

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive

Tuesday 19 June 2018 9:30 am

Cllr Peter John OBE was in the chair

### Present

Member	Position
Cllr Peter John OBE	Chair
Cllr Lib Peck	Deputy Chair
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Vice chair
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Vice chair
Ms Catherine McGuinness	Vice chair
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Cllr Julian Bell	
Cllr Nickie Aiken	
Cllr Georgia Gould	
Cllr Clare Coghill	
Cllr Muhammed Butt	

London Councils officers and Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE were in attendance.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Darren Rodwell.

### 2. Declaration of interest

Ms Catherine McGuinness declared a pecuniary interest in the exempt item E4 *Southwark Street Site – Review of Lease* as a member of the City of London Common Council and announced her intention to leave the meeting when that item was reached

Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4 *Proposals for use of top sliced flexible homelessness support grant: Temporary Accommodation and homelessness prevention joint working* as hers is a potential pilot authority for the scheme.

### **3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 27 February 2018**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 27 February 2018 were agreed.

### **4. Proposals for use of top sliced flexible homelessness support grant: Temporary Accommodation and homelessness prevention joint working**

The Corporate Director Policy and Public Affairs introduced the report saying:

- The report sought strategic guidance from the Executive on London Councils' work on developing a collaborative approach to tackling homelessness
- The number of households placed in temporary accommodation had risen dramatically in London over recent years
- The latest figures showed that 54,370 London households – including 87,320 children – were currently living in temporary accommodation
- To address this challenge, London Councils commissioned an options appraisal that reported last September. This looked at ways to improve how London local authorities procure homelessness accommodation and how to create better outcomes for homeless households. This study was jointly funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Greater London Authority (GLA)
- The proposal in the report was to strengthen pan-London cooperation by forming a not-for-profit company for procuring accommodation. This would better utilise the boroughs' collective market power, enabling them to procure more housing and to help control costs
- Leaders' Committee agreed last year that a full business plan should be brought forward for this proposal; this should be completed by July. The development of the business plan has been supported by a working group of twenty-four London boroughs
- MHCLG had allocated £39 million to support this programme over three years, which had been top-sliced from the national budget for Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG). There was the possibility of further funding being allocated following the Spending Review.

While the funding had been provided to support collaboration in London, if the project did not go ahead then it was very likely that the money would be redistributed nationally. Not proceeding with this programme would therefore result in homelessness funding being diverted away from London, and would make it more difficult for London Councils to lobby for extra homelessness funding in the future

By acting collaboratively, the London boroughs could better use their market position to deliver better outcomes for councils and households. It would build on the working of the Inter-Borough Accommodation Agreement to put downward pressure on the price paid for accommodation

Cllr Teresa O'Neill welcomed the idea of regulating and controlling homelessness provision through the approach being proposed which may go some way to tackling the problem of competition between boroughs for temporary accommodation. She asked if there was a good mix of inner and outer London boroughs amongst the participants and the Corporate Director Policy and Public Affairs said he would circulate a detailed response.

Cllr Ravi Govindia urged that steps were taken to ask non-participating boroughs not to act in a way that would disadvantage those that did.

In response to a question from Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE it was reported that a clear set of expectations on those considering initial participation should be available in July.

The Chair concluded by suggesting that a report back with the detailed business case should come back to members after the summer. The Executive agreed to take the proposals for joint working to draw down top sliced Flexible Homelessness Support Grant funding for London to the next stage.

## **5. London Councils – Consolidated Pre-Audited Financial Results 2017/18**

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the report saying:

- The report highlighted the pre-audited consolidated financial position for London Councils for the 2017/18 financial year
- The provisional consolidated revenue position was shown followed by a separate revenue summary for each of London Councils three funding streams, together with explanations for the significant variances from the approved revised budget
- The pre-audited consolidated balance sheet and the provisional level of London Councils reserves as at 31 March 2018 were also shown, together with overall conclusions and prospects for 2018/19 and beyond, after taking into account known commitments
- Key future initiatives such as the Freedom Pass reissue (at a cost of £600,000 on top of the £1m already set aside) and the section 48 ESF programme had been taken into account
- Balances of £7.5m uncommitted reserves were considered adequate by officers.

Cllr Ray Puddifoot commended the report as comprehensive but urged caution in the use of balances as he suggested there may be many unknowns.

In response to a question from Cllr Nickie Aiken, the Director of Corporate Resources confirmed that the overall level of balances was broadly similar to the previous year.

The Executive agreed:

- To note the provisional consolidated outturn surplus of £4.374 million for 2017/18 and the provisional outturn position for each of the three funding streams
- To note the carry forward of £130,000 into 2018/19 in respect of TEC system developments (£44,000) and the London Lorry Control scheme review (£86,000), subject to final approval by the TEC Executive on 19 July
- To note the provisional level of reserves of £14.256 million as at 31 March 2018 which reduced to £7.455 million once known commitments of £6.801 million were taken into account
- To note the updated financial position of London Councils as detailed in the report and
- To receive a further report in November 2018 after the completion of the external audit by KPMG LLP to adopt the final accounts for 2017/18. The final accounts would

be signed off at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 27 September 2018, at which KPMG would formally present the Annual Audit Report for approval.

The meeting ended at 9:50am.

#### **Action points**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>4. Proposals for use of top sliced flexible homelessness support grant: Temporary Accommodation and homelessness prevention joint working</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Circulate a detailed response to the question about the inner/outer London mix</li><li>• Take the proposals for joint working to draw down top sliced Flexible Homelessness Support Grant funding for London to the next stage.</li></ul>	<b>PAPA Housing and Planning/CG</b>	Response circulated on the mix of boroughs in the working group and likely to join. Proposals being taken forward.