

London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 9 October 2018
Cllr Peter John OBE chaired the meeting

Present:

BARKING AND DAGENHAM	Cllr Darren Rodwell
BARNET	-
BEXLEY	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
BRENT	Cllr Muhammed Butt
BROMLEY	-
CAMDEN	Cllr Georgia Gould
CITY OF LONDON	Mr Simon Duckworth OBE DL
CROYDON	Cllr Alison Butler
EALING	Cllr Julian Bell
ENFIELD	Cllr Nesil Caliskan
GREENWICH	Cllr Danny Thorpe
HACKNEY	Mayor Philip Glanville
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	Cllr Sue Fennimore
HARINGEY	Cllr Joseph Ejiofor
HARROW	Cllr Graham Henson
HAVERING	Cllr Damian White
HILLINGDON	-
HOUNSLOW	Cllr Steve Curran
ISLINGTON	Cllr Richard Watts
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA	Cllr Elizabeth Campbell
KINGSTON	Cllr Liz Green
LAMBETH	Cllr Lib Peck
LEWISHAM	Cllr Kevin Bonavia
MERTON	Cllr Mark Allison
NEWHAM	Mayor Rokshana Fiaz OBE
REDBRIDGE	Cllr Jas Athwal
RICHMOND UPON THAMES	Cllr Gareth Roberts
SOUTHWARK	Cllr Peter John OBE
SUTTON	Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE
TOWER HAMLETS	Mayor John Biggs
WALTHAM FOREST	Cllr Clyde Loakes
WANDSWORTH	Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE
WESTMINSTER	Cllr Nickie Aiken

Apologies:

BARNET	Cllr Richard Cornelius
BROMLEY	Cllr Colin Smith
CITY OF LONDON	Ms Catherine McGuinness
CROYDON	Cllr Tony Newman
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	Cllr Stephen Cowan
HILLINGDON	Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE
LEWISHAM	Mayor Damien Egan
MERTON	Cllr Stephen Alambritis
WALTHAM FOREST	Cllr Clare Coghill

Officers of London Councils were in attendance.

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 the Leaders' Committee meeting 10 July 2018

The minutes of the Leaders' Committee meeting on 10 July 2018 were agreed.

4. Business Rates Retention Pilot: Strategic Investment Pot Outcome

The Director Finance, Performance & Procurement introduced the item:

- The report informed Leaders' Committee and the Mayor of London of the outcome of the Strategic Investment Pot (SIP) decision-making process, part of the London Business Rates Retention Pilot Pool
- From April 2018 London's boroughs, the City of London and the GLA agreed with Government to establish a 100% business rate retention pilot pool. Of the estimated net financial benefit, 15% (£52m) was set aside for a Strategic Investment Pot (SIP)
- Twenty-two bids for SIP funding were received from 15 accountable boroughs for a total of £123.4m, with all authorities represented. London Councils and the Lead Authority (City of London Corporation) convened a Panel of Chief Officers from across London to evaluate the bids, and a recommendation was made to award funding to eight bids, totalling £46.83m. The Lead Authority consulted on the recommendations over the summer, achieving the broad support required to allocate funds. The report detailed this outcome and the funding decision. These projects would generate a number of benefits including amongst others 4,000 new jobs and improved broadband reach.
- The report also included the next steps for the SIP, which included the provision of feedback to bidders, the financial administration arrangements, preparations for a future bidding round, and the lessons learnt from this first pilot year.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

5. The London HIV Prevention Programme

In the absence of Cllr Ray Puddifoot (Conservative, Hillingdon, Health and Care), Cllr Richard Watts (Labour, Islington) who worked with Cllr Puddifoot on the Health and Care portfolio introduced the item:

- The report described the London HIV Prevention Programme, a programme founded by and funded by the boroughs, delivering vital prevention services for people across London
- What had been inherited from the NHS:
 - was costing twice as much as was now spent, to deliver less
 - and the number of people being diagnosed with HIV was going up
- Over the 5 years of running the HIV prevention service, there has been significant improvement, between 2015 and 2017 new diagnoses fell by 38%
- The programme budget had been reduced by over 10% since 2016/17, at the same time as delivering a ground breaking digital prevention campaign, distributing huge numbers of condoms as well as face to face outreach
- Success has been achieved through increasing testing and early diagnosis, access to prevention tools and increasing public awareness of how to prevent transmission of the virus
- Leaders' Committee was asked to endorse the continuation of this programme for another three years, with a budget freeze applied.

Mayor Rokshana Fiaz OBE (Labour, Newham) raised the question of the increase in the number of cases in the Black African community in her borough and the degree to which the commissioning model was able to address that adequately. Mayor Fiaz could provide details to the Corporate Director of Policy and Public Affairs and he would ensure it was fed into the Programme Strategy Group and the London Borough of Lambeth who had provided overall management of the programme. Mayor Philip Glanville (Labour, Hackney, Grants) commented on the extent to which the Do It London campaign organized by the boroughs alongside the Mayor was reaching, particularly, Black African women as well as gay men.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the impact of the London HIV Prevention Programme and endorsed the proposal to continue the programme for three years beyond March 2019, including a freeze in the overall programme budget.

6. Feedback from Joint Boards

- London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB)
- London Health Board (LHB)
- London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)
- Homes for Londoners (HfL)
- Skills for Londoners (SfL)

The Chair introduced the item saying that this would be a standing item providing an opportunity for London Councils' representatives on joint boards with the Mayor of London to report back from them. He invited oral reports from the representatives:

Cllr Lib Peck (Labour, Lambeth, Crime and Public Protection) reported back on the meeting of the **London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB)**:

Knife Crime

- There was a discussion on the work that was emerging as a result of the summit earlier in June and the work that London Councils was leading with borough practitioners to capture best practice and shape an improved framework for local knife crime action plans
- All local Community Safety Partnerships were to submit updated local plans
- LCRB touched on the potential for drawing on the 'Scottish public health approach'
- Representations were made to Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) early in September, calling for an enhanced response to youth violence shortly before the Mayor's announcement of a Violence Reduction Unit.

Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System

- The Lammy review focused on the youth justice system and identified
 - A need to improve equalities data
 - the importance of strategic oversight of the London partnership response (via the Safer Children's Board)
 - The impact of vulnerability and victimization

- And the need to improve services for BAME young people and those transitioning to adult services.

Justice Devolution

- An update was provided on
 - Victims and witnesses
 - Probation design /CRC future and joint commissioning (there have subsequently been constructive conversations at officer level)
 - Community provision for female offenders.

Cllr Ravi Govindia (Conservative, Wandsworth) argued that it would be useful to get a report back from the MPS on the roll out of new Basic Command Units (BCU)s and Cllr Nicki Aiken (Conservative, Westminster, Schools and Children's Services) suggested that Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick be invited to a future Leaders' Committee meeting. The Chief Executive undertook to extend that invitation.

Cllr Richard Watts reported back from the **London Health Board** (LHB)

- The London Health Board last met on 27 June 2018
- Consisting of representatives from NHS England (London), Public Health England, London CCGs, representatives from a NHS Foundation Trust and Mental Health Trust and Dr Tom Coffey, the Mayor's health advisor, the Mayor chaired the meetings
- Following discussions with City Hall, London Councils was now represented by five members, Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE, Cllr Danny Thorpe (Labour, Greenwich), Cllr Richard Watts, Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Liberal Democrat, Sutton) and Mayor Glanville.
- It reported on
 - The draft London Estates Strategy
 - The public health role in respect of youth violence
 - A new NHS project to deliver integrated digital health records
 - Thrive London
 - The development of the health conference the Mayor was hosting on 25 October.

- The Board agreed to receive further reports on the public health approach to youth violence, and the GLA had commissioned research into the evidence base for such an approach. On Estates, the Board also agreed to engage with a wider set of partners about the development of the estates strategy and urged for some thought to be given to an estimated capital requirement to match the period of the 10 year vision being developed by the NHS.

The Chair reported back on the **London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)** meeting on 18 September 2018 which the Mayor couldn't attend, so it was chaired by Rajesh Agrawal, Deputy Mayor for Business:

- For London, the government's LEP review meant that LB Croydon would need to decide whether it was part of the LEAP or the Coast-to-Capital LEP, as a local authority cannot now be part of two LEPs. It also meant that the LEAP needed to recruit four additional business members (so they make up the majority of the Board's membership)
- A proposal for funding around training on Business Rates relief for workspaces led to a request from Leaders for a more strategic conversation at the LEAP about workspaces, specifically, how to manage the tension between business rates as a future revenue stream for boroughs and the GLA and supporting small businesses to grow.
- London was the European centre of Artificial Intelligence (AI) businesses and suppliers, and second only to Silicon Valley globally. The LEAP agreed to fund a series of pilot projects to support this sector, including working with Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME)s to consider how they can best use AI and linking them with AI suppliers in London.
- The LEAP endorsed a £22m capital fund proposal from Lambeth College for the development of a STEM centre at Nine Elms. Lambeth College was in the process of merging with London South Bank University (LSBU) – the first time an Further Education college would merge with a Higher Education institution. This was very good news for that area
- LEAP members requested discussions on London's Local Industrial Strategy and on London's relationship with the rest of the UK, at future meetings.

Cllr Darren Rodwell (Labour, Barking and Dagenham, Housing and Planning) reported that he, Cllr Richard Cornelius (Conservative, Barnet), Cllr Claire Coghill (Labour, Waltham Forest, Business, Europe and Good Growth) and Cllr Dombey sit on the **Homes for**

Londoners Board chaired by the Mayor. He reported back from the meeting on 4 September:

- Increasing supply was a primary focus (TfL and the G15 reported on their progress)
- Key concerns remained about the deliverability of overall and affordable targets, and in particular the compound impacts of the London housing market slowdown, the growing construction skills crisis and the risks presented by the uncertainty around Brexit
- However, recent central government announcements (e.g. on the lifting of the HRA cap) added momentum to borough building.

Cllr Dombey mentioned the HfL board's discussion of new construction techniques such as precision manufacturing that meant that much house-building work can be done away from the site itself which has traditionally not been a welcoming environment for women. This could boost the number of women involved in building construction.

Cllr Georgia Gould (Labour, Camden, Skills and Employment) reported on the first meeting of the **Skills for Londoners** (SfL) Board meeting which had been held on 21 September 2018. The Board advises the Mayor on the use of the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) and the wider skills system. There were five borough leaders on the Board, comprising the relevant London Councils' portfolio-holder, Cllr Gould, and four representatives of sub-regional groups nominated by London Councils: Cllr Govindia, Cllr Rodwell, Cllr Dombey and Cllr Steve Curran (Labour, Hounslow) alongside five providers and five employer representatives. Cllr Gould co-chaired the first meeting with Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Skills and Regeneration.

The main agenda items and issues discussed included:

- Setting up three advisory groups – one on apprenticeships, one on construction skills and another on outcome-based commissioning.
- The Skills for Londoners Framework would be published in the Autumn
- A joint paper (by London Councils and the GLA) on initial skills and employment priorities for London's Local Industrial Strategy and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (replacement EU funding). suggested the GLA share some of the resource it now had around skills. A workshop in November would develop the boroughs offer to the Mayor

- Whilst preparations were broadly on track for the transfer of AEB funding in August 2019, the GLA was experiencing challenges with DfE around a lack of data sharing and lack of clarity around a final budget (not expected to be confirmed until January 2019)
- The Mayor would be celebrating the centenary of adult education at the City Lit Institute in 2019 and developing a vision for future adult education.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the oral updates.

7. IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

The Chair introduced the report. Eighteen London local authorities had already agreed to adopt the IHRA definition of Anti-semitism and it was hoped, if Leaders' Committee agreed, to encourage the remainder to adopt it as well.

Leaders' Committee agreed to commend consideration of the following, by those London local authorities that had not already done so:

- Adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, including the agreed working examples
- Inclusion of the IHRA definition and working examples within individual councils' constitutions and codes of conduct for members and officers.

8. Annual Audit Report 2017/18

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the report saying:

- It presented the annual audit report issued by KPMG, London Councils' external auditor, received by the Audit Committee on 18 September 2018
- There were no qualifications, no audit differences and no matters arising, just two minor adjustments to note
- This was the last year of KPMG's contract with London Councils and, since London Councils was outside the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, its audit would need to be retendered.

Cllr Teresa O'Neill (Conservative, Bexley) asked to pass on the comments of Cllr Roger Ramsey (Conservative, Havering) Chair of the Audit Committee that his committee was grateful to the Finance staff for their diligent work on the accounts. The Chair echoed his comments as did Leaders' Committee which agreed to note the Annual Audit Report for 2017/18.

9. Appointment of a Digital Champion

The Chair introduced the report saying that it was thought beneficial to appoint a member Digital Champion (with shadows from the other political parties) to advocate, at a political level, London Councils' work on promoting and facilitating the use of digital data, tools and technology.

Leaders' Committee agreed to appoint Mayor Glanville as Digital Champion with Cllr Damian White (Conservative, Havering) and Cllr Jon Tolley (Liberal Democrat, Kingston) as his shadows.

10. Minutes and summaries

Leader's Committee is recommended to note the minutes:

- TEC Minutes – 14 June 2018
- Audit Committee – 21 June 2018
- GLEF AGM – 28 June 2018
- CAB – 10 July 2018
- Grants AGM – 11 July 2018
- TEC Executive – 19 July 2018
- Audit Committee – 18 September 2018.

The Chairman moved, and Leaders' Committee agreed, the removal of the press and public to discuss items exempt from the Access to Information Regulations under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12(a) (as amended) Section 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The meeting ended at 12:10.

Action points

Item		Action	Progress
6.	<p>Feedback from Joint Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCRB Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick be invited to a future Leaders' Committee meeting • LHB On Estates, some thought to be given to an estimated capital requirement to match the period of the 10 year vision being developed by the NHS. 	<p>Chief Executive's Office/PAPA Strategic Policy</p> <p>PAPA Health</p>	<p>Will be attending Leaders' on 4th December</p> <p>Ongoing. Have raised with the London Estates Delivery Unit. LEDU presented to HWB Chairs' Network on 30 November.</p>
7.	<p>IHRA Definition of Antisemitism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commend consideration of the following, by those London local authorities that had not already done so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, including the agreed working examples ○ Inclusion of the IHRA definition and working examples within individual councils' constitutions and codes of conduct for members and officers. 	<p>PAPA Strategic Policy</p>	<p>Local authorities have been advised of Leaders' Committee's decision and the request of boroughs.</p>