteman:

- Data matching had been used for decades to detect fraud but existing systems had a high rate of false positives and were manually intensive and expensive
- The London Counter Fraud Hub (LCFH), a London Ventures project, had been established to detect fraud across borough boundaries and maximise recoveries by sharing data and taking advantage of advanced analytics technology and automation
- It was proven to find more fraud than existing data matching solutions and delivered a much higher proportion of successful leads. A memorandum of understanding had been signed by all 33 London local authorities

- The commercial model made use of payment by results and returns would be used to drive investment in innovation

Mr Ian O'Donnell

- Four authorities (Camden, Croydon, Ealing and Islington) were taking part in pilots which would conclude at the end of June 2018 when it was expected the system would be able to go live across London
- The pilots were testing against three fraud types: council tax single person discount, business rates, and housing tenancy. In the Ealing pilot £1½m was saved on council tax single person discount alone.

Questions from Cllr Darren Rodwell (Labour, City Development, Barking and Dagenham) and Mayor Philip Glanville (Labour, Hackney) were responded to including the following points:

- The MoU was signed by all London's local authorities without any commitment to join the scheme to allow the research and development to go ahead
- Other contracts held by boroughs could continue but if the Hub's superior technology threw up additional cases then the borough concerned could elect to pay just for those
- Outputs to the Hub are provided and the borough had 28 days to decide to accept or reject those matches
- Fraud data can take a long time to investigate and research has shown that the Hub was the best way to handle it
- Advice on data protection had been sought and the Hub complied with both existing regulations and General Data Protection Regulations shortly to come into force.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

6. Adult Community Learning in London

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

- The Adult Community Learning (ACL) Budget was going to be devolved to the Mayor of London at the same time as the Adult Education Budget
- The amount spent by boroughs on ACL varied from £½m to £2½m per borough which reflected historic decisions by them on how they prioritized this form of education for their residents
- The recommendations in the report represented an approach that could be adopted in negotiations with the Mayor:
 - That the GLA adopt the definition of community learning set out in the paper, together with the allocation of a 'block grant' to boroughs and current community learning providers, who would plan and deliver provision
 - That the GLA adopt a model of business planning
 - That the GLA support providers in developing pan-London arrangements to measure the value of community learning using social metrics, taking account of national developments
 - That pan-London arrangements be put in place by the GLA to track actual individual progression from community learning activities to higher levels of education and training, and/or employment as a key measure of the success of all adult learning provision
 - The GLA liaise with Ofsted and the Education and Training Foundation (ETF).
- He would write formally to the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Skills and Regeneration outlining the key recommendations of this report. The report should also inform the GLA's Skills and Employment Commissioning Framework that would set out the Mayor's initial approach to the Adult Education Budget (AEB), including community learning. London Councils was also discussing with the GLA how borough providers could be involved in work to develop and measure social impacts consistently across London, alongside education and employment outcomes.

Cllr Roger Ramsey (Conservative, Audit, Havering) raised points made by an adult education professional body and Cllr David Simmonds (Conservative, Hillingdon) said he did not have reservations about the proposals but urged pausing until Leaders' Committee could

make an informed decision taking into account the wider context including the Apprenticeship Levy.

Cllr John responded by mentioning the seven key beneficiary groups identified in the Area Review report:

- Those furthest away from work
- Those working in very low paid work or insecure employment, and those falling outside the parameters of the benefit system and seeking a return to work
- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- Mental health service users
- Adults with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Older learners
- Residents with multiple support needs.

and argued that if the work was not taken forward in some way, boroughs risked leaving a space that could be filled by the GLA on its own in terms of this debate. He would welcome it if Cllr Ramsay would supply him with a copy of the report he had referred to and if boroughs had any issues to raise them either directly to him or through sub-regional grouping representatives.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the findings and recommendations from the pan-London project about Adult Community Learning (ACL) in the London.

7. Fire Safety Group – Membership and Terms of Reference

The Chair introduced the item saying that it had been agreed at the previous meeting to set up a small member group to oversee Fire Safety issues until after the AGM.

Leaders' committee agreed the Terms of Reference of the Fire Safety Group attached as an appendix to the report.

8. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for London

Cllr Julian Bell (Labour, TEC, Ealing) introduced the report:

- Boroughs would have received a letter from the Mayor of London setting out his position and proposals
- The electric vehicle market in London was growing and London boroughs were supportive of encouraging more residents and businesses to go electric and thus improve air quality
- London required a mix of different charge points to fulfil different user needs and suit different locations
- London Councils TEC had been involved in the Go Ultra Low City Scheme (GULCS) since 2016 that covered the different areas of work of residential charging, neighbourhoods of the future, rapids and car clubs, realising that a number of different solutions needed to be found in different circumstances
- In April 2017, the Mayor and Cllr Julian Bell (as chair of TEC and the London GULCS steering group) had written a joint letter to all borough Leaders explaining the importance of the rapid charge point element of the GULCS programme and encouraging boroughs to help identify sites for implementation
- The Mayor had recently raised concerns about the slow rate of identification of sites on borough roads for rapid charge points and was proposing to seek new legislative powers to bypass boroughs in the implementation process
- London was currently on target to meet the 150 rapid charge points at the end of this year (December 2018), given the Mayor announced the 100th charge point yesterday (Monday) and boroughs were planning to install in excess of 2,500 charging points on their land in the next financial year
- The Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill was going through Parliament, with its second reading expected after Easter
- The Mayor was planning to table up to six amendments, four of which would give more power to TfL over the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and parking bay designations using Permitted Development Rights across London
- There was competing demand for limited kerb space – parking provides income for boroughs and local knowledge and community buy-in is important to ensure the best solution for a location was found
- We were willing to increase efforts to increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure but would not support the amendments as drafted. Leaders were asked to increase their efforts to identify potential suitable locations on borough roads for more rapid charge points.

Cllr Ravi Govindia (Conservative, Wandsworth) expressed his regret that the Mayor had not tried to make the existing system work and proposed the setting up of a small TEC sub-group to promote the installation of electric vehicle rapid-charging infrastructure. He went on to suggest petrol filling station forecourts as a potential location for charging points.

Cllr Simon Wales (Liberal Democrat, Sutton) pointed out that in recent years there had been an emphasis on the removal of street clutter and asked whether modifying existing lamp-posts for charging points would be viable.

Cllr David Simmonds (Conservative, Hillingdon) urged their installation in cab ranks and argued that more efforts needed to be made to convince residents of the importance of the environmental and health benefits of the move to electric vehicles.

Cllr Bell responded by saying he supported:

- Cllr Govindia's proposal for a small TEC working group to support the GULCZ's work
- Any proposal to provide powers to install points on private land such as petrol station forecourts and that lamp-posts could be used for ordinary, but not rapid, charging points.

Leaders' Committee agreed to urge:

- Boroughs to increase efforts to identify potential suitable locations on borough roads for more rapid charge points
- TEC to set up a small sub-committee to have oversight of work promoting electric vehicle rapid-charging infrastructure.

9. Minutes and summaries

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

- Pensions – 31 January 2018
- YPES – 22 February 2018
- TEC Executive Sub-Committee – 8 February 2018
- Executive – 27 February 2018

Leaders' Committee resolved to remove the press and public

The meeting ended at 12:20

Action points

Item		Action	Progress
3.	Minutes of Leaders' Committee meeting held on 6 February 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">GLA to be further urged to engage with L. B. Bromley on population figures and Housing in the London Plan to Bromley's satisfaction.	PAPA Housing and Planning	In hand
4.	Health and Social Care Devolution in London <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bring report back to a future meeting.	PAPA Health and Adult Services	In hand
8.	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for London <p>Urge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Boroughs to increase efforts to identify potential suitable locations on borough roads for more rapid charge pointsTEC to set up a small sub-committee to have oversight of work promoting electric vehicle rapid-charging infrastructure.	PAPA Transport and Environment	Completed