

## London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 4 December 2018  
Cllr Peter John OBE chaired the meeting

### Present:

BARKING AND DAGENHAM	Cllr Darren Rodwell
BARNET	Cllr Richard Cornelius
BEXLEY	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
BRENT	Cllr Muhammed Butt
BROMLEY	-
CAMDEN	Cllr Patricia Callaghan
CITY OF LONDON	Ms Catherine McGuinness
CROYDON	Cllr Tony Newman
EALING	-
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	Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE
HOUNSLOW	Cllr Steve Curran
ISLINGTON	Cllr Richard Watts
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA	Cllr Elizabeth Campbell
KINGSTON	Cllr Liz Green
LAMBETH	Cllr Lib Peck
LEWISHAM	Mayor Damien Egan
MERTON	Cllr Stephen Alambritis
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 Clare Coghill
WANDSWORTH	-
WESTMINSTER	Cllr Nickie Aiken

### Apologies:

BROMLEY	Cllr Colin Smith
CAMDEN	Cllr. Georgia Gould
EALING	Cllr Julian Bell
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	Cllr Stephen Cowan
WANDSWORTH	Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE

Officers of London Councils and from the Metropolitan Police:

- Ms Cressida Dick, Commissioner
- Sir Stephen House, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Designate
- Mr Mark Simmonds, Deputy Assistant Commissioner

- Ms Rebecca Lawrence, MOPAC Chief Executive

and Ms Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing 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 9 October 2018**

The minutes of the Leaders' Committee meeting on 9 October 2018 were agreed.

### **4. Crime and Policing**

The Chair welcomed the guests from the Metropolitan Police and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and asked Cllr Lib Peck (Labour, Lambeth, Crime and Public Protection) to introduce the item. In her introductory comments, Cllr Peck suggested that the BCU structure and serious violence may be usefully explored in the discussion and invited the colleagues from the Met to address Leaders' Committee:

Commissioner Cressida Dick:

- Began by offering her thanks for outstanding service to outgoing outgoing Deputy Commissioner, Sir Craig Mackey. He would be replaced by Assistant Commissioner Sir Stephen House, and the Commissioner invited him to introduce himself
- Sir Stephen House gave his background: Metropolitan Police 2001-7, five and a half years in Strathclyde and setting up Police Scotland before returning to London
- The Commissioner resumed by outlining her concerns, issues and priorities:
  - Tackling violent crime
  - Improving public confidence in the police

- Creating a well-led and equipped force
- Transforming the Met for the future in a tight financial climate
- She welcome the strategies published by the Home Secretary and Mayor of London
- Explosion of online crime
- The levelling off, after a steep rise, in violent crime
- The reduction of moped crime by 50% in the last year
- Knife crime plans were in place in all boroughs and knife attack injuries were levelling-off and beginning to fall
- BCUs were just one aspect of the changes coming about in the Met
- The Met was a local police service and would remain one.

Ms Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing continued:

- Hard work was being put into setting up the Violent Crime Reduction Unit (VRU) to which currently staff were being recruited
- The Violent Crime task Force was doing commendable work
- She was grateful to London Councils and the boroughs for their support in setting up this partnership
- Every borough was now covered by a Knife Crime Action Plan and London Councils was helping share and build on practice
- Changes in organisational structure in the Met reflected the fact that it was operating with less officers.

Mayor Philip Glanville (Labour, Grants, Hackney) reflected on the progress made in the last year with the Met on a range of issues and urged that this progress should be sustained even in the current financial climate.

Cllr Nicki Aiken (Conservative, Schools and Children's Service, Westminster) expressed concerns that:

- The new Violent Crime Reduction Unit should not be made up of highly-paid bureaucrats and

- That compensation cases could be brought by those suspected criminals on mopeds who may suffer injury if impacted by police pursuit vehicles under the new policy of *pursuit with contact*.

Cllr Ray Puddifoot (Conservative, Health and Care, Hillingdon) raised the unsatisfactory response he had received from MOPAC and the MPS to a proposal concerning joint funding of a police station in his borough.

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell (Conservative, RBK&C) was keen to see a connection made between the VRU and the voluntary and community sector. She was also interested in the future of the Patrol Plus Scheme.

Cllr Liz Green (Liberal Democrat, Kingston) commented:

- The BCU went live just after the election where control of her borough changed so she would be keen to meet to meet Ms Linden to discuss this
- The 15 minute target response time was at 85% in her borough before the BCU went live. It was now at 60% and varied across her borough, in some areas it was as low as 50%
- Could the Met publish response times across London and invite comments?

Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Liberal Democrat, Sutton) pointed out that:

- There was an understandable emphasis on serious and knife crime but in Sutton crime was going up and she wanted to express her reservations about the degree to which south west London was receiving adequate profile for issues that mattered to local people
- She was worried that in the new structure this was less obvious. Public reassurance needed to be looked at
- Over the past twenty years there had been significant improvement in community and neighbourhood policing and this had benefitted all partners. We did not want to lose that
- Closure of custody suites caused serious concerns
- There was some information filtering out on potential loss of section 92 officers which she would like to receive information about,

Ms Catherine McGuinness (Independent, City) reported that she was a member of the City Bridge Trust which laid great emphasis on borough and voluntary sector involvement in policing and urged engagement with London Funders.

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor (Labour, Haringey) stressed the importance of building trust with communities and called for council leaders to be consulted if there was any change in police tactics including the deploying of armed officers on the streets.

Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Labour, Enfield):

- Noted the concerns in her borough around violent crime
- Praised her excellent borough commander and offered her borough up as an example of the value of partnership working and the tangible results it could achieve
- Had no doubt about the correlation between the reduction in police numbers and the increase in crime
- Welcomed the renewed focus on analytical work and the use of data and on prevention
- Argued that the role of local authorities in support of policing was quite specific and should not seem to cross over into operational policing.

Cllr Gareth Roberts (Liberal Democrat, Richmond) pointed out that:

- His borough was part of a very large BCU and echoed earlier points about the perception of crime among residents in south west London and the degree to which the new structures added to this
- He was also unhappy with cuts in the LCPF allocation in Richmond.

Cllr Richard Watts (Labour, Islington) complained that his borough had lost a third of its officers and there need to be joint lobbying to get this reversed.

Cllr Richard Watts (Labour, Islington) wanting to know what MOPAC was doing to lobby around resources for capital city policing.

The Chair concluded the questions from members by pointing to the current scenes of rioting on the streets of Paris as an example of what can happen if the police lose control of the streets and remembered the similar scenes that had happened on UK streets in 2011. He

hoped that preparations were in place for any disorder that may accompany the exit from the European Union next March.

Members of the Metropolitan Police and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime responded to Leaders' Committees questions and comments:

- The Violent Crime Reduction Unit would be small, lean and agile and was designed to add value
- Mr Mark Simmonds would respond to Cllr Puddifoot on the police station in Hillingdon. Ms Linden will keep an overview of this issue as well.
- *Pursuit with contact* was not a new policy (it was nine months old), it may be that the current level of concern may have been fanned by videos on social media. Only highly-trained drivers were allowed to use this technique and there were only ever 60 cases a year. Officers have always been allowed to use force as long as it was justified
- A meeting with Cllr Green would be arranged
- London Funders was recognised as a reference group and the Mayor was also investing in small hyper-local organisations
- There was an encouraging level of public engagement on the issue of tackling violent crime, wherever the Commissioner went in London people were asking her "What can I do to help?" This was a common feature of cities such as New York but needed further development in London.
- The scenes in Paris were shocking but relations between the police and the public there were very different to those in London
- Lessons from 2011 had been learned and there was a strong investment in community relations in London and a resilience to stop adverse issues developing
- On Patrol Plus, this was an increasingly difficult scheme to run in an environment of constrained resources. It had worked in an era of growth but was increasingly bending borough policing out of shape. In future, the MPS would come forward with a new offer, but it would be less financially advantageous. The offer was likely to be out on the table in the near future.
- Response time data would be shared as part of a commitment to transparency
- Two years ago there had been an extensive discussion about local as well as national priorities

- Lobbying was around making the case for London and the capital strategy but it was acknowledged that there was a huge gap between what was needed and what was being received
- There would be no change in policing tactics in Tottenham, or anywhere else, without consultation with boroughs and others – there were no current plans to make any changes
- The Met constantly sought to understand how different boroughs and their populations felt about policing across different parts of London and the differences needed to be factored in sympathetically
- Police numbers were important, but were not the only thing to consider in terms of realising objectives for a safe city
- There was some discussion on whether Richmond had lost out in terms of London Crime Prevention Funding or not.

Cllr Peck concluded by saying that the key issues were around resources, confidence and community involvement and that even if boroughs did not have all the answers they were the closest to the community and alive to its concerns.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner and her team and the Deputy Mayor and her officers for attending Leaders' Committee.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the work by London partners to tackle serious violence.

The meeting agreed to adjourn for a private discussion.

## **5. Feedback from Joint Boards**

Cllr Peck reported on the London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB)

The three items discussed at LCRB on 30 October were:

- Progress on Knife Crime Action Plans and Violence Reduction Unit
  - It was designed to add value - not duplicate existing work, including work to tackle knife crime and action on violence against women and girls.

- Integrated Victims and Witnesses Commissioning
  - MOPAC were commissioning a new Integrated Victims and Witnesses Service. During the consultation prior to the introduction of this service some concerns were expressed by the voluntary sector in relation to appropriately experienced domestic violence advocates and MOPAC had amended the specification to ensure that these specialist skills were retained.
- Justice Devolution – Towards a second and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
  - Since the MoU was signed by London Councils, the Mayor and Justice Secretary, three principal areas were being considered for a second MoU in summer 2019:
    - Improving court-based services to victims and witnesses
    - Probation design /CRC future and joint commissioning (there had subsequently been constructive conversations at officer level)
    - Community provision for female offenders.

Councillor Peck had informed the Deputy Mayor that she did not perceive a strong borough appetite to re-open questions about the changing footprint for Youth Offending Services.

## **6. Exiting the EU – Update on Local Engagement**

Cllr Clare Coghill (Labour, Business, Enterprise and Good Growth, Waltham Forest) introduced the item:

- Last week she, with Cllr Peter John OBE, had attended the Brexit Ministerial Local Government Delivery Board, along with other local government representatives. Secretary of State Rt Hon James Brokenshire - chaired the meeting and updates were received from the Cabinet Office, DExEU and BEIS Ministers on preparations
- Contingency planning in relation to the possible impacts of 'no deal' was being taken forward under the auspices of the statutory London Resilience Forum, at the request of Government
- Common issues that had been identified by boroughs included:



- Workforce – Boroughs were concerned that future restrictions to EU migration could exacerbate skills shortages e.g. in social care and construction
- Communities – Boroughs are planning to monitor the potential impact on community cohesion and many had plans in place to provide support to European residents throughout the EU settlement scheme process.

Mayor John Biggs (Labour, GLPC, Tower Hamlets) raised the question of communication with residents and asked that best practice be shared, especially given the febrile atmosphere that might develop and particularly around reassuring in respect of the issue of settled status. Mayor Rokshana Fiaz OBE (Labour, Newham) agreed and suggested it was overlain on the work on London Councils priorities; there was a danger that local London issues could get drowned out by the national story. Cllr Graham Henson (Labour, Harrow) further endorsed the point and suggested that the Home Office needed to work with councils on communicating on settled status.

The Chair summed up by saying that some boroughs were further ahead than others but borough chief executives should be aware of the work of the LRF. He asked that an item be put on the next Leaders' Committee agenda.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the report.

## **7. London Youth Games**

The Chief Executive introduced the item saying that it was a briefing on recent developments. London Youth Games would be writing formally to boroughs when it had concluded negotiating about a potential new sponsorship agreement.

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the briefing from the London Youth Games.

## **8. Collaborative Housing Projects**

Cllr Darren Rodwell (Labour, Housing and Planning, Barking and Dagenham) introduced the item:

- There were two new ways of working collectively on housing: PLACE and Capital Letters
- Together, the two projects brought nearly £50m of additional value into London to support boroughs in meeting housing demand.
- Capital Letters jointly procured temporary accommodation for boroughs through a limited company, supported by three years of grant funding from MHCLG
- PLACE brought additional units of modular accommodation for use on meanwhile sites. Through the GLA Innovation Fund the project would receive £11m to produce 200 such units
- He urged the twelve boroughs that had yet to respond to the request to supply build figures to do so.

Leaders' Committee agreed the information sharing process for Capital Letters and noted the imminent launch of the PLACE project.

## **9. London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2019/20**

Mayor Glanville introduced the report:

- He thanked officers for their efforts in producing the report
- It set out the proposed budget for the Grants Scheme for 2019/20 which sought to deliver the priorities already agreed by Leaders' Committee
- The Grants Committee meeting on 21 November agreed to recommend that Leaders' Committee approve these proposals.
- He drew attention to the challenges associated with ESF funding which would be considered by Grants Committee in March next year.

The Leaders' Committee agreed:

- An overall level of expenditure of £6.909 million for the Grants Scheme in 2019/20 (inclusive of £241,000 residual gross ESF programme);
- That taking into account the application of £58,000 ESF grant and £183,000 from accumulated reserves, borough contributions for 2019/20 would be £6.668 million;
- That further to the recommendations above, constituent councils be informed of the Committee's recommendation and be reminded that further to the Order issued by

the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, if the constituent councils have not reached agreement by the two-thirds majority specified before 1 February 2019 they shall be deemed to have approved expenditure of an amount equal to the amount approved for the preceding financial year (i.e. £8.668 million);

- That constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2019/20 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2017
- That subject to the approval of an overall level of expenditure, the Committee agreed to set aside a provision of £574,000 for costs incurred by London Councils in providing staff and other support services to ensure delivery of the Committee's "making of grants" responsibilities, including ESF administration of £139,000 required to wind down the current programme; and
- That a decision on options over the level of Grants Committee reserves going forward should be deferred until the meeting of the Grants Executive Committee in February 2019, with proposals being considered by the main Grants Committee meeting in March 2019. By this time, the end of project position in respect of the S.48 ESF programme would be clearer. The outcome would be brought back to a later meeting of this Committee for approval.

## **10. Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2019/20**

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the report:

- Which proposed the level of boroughs subscriptions and charges to be levied in 2019/20, together with the consolidated revenue income and expenditure budget for 2019/20 and updated Leaders' Committee on the current level of London Councils reserves
- London Councils Executive at its meeting on 13 November agreed to submit these proposals to this Committee for final consideration and approval
- He went on to say that there was no increase in borough subscription proposed and that there had been no increase since 2011/12 and that in addition £6m had been returned to boroughs in one-off payments

- There would, however, be pressures to face. The joint committee normally posted a surplus but that could not be guaranteed in setting a balanced budget and a £347,000 draw down on reserves was proposed.
- This was a strategy that would look to take account of decisions that needed to be taken in respect of the London Councils Challenge and revising London Councils Priorities in the course of 2019.
- There was no increase in TEC charges proposed, in fact an 8% reduction in the cost of parking appeals and tribunals.

Cllr Puddifoot thanked the Finance team and commended the budget as sound.

Leaders' Committee agreed to approve the following borough subscription and charges:

- The proposed Joint Committee subscription for boroughs of £161,958 per borough for 2019/20, no change on the charge of £161,958 for 2018/19
- The proposed Joint Committee subscription for the MOPAC and the LFC of £15,410 for 2019/20, no change on the charge of £15,410 for 2018/19
- An overall level of expenditure of £6.909 million for the Grants Scheme in 2019/20 (inclusive of £241,000 gross ESF programme), a reduction of £1.759 million on the total budget of £8.668 million for 2018/19 and
- That taking into account the application of £58,000 ESF grant and £183,000 from earmarked Grants Committee reserves, net borough contributions for 2019/20 should be £6.668 million, the same level as for 2018/19.

The Leaders' Committee also agreed to endorse the following subscription and charges for 2019/20 for TEC, which were considered by the TEC Executive Sub-Committee on 15 November, and which would be presented to the main meeting of TEC on 6 December for final approval:

- The Parking Core Administration Charge of £1,500 per borough and for TfL (2018/19 - £1,500)
- No charge to boroughs in respect of the Freedom Pass Administration Charge, which was covered by replacement Freedom Pass income (2018/19 – no charge)

- The net Taxicard Administration Charge to boroughs of £338,182 in total (2018/19 - £338,182)
- No charge to boroughs and TfL in respect of the Lorry Control Administration Charge, which was fully covered by estimated PCN income (2018/19 – no charge)
- The Parking Enforcement Service Charge of £0.3760 per PCN, which would be distributed to boroughs and TfL in accordance with the number of PCNs issued in 2017/18 (2018/19 - £0.4226 per PCN)
- The Parking and Traffic Appeals Charge of £28.75 per appeal or £25.08 per appeal where electronic evidence was provided by the enforcing authority (2018/19 - £30.63/£27.02 per appeal). For hearing Statutory Declarations, a charge of £23.23 for hard copy submissions and £22.50 for electronic submissions (2018/19 - £25.21/£24.49 per SD)
- Congestion Charging Appeals – to be recovered on a full cost recovery basis, as for 2018/19, under the new contract arrangement with the GLA
- The TRACE (Electronic) Charge of £7.53 per transaction (2018/19 - £7.53)
- The TRACE (Fax/Email) Charge of £7.70 per transaction, which was levied in addition to the electronic charge of £7.53 per transaction, making a total of £15.23 (2018/19 - £15.23)
- The TEC Charge of £0.175 per transaction (2018/19 - £0.175) and
- To approve a transfer of £410,000 from the general reserve to the specific reserves to be used for future project work to be determined by TEC.

On the basis of the above proposed level of subscriptions and charges, the Leaders' Committee agreed to approve:

- The provisional consolidated revenue expenditure budget for 2019/20 for London Councils of £382.765 million
- The provisional consolidated revenue income budget for 2019/20 for London Councils of £381.401 million
- Within the total income requirement, the use of London Councils reserves of £1.724 million in 2019/20.

Leaders' Committee also agreed to note:

- The position in respect of forecast uncommitted London Councils reserves as at 31 March 2019, as detailed in the report and
- The positive statement on the adequacy of the residual London Councils reserves issued by the Director of Corporate Resources, as detailed in the report.

## **11. Minutes and summaries**

Leader's Committee is recommended to note the minutes:

- Grants Executive – 18 September 2018
- CAB – 22 October 2018
- Executive – 13 November 2018

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

Leaders' Committee agreed to note the reports agreed under London Councils' urgency procedure:

- Business Rates Retention Policy 2019-20' and
- LOTI (London Office of Technology and Innovation)

The meeting ended at 12:40.

### **Action points**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Exiting the EU – Update on Local Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An item on Exiting the EU to be put on the next Leaders' Committee agenda.</li></ul>	<b>CG</b>	Completed