

London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 4 June 2019
Cllr Peter John OBE chaired the meeting

Present:

BARKING AND DAGENHAM	Cllr Darren Rodwell
BEXLEY	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
BRENT	Cllr Margaret McLennan
CAMDEN	Cllr Georgia Gould
CROYDON	Cllr Tony Newman
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 Damien White
HAVERING	Cllr Roger Ramsey
HILLINGDON	Cllr David Simmonds
HOUNSLOW	Cllr Steve Curran
ISLINGTON	Cllr Richard Watts
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA	Cllr Elizabeth Campbell
KINGSTON	Cllr Liz Green
LAMBETH	Cllr Jennifer Brathwaite
LEWISHAM	Cllr Chris Best
MERTON	Cllr Stephen Alambritis
NEWHAM	Cllr John Gray
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	Cllr Ravi Govindia
WESTMINSTER	Cllr Nickie Aiken
CITY OF LONDON	Ms Catherine McGuinness

Apologies:

BARNET	Cllr Daniel Thomas
BRENT	Cllr Muhammed Butt
BROMLEY	Cllr Colin Smith
HILLINGDON	Cllr Ray Puddifoot
LAMBETH	Cllr Jack Hopkins
LEWISHAM	Mayor Damien Egan

Officers of London Councils, and Co-President Lord Tope of Sutton 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 19 March 2019

The minutes of the Leaders' Committee meeting on 19 March 2019 were agreed.

4. London Councils' finance lobbying strategy

London Councils' Director of Local Government, Performance and Finance introduced the report, informing Members that:

- In 2018 Members had agreed a finance lobbying strategy structured to anticipate a forthcoming spending and proposed local government Fair Funding review. The report summarised the activity over the year
- The timing and scale of the review and any reforms was now less clear although the assumption was still being made that there would either be a one or three year spending review in the autumn
- The report highlighted the priorities for London under various scenarios - namely Children's and Adult Services, homelessness, Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and people with no recourse to Public Funds
- The two year pilot on the business rates retention pool would end in March 2020, and a decision on the future of the pool would need to be taken at a future meeting

Members made the following responses to the report:

- The forthcoming Conservative Party Leadership election presented an opportunity to lobby regarding the spending review
- In respect of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, it was important that any commitment made in terms of numbers was covered by sufficient Government funding
- Any suggestions in the wider debate that London is 'overfunded' should be challenged

- An assurance should be sought from Government about London's minimum requirement being no detriment to existing overall funding levels

Members agreed to note the report and agree to write to local MPs to reinforce the priorities in the London Councils' finance lobbying strategy, using a template provided by London Councils.

5. Feedback from Joint Boards

London Crime Reduction Board

Cllr Athwal reported back on the most recent meeting of the LCRB, which had focused on the prevention of violent crime via firm enforcement, visible policing and the drug intervention programme.

London Health Board

Cllr Watts reported back on the last meeting of the LHB which had covered:

- The renewed health and care vision for London
- The health and care estates strategy
- Changing attitudes to mental health and support
- Health inequalities

Skills for Londoners

Cllr Gould fed back from the second meeting of the Board. The following had been discussed:

- The need for Leaders to be strategically involved in setting a London Skills and Employment vision
- The limit of the draft Skills and Employment vision with the London Industrial strategy and the impact of these on future funding
- The need to identify how to work with boroughs at both a regional and sub regional level – a meeting had been organised for 18 June to discuss this
- The establishment of sub boards
- Post 16 Special Educational Needs, disabilities provision and support for disadvantaged children into higher education

In response to a question from the Chair regarding the impact for boroughs on proposals around Adult Community Learning, Cllr Gould commented that there was a move towards outcome-based commissioning, but that ACL was not currently under consideration.

Homes for Londoners Board

Cllr Rodwell welcomed Cllr Damien White who was now shadowing for HfL Board, and thanked Cllr Cornelius for his contribution. The most recent meeting of the Board had discussed:

- G15 activity 2018/19
- NHS London Estates Board work, which would be reported to the London Health Board in July 2019
- The Land Fund
- The London property portal
- The housing delivery report
- The position regarding cladding on blocks

6. Pledges to Londoners – Update on Progress in Transport and Environment

Cllr Bell updated Leaders on the Transport and Environment aspects of the London Councils pledges, noting that the Transport and Environment Committee were overseeing delivery of many of the aspects of this work. Leaders were informed that:

- Charging infrastructure had progressed, with over 1,100 charging points established, and work was taking place with the GLA on their draft Emission Reduction Bill
- There had been good engagement with DEFRA on the Environment Bill
- Similarly, there had been engagement with TFL on the bus network and their business plan
- The first phase of ULEZ had been successfully rolled out
- There had been a commitment from the GLA to consider London Councils arguments regarding borough representation on the TFL Board as part of the Governance review being undertaken by Transport for London Board.

Cllr Bell asked Leaders in turn to engage with their officers to brief them about pledges and respond to any requests made of them.

Members made the following points:

- There was concern that the Crossrail 1 route should be finished as a priority

- In relation to the extension of the ULEZ zones, that TfL should not re-locate older buses to operate in outer London boroughs
- A more straightforward approach to the diverse options for charging systems should be adopted, as well as better access to hydrogen fuel stations (eg for vehicles operating near Heathrow airport where such fuel was more readily available)
- Environmental consideration should also be given to preserving grassland areas as well as trees
- There should be more support for enforcement of prosecuting 'idling' motorists
- It should be made clear how the income generated from ULEZ was utilized
- Further devolution of suburban rail to TfL should be a lower priority than xxx and financial stability

Cllr Bell responded to the points made confirming: that both he and the TEC vice chairs held regular quarterly meetings with TfL which could be used to channel issues from boroughs; there was to be a further report due to TEC regarding the delivery of Crossrail; the issues of restricting older buses in outer London as a result of ULEZ would be reiterated; there was a commitment to increase residential charge points and meet the commitment to rapid charge points.

7. London Blueprint on Female Offenders

Cllr Athwal introduced the report, commenting that the work had been presented to the London Crime Reduction Board, and had been produced in collaboration with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MoPAC). Around 60% of all women in prison had experienced abuse, and those released from prison often accessed multiple services such as housing, drug and alcohol services etc. The blueprint set out the framework to support London partners to improve outcomes for female offenders and reduce the risk of re-offending. He hoped that the blueprint would be endorsed collectively and by individual boroughs.

Cllr Dombey endorsed the report but felt that the impact of the turbulence around Community Rehabilitation Companies and significant challenges about how those services would contribute them. Cllr Dombey also expressed concern regarding future funding and the lack of reference to housing. She indicated that other officers would be willing to contribute to the further development of the Blueprint.

Members endorsed the shared vision outlined in the Blueprint and commended it to individual London boroughs, subject to the comments received from Cllr Dombey.

8. Urgency Report

Leaders noted the Urgency report in relation to the funding of the London Leadership Programme.

9. Minutes and Summaries

Leader's Committee agreed to note the minutes and summaries of:

- TEC – 7 February 2019
- YPES – 28 February 2019
- Grants – 20 March 2019
- TEC – 21 March 2019
- Audit Committee – 21 March 2019
- CAB – 15 May 2019

The meeting agreed to exclude the press and public.

The meeting ended at 12:40.

Item		Action	Progress
4.	London Councils' Finance Lobbying Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members to write to local MPs to reinforce the priorities in the London Councils' finance lobbying strategy, using a template provided by London Councils.	Leaders Committee	In progress