

Leaders' Committee

8 October 2019 – 11:30 am

At London Councils offices, 59½ Southwark St., London SE1 0AL

Refreshments will be provided

London Councils offices are wheelchair accessible

Labour Group:	Room 2 and 3	10:00
Political Adviser: 07977 401955)		
Conservative Group:	Room 5	10:00
(Political Adviser: 07591 389100)		
Liberal Democrat Group:	Room 4	10:00
(Political Adviser: 07858 924941)		
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Lunch will be provided in Room 4 for members after the meeting

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- YPES – 6 June 2019
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- Executive – 10 September 2019

***Declarations of Interests**

If you are present at a meeting of London Councils' or any of its associated joint committees or their sub-committees and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest* relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

It is a matter for each member to decide whether they should leave the room while an item that they have an interest in is being discussed. In arriving at a decision as to whether to leave the room they may wish to have regard to their home authority's code of conduct and/or the Seven (Nolan) Principles of Public Life.

*as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

The Chairman to move the removal of the press and public since the following items are exempt from the Access to Information Regulations. 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).

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London Councils

Minutes of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 9 July 2019
Cllr Peter John OBE chaired the meeting

Present:

BARKING AND DAGENHAM
BEXLEY
BRENT
CAMDEN
CROYDON
EALING
ENFIELD
HACKNEY
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
HARINGEY
HARROW
HILLINGDON
ISLINGTON
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA
KINGSTON UPON THAMES
LAMBETH
LEWISHAM
MERTON
REDBRIDGE
RICHMOND UPON THAMES
SOUTHWARK
SUTTON
TOWER HAMLETS
WALTHAM FOREST
WANDSWORTH
WESTMINSTER
CITY OF LONDON

Cllr Darren Rodwell
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
Cllr Muhammed Butt
Cllr Georgia Gould
Cllr Tony Newman
Cllr Julian Bell
Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Mayor Philip Glanville
Cllr Sue Fennimore (Deputy)
Cllr Joseph Ejiofor
Cllr Graham Henson
Cllr David Simmonds (Deputy)
Cllr Richard Watts
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell
Cllr Liz Green
Cllr Jack Hopkins
Cllr Kevin Bonavia (Deputy)
Cllr Stephen Alambritis
Cllr Jas Athwal
Cllr Gareth Roberts
Cllr Peter John OBE
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE
Mayor John Biggs
Cllr Clyde Loakes (Deputy)
Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE
Cllr Nickie Aiken
Ms Catherine McGuinness

Apologies:

BARNET
BROMLEY
GREENWICH
HAVERING
HILLINGDON
HOUNSLOW
LEWISHAM
NEWHAM
WALTHAM FOREST

Cllr Daniel Thomas
Cllr Colin Smith
Cllr Danny Thorpe
Cllr Damian White
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE
Cllr Steve Curran
Mayor Damien Egan
Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz
Cllr Clare Coghill

Officers of London Councils, the London Borough of Camden and the City of London 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 AGM and Main Business meeting 4 June 2019

The minutes of the Leaders' Committee Annual General Meeting of 4 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

The minutes of the main business meeting of 4 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record subject to the insertion of the words 'as per the original business case' after the line 'There was concern that the Crossrail 1 route should be finished as a priority.'

4. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Leaders' Committee received a report which was introduced by Cllr Aiken that summarised the background to the system for receiving and caring for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in London and the developments in national arrangements. It set out the significant pressures – in both service and financial terms – that London is now facing. The report sought guidance on the possible steps to take to ensure the London arrangements can be sustainable in the short term, summarised steps being taken to develop medium term operational solutions to the current challenges and plans for lobbying to recognise the need for adequate funding and a functioning national transfer scheme for UASC.

Cllr Aiken added that:

- It was important for these issues to be considered as a response by boroughs as a whole, rather than the most affected ones only, because of the potential impact across the capital and the continued pressure on services;
- The suggestion of an increase of the 0.07% threshold to 0.08% was not really central as most boroughs were already operating over the threshold of accommodating cases that represented 0.07% of total child population

The Chair thanked Cllr Aiken and introduced Martin Pratt, DCS at the London Borough of Camden and Chair of ALCDS, who added that:

- Boroughs had performed well in meeting UASC needs and had developed good levels of understanding of the needs of those children, which was the central consideration;
- Much of the demand on services from this group occurred after resettlement, particularly among UASC who had reached 18 and subsequently became former UASC care leavers;
- The Children Act 1989 was enacted on assumptions that were now out of step with the pressures implied by the current volume of UASC;
- It was important that boroughs should be fully funded for this level of demand.

The Chair thanked Mr Pratt for his comments and noted the specific point in the report that regard should be had to overall caseloads among boroughs, including the number of ex-UASC care leavers in councils. In response to a request from the Chair, members made the following responses to the report:

- Care should be taken in framing any narrative to avoid a perception that London was unwilling to participate in assisting UASC, and that there was recognition that all boroughs were contributing to this issue when representing London to the Government;
- In terms of collective lobbying, that utilising community and faith based organisations could be advantageous, but that any publicity should not compromise individual children;
- Boroughs fulfilling the demand of UASC needed to be relieved by full funding;
- That those lobbying on behalf of UASC should also be expressing their support for local authorities.

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions

Leaders' Committee:

- Agreed that London Councils take steps to seek urgent additional financial support for London boroughs to ensure that the London rota remains functional during the forthcoming summer pressures;

- Supported lobbying by London Councils to seek cross-departmental focus, involving MHCLG, the Home Office and Department for Education;
- Agreed that sustained lobbying be undertaken by London Councils in respect of UASC and former UASC Care leavers;
- Supported exploration of intensifying this issue politically, legally and in media terms

5. Strengthening Local and Collective resilience: Progress Report

The Chair welcomed John Barradell, Chair of the Local Authority Panel (LAP) and Town Clerk & Chief Executive of the City of London Corporation, to introduce the report.

Mr Barradell informed Members that the report presented an update on the implementation of a package of recommendations flowing from the independent peer challenge of London local government's contribution to overall resilience. This had been reported to Leaders Committee in February 2018 and an overall implementation plan had been considered by Leaders in July 2018. The update report also set out details of the work that London Councils had led to develop guidelines and training for elected members. A handbook, agreed with leading members, had been produced and training sessions were due to begin in the Autumn.

The Chair thanked Mr Barradell for the work of LAP and endorsed the Civil Resilience Handbook for Members, agreeing that the support it provided to Members was invaluable. The following comments were made:

- the communications aspect of the Handbook was extremely important, in particular in acknowledging that there were limitations in the extent to which social media messages could be controlled;
- some centralised training would help to ensure a standardised approach to delivery;
- it was important for boroughs who had experienced critical incidents to be able to share their experiences with others on a 'lessons learned' basis, and for case studies to be developed;
- peer support was welcomed when incidents occurred. Councillor Campbell, in particular, commented positively on the support her own borough had received from other boroughs;
- specific training should be considered when responding to specific types of incident

Mr Barradell confirmed that de-briefing and lessons learned formed part of the resilience process, and also that the pan London communications protocol would continue to evolve and reflect the other comments that had been made.

Members received and noted:

- the Local Authorities' Panel progress report: '*Strengthening Local and Collective Resilience: EP2020 Enhancement Programme*';
- the *Civil Resilience Handbook for Councillors* and the pilot training programme;
- the '*Resilience Standards for London*';
- the expectation that Leaders' Committee would receive a further report on progress in 2020.

6. Pledges to Londoners – Update on Progress in Supporting Business and Inclusive Growth

In the absence of Cllr Coghill, Cllr Gould provided an update on this element of the Pledges to Londoners, commenting that:

- A number of sub regional pilots are being developed in areas like *in work progression* and *SEND support*;
- The lobbying strategy included the publication of a 'Better Ways to work' document, which included a number of recommendations, for example co-location of Job Centres;
- Lobbying was also continuing regarding Skills for London devolution opportunities, including funding for 16-18 year olds and the Apprenticeship Levy;
- Consultation on a Charter for Business was continuing, aligned with the Mayor's Good Work standards;
- Campaigning was taking place, in the event of any devolved money allocated to replace EU funding post Brexit, for funds to go directly to boroughs, and to minimize current regulatory complexity.

In addition, Cllr Butt mentioned that work was continuing to develop a welfare best practice offer for boroughs to help them support people transitioning into Universal Credit, and that this was intended to be published in October.

Cllr O'Neill commented that cross party representation was important in any negotiations around this aspect of the Pledges involving boroughs.

Leaders' Committee noted the report.

7. Feedback from Joint Boards

London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)

The Chair fed back the key issues raised at the most recent Board meeting in June.

Members were updated on:

- London's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which is important, as it was likely to determine the strategic priorities for the future LEP funding and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund that would replace some EU funding in London;
- LEAP's Growth Hub;
- The future of the London co-investment fund; and,
- the LEAP delivery programme which was broadly on track.

8. Urgency Report

Leaders noted the Urgency report in relation to the approval of the London Ventures commercial deal with Blue Prism.

9. Minutes and Summaries

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

- GLPC – 21 March 2019
- CAB – 15 May 2019
- Executive – 21 May 2019
- Executive – 18 June 2019

The meeting agreed to exclude the press and public.

The meeting ended at 12.35.

Leaders' Committee

NHS Collaboration

Item no: 4

Report by: Clive Grimshaw **Job title:** Strategic Lead for Health and Social Care
Date: 8th October 2019
Contact Officer: Clive Grimshaw
Telephone: 020 7934 9830 **Email:** Clive.grimshaw@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary	This report updates the Leaders' Committee on previously reported discussions in respect of the potential for future pan-London collaboration with NHS. It seeks guidance on the how to respond to the opportunity for closer collaboration and influence across the whole health and care system; and further seeks agreement that London Councils advance senior member and officer level discussions with the intention of fully scoping the development of a new and deeper model for collaboration.
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Recommendations	<p>Leaders' Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Consider and comment on the potential to accelerate improvements in health and care system through closer collaboration with the NHS in London.2. Note the plans for London Councils to take forward senior level member and officer exploration to fully scope the potential for closer collaboration and influence across the London health and care system with the possibility of reporting more detailed options for London boroughs to engage in longer term collaboration before the new year.
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NHS Collaboration

Context

1. This paper reports on the progress of previously reported discussions with the NHS on the potential to improve health and care services in London through faster integration and increased local leadership. Developments during the year and a proactive approach by NHS London as it prepares to implement its Long Term Plan under new leadership suggest that more lasting collaboration might be built into these plans. These discussions have included senior level member engagement – five Leaders who, on a cross party basis, serve on the London Health Board – with the Directors of NHS England (London) as well as senior officer discussions.
2. This report seeks guidance from Leaders' Committee on how to explore the potential for pan-London arrangements for greater local leadership of health and care. A concerted effort to take a comprehensive approach to borough leadership of integration could create significant opportunities within the context of the Long Term Plan to influence the improvement of health provision in London, including how to maximise investment of new funding for primary and community care, for example.
3. It is proposed that Member and officer level discussions move to more detailed exploration to flesh out arrangement for closer joint working at borough, ICS and pan-London levels, which would be brought back to members in due course. Subject to such an arrangement setting out a clear case for the added value to local government, a further discussion will be necessary in respect of London boroughs' collective resource to deliver any commitments.

Introduction

4. Since the arrival of Sir David Sloman as the new London Regional Director for NHS England and Improvement in February 2019, London Councils members and officers, as well as the CELC Lead Advisor for Health, have engaged senior NHS and GLA partners in informal discussions about the potential for a renewed collaboration, which would build on London's progress as a devolution area and reinvigorate and refocus ambitions from any future partnership. Those discussions have focused on tackling issues which a number of boroughs have already identified as key to accelerating the improvement of health and care in

London, and have sought to clarify the appetite for a more ambitious collaboration, with an emphasis on the need to be:

- 1) clear about how each partner benefits from partnership working at the London level; and
 - 2) reach some realistic conclusions concerning the obligations on partners to deliver more than “business as usual”, so genuinely achieving more than through current collaboration in different boroughs.
5. On 19 March Leaders’ Committee received a report summarising the key aspects of the NHS Long Term Plan and, in that context and against the backdrop of London having become a health and care devolution area, the potential for a renewed collaboration arrangements with partners in the NHS and GLA as they appeared to be emerging from officer level discussions.
6. Since March, the Leaders that represent London Councils on the London Health Board have held discussions with the Regional Director for the NHS in London and are due to meet again in the near future. This has built on senior level discussions involving senior London Councils’ officers and the CELC Lead Advisor for Health with NHS London Region and GLA and PHE to take forward more detailed consideration of the matters.
7. The aspiration in these discussions has been to create a better health and care system for London and to do so more rapidly than would otherwise be possible. Some of the benefits that it is hoped that could be achieved through better ways of working together include:
- Seeking to renew London’s GP and primary care facilities to help bring them into the 21st century, and to end the use of inaccessible converted buildings.
 - Promoting primary care services that involve a much wider group of professionals, connected up with public health and local government care services, all in one place.
 - Seeking significant reductions in demand for hospital A&E and outpatient services and focusing the spending of health funds where they can help deliver the best health care by intervening earlier.
 - Care services crossing institutional boundaries without friction to help Londoners get the care they need, rather than the care that is easiest to provide.

- Care packages for those with multiple conditions that will seamlessly combine services from local government, the NHS and other public or voluntary sector providers in a manner that best suits the individual.
- Agreeing new payment systems and a wider financial regime which will no longer obstruct designing the best care.
- Information management will ensure the seamless connection of data on individual needs, service offers and the best medical evidence on care pathways.

Progress of London level discussions

8. Since Leaders' Committee in March, a range of discussions have occurred relating to the possibility of more intense collaboration with the NHS, including –
 - 8 July – London Councils' London Health Board representatives for London Councils met with Sir David Sloman, Vin Dawakar and Andrew Eyers.
 - 9 July – Leaders' Congress with the Mayor.
 - 10 July – the London Health Board, including an update on the development of a partnership vision for London.
9. The meeting between London Councils Leaders on the LHB and Sir David Sloman produced positive results and support for exploration of the potential to improve outcomes and support partners core goals through more ambitious collaboration. There was a positive discussion on the merits of the Lambeth approach within the South East London ICS. It was agreed that the following issues deserved further exploration:
 - Explore opportunities for estates – especially the smaller scale primary and community estate – from devolution and from further agreements with NHS
 - Explore opportunities from data sharing and digital action especially data on “frequent flyers” and how this might be brought together.
 - Explore new approaches to governance and, specifically, identifying what actions can be taken at borough level on GP/primary commissioning and estates
 - Provide a map of the delivery and governance models on offer showing what it would take for a borough to be empowered to opt for the models across the spectrum – especially Lambeth and Croydon examples, but across the whole spectrum as well.
 - Confirm exactly what powers could be available at borough level

- Clarify the governance and democratic engagement options at STP/ICS scale
- Clarify mitigation plans for the GP shortage in London.

10. At the meeting of the London Health Board on 10 July, the Board discussed the work to develop a Health and Care Vision for London. The Health Vision for London, published at the London Health Conference on 2nd October, describes the outlines of partnership working that London would need in order to deliver the aspirations of the Vision; including quicker and deeper integration of health and care.

11. Since July, senior officer discussions have continued on a regular basis to explore the potential benefits of deeper collaboration and to clarify the requirements for success. These discussions have increasingly focused on three areas of joint work –

- integrated delivery of out of hospital care services led at borough level;
- modernisation of health and care estates; and
- the use of digital and information technology to enhance services across health and care.

12. During these discussions, the potential for greater formal involvement and influence of local government in NHS decision making at borough ICS and pan-London levels appears to be emerging as a live issue.

13. Discussions have reinforced awareness that the success of the NHS Long Term Plan is to a large degree dependent on collaboration with local government. Equally, local government care services are hugely influenced by the quality of their interaction with NHS services.

14. In particular it is clear from the Long Term Plan that the NHS recognises the critical role local government has to play in:

- shifting the emphasis of health and care towards earlier intervention and out of hospital care;
- breaking down the barriers between health and care services through new budget pooling and joint/single commissioning arrangements; and
- returning the health system to a long-term sustainable financial footing.

15. Across London, the more advanced models of integrated health and care are those with a central role for the council in this work. However, experience is mixed and variable, so clarifying firmer options for borough led health and care systems that could be adopted in any London borough would help provide a basis for councils to accelerate models of integrated care through new democratically led partnerships. Deeper collaboration at the London level, as well as across boroughs and sub regions, could improve councils' collective and individual influence on Long Term Plan investment, notably significant amounts of additional funding available for primary and out of hospital care.

Issues for Consideration

16. The political and officer discussions have now reached the point where the next step would be to scope out the requirements for ensuring that any closer collaboration would produce greater improvements in health and care services for Londoners based on genuine local government influence on the strategy of the whole health and care system.

17. Scoping the implementation requirements for a new relationship with the NHS will involve challenges, including to ensure greater influence in joint decisions where appropriate. This in turn will depend on London local government ensuring that it is equipped to better co-ordinate between boroughs. Notwithstanding the fact that well-developed pan-London officer networks currently exist for the purpose of pan-London working, including a Chief Executive led group bringing together Directors of Adult Social Care, Directors of Public Health, Treasurers, Directors of Children's Services and London Councils, those arrangements would undoubtedly need to expand and deepen across all London boroughs under a more stretching model of future collaboration.

18. The next steps will include scoping out the requirements for closer collaboration, to inform further discussion on common aspirations between London council leaders on the LHB and Sir David Sloman. It is anticipated that more detailed options for joint working may emerge before the new year.

Recommendations

Leaders' Committee is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the potential to accelerate improvements in health and care system through closer collaboration with the NHS in London.
- Note the plans for London Councils to take forward senior level member and officer exploration to fully scope the potential for closer collaboration and influence across the London health and care system with the possibility of reporting more detailed options for London boroughs to engage in longer term collaboration before the new year.

Financial Implications for London Councils

None

Legal Implications for London Councils

None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

None

Leaders' Committee

Children's Services - Finance Pressures and Tackling County Lines

Item no: 5

Report by: Caroline Dawes & Clive Grimshaw **Job title:** Head of Children's Services & Strategic Lead for Health and Social Care

Date: 8th October 2019

Contact Officer: Caroline Dawes

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Summary

This report updates Leaders' Committee on

- 1) the findings of research into demand and spending in Children's Social Care (CSC) and for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in London by ISOS Partnership, commissioned by London Councils. The research includes compelling evidence on the key drivers of spend in children's services, what is working well in some areas to mitigate this pressure and what we can do locally, regionally and nationally to help ease the pressure facing Children's Services
- 2) Research into public awareness of criminal exploitation of young Londoners by County Lines gangs and proposals emerging from a pan-London County Lines Summit held on 11 September.

This report to Leaders' Committee sets out the recommendations and proposed next steps from the report.

Recommendations

Leaders' Committee is asked to:

1. Note the findings of ISOS Partnership's report *Under pressure: an exploration of demand and spending in children's social care and for children with special educational needs in London*
2. Consider the policy, practice and lobbying recommendations emerging from the report and agree the three proposed areas for priority action set out in paragraph 18.
3. Note the findings of London Councils commissioned polling on County Lines and discussion at the Summit on 11 September, and consider and agree to the priority areas for action set out in paragraph 30.

Children's Services finance pressures

Introduction

1. Over the past three years London boroughs have reported a significant increase in costs in children's services, particularly in Children's Social Care (CSC) and for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
2. London Councils, working closely with the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) and Society of London Treasurers (SLT), undertook detailed surveys in both 2017 and 2018 to better understand the extent and potential causes of financial pressures across Children's Services. The analysis of these surveys shows that Children's Services across London are facing an unsustainable level of financial risk. In 2017/18 all but one council in London were in deficit on their high needs expenditure and all but six were in deficit on their children's social care expenditure. The total in-year shortfall in funding across both SEND and CSC in London came to £185 million in 2017/18. The findings of these surveys have been reported to Leaders' Committee and used as the basis for a substantial campaign for more investment directed at government.
3. In discussions with government officials and wider partners it became clear that London needed to strengthen its case for further investment in Children's Services ahead of the Spending Review by developing a more detailed understanding of what is driving up spend in London and what can help to reduce this pressure, including signposting good practice. This evidence would be important in demonstrating to government that London local government is working hard to make efficiencies and changes to practice to reduce budget pressure whilst maintaining good outcomes. Yet even with these efforts London's Children's Services are still facing considerable budget constraints.
4. Following discussions with Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, Treasurers and members, London Councils commissioned ISOS Partnership to undertake qualitative research on Children's Services finance pressures. The purpose of this research is to ascertain what is driving up spend across both CSC and SEND, explore how some local authorities have been able to mitigate or reduce pressures on budget and propose a number of key recommendations for boroughs, London Councils and national government to secure a more sustainable financial position for London's Children's Services going forward.

5. A report was taken to Leaders' Committee in February to update Leaders on this work and ensure they could feed into the ongoing work.
6. ISOS's final report, *Under pressure: an exploration of demand and spending in children's social care and for children with special educational needs in London*¹, was published on 26th June.

Findings

7. ISOS identified 14 boroughs to interview as part of the fieldwork for the qualitative research with 6 focused on CSC, 6 on SEND and 2 borough visits covering both areas. They looked at a number of different factors, including spend and demographics, to ensure they had a good spread of boroughs.
8. Through the interviews it emerged that there has been a dramatic and sustained rise in demand for SEND support, brought about by the very rapid increase in children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (35% over four years). In children's social care, the overspend stands at 9% in 2017-18, or £108 million. Increased complexity of need, workforce dynamics and competition within the market for places are leading to rapidly rising individual costs of care.

Factors which help to explain rising expenditure

System level changes and the broader funding and policy landscape

9. ISOS has identified a perfect storm of factors impacting on high needs budgets, which, if left unchecked, it claims could lead to expenditure spiralling out of control. Changes in the Children's and Families Act 2014 and the new Code of Practice extended responsibility for children and young people with SEND from ages 0 to 25; raised parental expectations and established parental preference as a key determinant in decisions about how and where a child or young person with SEND should be educated; and reinforced these decisions through a Tribunal system which routinely finds in favour of the parent. Additionally, accountability measures in the mainstream education system do not incentivise inclusion of the most vulnerable learners. This is leading to more movement of

¹ <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/children-and-young-people/under-pressure-children's-services-finances>

children and young people with SEND and other needs out of mainstream schools and into more expensive specialist and alternative forms of provision.

10. These legislative and policy changes for SEND provision come at a time when societal and demographic shifts are creating new cohorts of very vulnerable children, young people and families in need of support.
11. In CSC the impact of Ofsted inspection, changes in court expectations around permanency and specific unfunded pressures around support for care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seeking (UASC) young people have played a part in driving up costs. Despite this, many boroughs have been able to act decisively and effectively to reduce demand, both in terms of Looked After Children (LAC) and child protection. This has led to CSC expenditure growing more slowly in London than in other areas of the country.
12. However, spend is still growing despite success in controlling demand. This is because boroughs are operating in a market for places and professionals dominated by providers. For example, average costs for LAC in London have risen by 61% in four years. Further budget reductions to CSC and associated budgets could be devastating unless efforts are made to better manage the market. Areas of expenditure likely to be targeted in any more budget cuts are early help and preventative work, which could lead to rising demand and a downward spiral in outcomes. ISOS highlights that 'if expenditure on high needs is a 'perfect storm' then expenditure on CSC is a time-bomb, that the system can ill afford to ignore'.

The marketplace for providers and professionals

13. The market for more specialist provision in London has become extremely competitive with a paucity of places for children and young people with the most complex needs, which means that children often have to travel out of borough to access more costly places. Boroughs also reported a growing cohort of hard to place young people for whom there is not currently an adequate range of support options. These young people demonstrate a wide range of risk factors: edge of care, SEND, risk of exclusion and engagement in youth crime; yet services are not often joined up. Many local authorities are also dependent on relatively high-

cost agency staff due to issues with recruitment and retention of staff, which creates further budgetary pressure.

How local authorities can mitigate or reduce cost pressures

14. Having skilled commissioning teams in place provides greater opportunities to negotiate on price, shape the market and develop stronger relationships with providers. Strong collaboration between councils through well-developed sub-regional commissioning arrangements was considered to be essential to achieve better management of the market, greater economies of scale and improved quality of outcomes. There is strong qualitative evidence emerging from the report that putting in place good quality early intervention and preventative services, and joined up pathway planning, can have a positive impact in stemming the demand for more costly children's social care interventions. Using greater creativity at thresholds for care or for more specialist provision enables local authorities and their partners to develop good quality alternatives to highest cost placements, in SEND or children's social care.

Prioritisation of recommendations

15. ISOS identified a series of actions for national government, London Councils and individual local authorities to take forward in order to ensure that these vital services remain sustainable. The full list of recommendations is set out in Appendix 1.

16. The government has made recent announcements that address a number of the recommendations set out in the report. Notably:

- The Chancellor announced in the Spending Round 2019 on 4th September that the High Needs Block will grow by £700m by 2021/22. £1 billion of new grant funding was announced for adult and children's social care, to be distributed using the adult social care relative needs formula (of which London boroughs are estimated to receive £155 million).
- The Chancellor also confirmed that funding for the Troubled Families programme will continue, although has not yet confirmed how much will be available.
- The Department for Education announced on 6th September that it will be undertaking a review of how the SEND system has evolved since the

Children and Families Act 2014. This will include exploring the role of health care in SEND, as well as evidence on how the system can provide the highest quality support that enables children and young people to thrive and prepare for adulthood, including employment. Both of these areas have been identified by ISOS as weaknesses in the system.

17. The funding increase is particularly welcome, given the scale of the financial pressure currently facing both High Needs and CSC budgets. However, given the growing demand and uncertainty around long term funding allocations, it is vital that the sector retains focus on this area to drive down costs and improve outcomes. The recommendations in the ISOS report provide key actions on how we could do this.

18. London Councils officers have held discussions with Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members for Children's Services, including at a member event on 12th September at which there was widespread support for more collaborative efforts to improve children's services. The following areas for priority action have emerged from these discussions:

- Joint commissioning of placements for hard to place adolescents. ISOS highlighted that there is a pressing need to improve commissioning placements for the cohort of young people who are high cost but low incidence. There is a need to scope out whether this could be done sub-regionally or regionally, potentially building on a vehicle that has been agreed at London Councils' Executive on regional commissioning of secure accommodation. This work is currently being shaped by DCSs.
- Developing a workforce strategy
ISOS identified that current pressures on the children's workforce, particularly with social workers and education psychologists, are leading to a reliance on agency staff and subsequently driving up costs. Recruitment and retention are both issues for social work staff. One idea currently being explored is the option of setting up a social work academy for London local government. This could look to harness a wide range of experience and skills including via apprenticeships, returners and new graduates. This type of model could help to reduce vacancies and the sector's reliance on agency staff. Another option for collaboration in this

space to reduce spend would be to establish a London local government social worker agency.

- Contribution of health to EHCPs. ISOS recognised the variation in engagement of CCGs in SEND issues, particularly in contributing to EHCPs, despite legal requirements to do so. Health engagement is vital to help secure better outcomes for children and young people and reduce the pressure on local authority budgets. It is important to have a set of clear expectations about this role – this could be set out in a protocol for London, outlining London boroughs' minimum expectations of the NHS contribution and enabling London local government to better hold CCGs to account in this sphere.

19. London Councils is also exploring with boroughs how greater collaboration and efficiencies could be realised around SEN transport.

County Lines

Introduction

20. London continues to be the dominant urban source of county lines offending. Police leads estimates that there are between 1,200 and 1,500 lines operating nationally, with up to 30 young people involved in any one line. It is estimated that there are at least 283 lines originating in London.
21. Many of the young people exploited by County Lines criminal gangs are London children. Across London, boroughs have taken steps to better plan for and respond to knife crime and serious youth violence associated with, though not exclusively, drugs and gangs. However, there has been comparatively less focus given to what can be done to understand and safeguarding needs of young people involved.
22. The police, safeguarding experts and government have increasingly been prepared to challenge the drivers of the drugs trade, notably the use of drugs as a cause of the growth in County Lines. Specifically, Cressida Dick and the former Justice Secretary, the Rt Hon David Gauke, are on record in challenging the public about the impact their drug taking has on those who are caught up in the trade.
23. To support a better understanding of public understanding about the link between drug taking, County Lines and Modern Slavery, London Councils commissioned new research looking at public awareness of County Lines exploitation and

attitudes towards drug taking. The aim was to examine public knowledge of the use of exploitation through County Lines as a form of modern slavery: to both produce a benchmark of attitudes and test approaches to public messaging to raise awareness of the exploitation of young Londoners.

24. The interim research findings were presented to a London Councils County Lines Summit on 11 September, during which members and officers also heard from experts in the field of safeguarding adolescents and boroughs officers leading the collective Rescue and Response project, which aims to identify and support young people at risk of becoming, or already, involved in County Lines.

Research Findings

25. Key headlines from the research include –

- *Drug Use as a Crime* – Unsurprisingly, knife violence was consistently reported as the number issue. However, there was a variation between how big an issue drug usage was in London compared to the rest of the UK
- *The Damaging Impact of Drug Use* – Unsurprisingly, in testing attitudes of Londoners towards drug taking, research revealed a high level of negative opinion. Research also tested opinion towards whether drug users were aware of or cared about the damaging affects of the producing/supply, showing that the public thinks, among other findings, drug users are not aware of exploitation and violence that occurs in the production/ distribution process.

Surprisingly, there appears to be a dichotomy between the decision to take drugs and the likelihood of making ethical consumer choices.

Researches asked respondents about their drug use. 75% of those who had taken drugs in the last 12 months said they have stopped buying goods or services because they felt or suspected that they conduct their business in an unethical matter. This is notably higher than those who have never taken drugs – 53% said they have stopped buying goods or services for this reason.

- *Awareness of County Lines* – The research also sought to gain an understanding of how much the public understood about County Lines

and, related to this, Modern Slavery and found that there is a substantially different level of awareness between the two.

- *Changing Opinion* – Having been presented with information about Modern Slavery and County Lines, the largest shifts in opinion (statistically significant) have been around Londoners agreeing that drug users should take responsibility and in being more likely to encourage people stop taking drugs.
- *Tackling Demand for Drugs* – Research tested support for statements made by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the former Justice Secretary in relation drug taking and found that 80% support (50% strongly) the former Justice Secretary, the Rt Hon David Gauke's position that "People who snort cocaine at middle-class dinner parties should feel 'guilt and responsibility' for a surge in deaths on the streets."

Substantial numbers of Londoners felt that campaigns on raising the awareness of County Lines would be most effective if they focused on the impacts on children and young people being groomed by drug gangs and then exploited to transport and sell drugs (49%) and the criminal exploitation of children and young people (42%).

London Councils County Lines Summit

26. On 11 September, London Councils Executive Lead for Children's Services and Education led a pan-London County Lines Summit. Key issues highlighted by speakers included –

- Schools and other areas where young people gather or move through can be protective environments as well as places of risk. If we (as parents, for example) know where children are when they are out in the community, then so do people who would seek to groom young people for the purposes of criminal exploitation.
- The threshold for social care intervention is often becomes the centre of the debate between professionals. This can reveal that we, as a system, don't routinely assess the place where the young person is most at risk (e.g. the park or the alleyway).

- Furthermore, even if the threshold for intervention were met, is the system clear what the “offer” would be?
- The system also needs to keep in mind and be aware that children aren’t reporting incidents where they are victims of crime, so it won’t show up in our crime statistics, and therefore the official figures and reports don’t point towards the right places of risk of harm to young people. The question for councils and their partners is do we know where the places of risk are, are we checking those places, have we commissioned interventions and have we dealt with the risk?
- In terms of work between statutory partners, information and intelligence sharing remains problematic. The culture of joint working has improved, but systems don’t talk to each other.
- There remains significant number of children being taken out of London, including to University towns in the South East but also as far as Aberdeen. However, the mode of transport has shifted, and a lot more children being transported through coach routes and in hire cars rented, notably rented through airports.
- Need to better understand what we are trying to identify earlier (i.e. what are the signs of risk) so that the system is better able to stop young people being exploited.
- London needs an approach to the drug user and drug dealer, including working with the police, in order to tackle one of the factors driving the use of criminal exploitation in County Lines networks.

Conclusions

27. Research and the Summit have demonstrated that there is a significant lack of awareness of County Lines, despite substantial and widespread media coverage during recent months. This points towards the need to do more to raise awareness of the use of Modern Slavery within County Lines criminal exploitation. Furthermore, given the relatively big difference in relative level of concern about drug usage as a crime priority for London compared to knife violence, there appears to be little connection made being made between drug use, drug trafficking and gang related knife violence.
28. Linked to levels of awareness about County Lines, there were very significant differences in the extent to which people think that Modern Slavery or County Lines are problems in their local area, compared to being a problem in the UK or London more generally.

29. There appears to be a substantial level of support for action to raise awareness of County Lines and the impact on vulnerable young Londoners, including among schools, councils and London residents.
30. Therefore, based on research and discussion at the Summit, the following possible areas for action have been identified –
- Working with borough lead, produce a series of toolkits to support awareness raising among –
 - Members and officers in councils across London
 - Schools and school staff
 - London Residents
 - Working with the Metropolitan Police Service, convene a summit with transport company providers to highlight their role in helping tackle the availability of routes for County Lines and in identifying young people being exploited and explore the possibility of working with the transport sector to produce toolkit resources.
 - Develop a communications campaign to raise awareness of the exploitation of young Londoners in County Lines and the link between drug use, the affluent recreational drug user and violence and Modern Slavery.

Next steps

31. Taking forward the report recommendations will require concerted and collaborative action from senior leadership in local government. Specific joint activity is likely to require additional resource to support effective delivery. It will be important for London local government to engage at every level with the recommendations of this report.
32. With regard to finance issues specifically, following widespread engagement with the report recommendations London Councils aims to develop a plan in response to the ISOS report setting out which recommendations it intends to take forward with a clear timeline. Further updates will be provided to Leaders' Committee on this work.

Recommendations

Leaders' Committee is asked to:

1. Note the findings of ISOS Partnership's report *Under pressure: an exploration of demand and spending in children's social care and for children with special educational needs in London*
2. Consider the policy, practice and lobbying recommendations emerging from the report and agree the three proposed areas for priority action set out in paragraph 18.
3. Note the findings of London Councils commissioned polling on County Lines and discussion at the Summit on 11 September, and consider and agree to the priority areas for action set out in paragraph 30.

Financial Implications for London Councils

None

Legal Implications for London Councils

None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

None

Appendix 1: Recommendations from *Under pressure: an exploration of demand and spending in children's social care and for children with special educational needs in London*

Recommendations for London Councils to support greater collaboration between local authorities

1. Review the progress of sub-regional commissioning arrangements and share the learning between the different partnerships.
2. Work across London to better identify the 'hard to place' older age cohort of young people presenting as LAC or with complex SEND, who combine mental health and behavioural issues, and rapidly trial and evaluate initiatives for working with them.
3. Establish a Pan-London partnership for commissioning secure and semi-independent placements
4. Generate more efficiency out of the marketplace by collaborating on estimating demand for and jointly commissioning places for young people with high cost and low incidence needs.
5. Work more collaboratively post-16 to develop pathways to adulthood with post-16 providers and employers.
6. Develop a pan-London workforce strategy for social workers, educational psychologists and other key professionals to create a stronger pipeline, maximise opportunities for learning and career development and better manage the pressure exerted by the agency market. There is much potential for maximising the shared learning and recruitment opportunities if boroughs were to collaborate.
7. Support boroughs to develop consistent and evidence-based approaches to evaluating the impact of innovative ways of working and create opportunities to share the evidence of what works more widely.

Recommendations for National Government to address the system level changes and broader funding and policy landscape that have led to an increased spend

8. National government should urgently address the lack of funding for both CSC and SEND to ensure the sustainability of these vital services in the next Spending Review.
9. In making future funding decisions in the next Spending Review, national government should recognise that children's services operate within a complex eco-system and that significant and ongoing reductions in one area of local government and partner funding are likely to have knock-on implications in other areas.
10. DfE should review the impact of the Children's and Families Act 2014 on demand for EHCPs
11. DfE should address the perverse incentives in the system which make it cheaper and easier for a school to exclude a child than to make good quality preventative support available, in line with the proposals in the recent Timpson review.
12. The DfE should review the legislative underpinning and guidance for SEND Tribunals so that the true relative lifetime costs of different placement options are routinely taken into consideration and have significant weighting alongside the wishes of the parent and the needs of the child.
13. The DfE should relax the current restrictions around establishing new special schools and allow local authorities to create additional provision without having to enter into a free school competition.
14. To improve inclusivity in mainstream schools, the DfE should review the impact of Progress 8, attainment 8 and the narrowing of the curriculum at GCSE and develop ways of holding schools to account that better incentivise an inclusive approach to education.
15. The DfE, DH and local authorities should work together to clarify the specific responsibilities for CCGs in supporting and funding placements for looked after children and for those with EHCPs and use existing examples of good practice to promote the benefits of close joint working more widely to CCGs.
16. MHCLG should extend funding for early intervention for the Troubled Families programme beyond 2020. Without this funding much of the current early help offer would be unsustainable.

17. MHCLG should review the implementation of the new duty to prevent homelessness, introduced in April 2018, and assess whether there have been changes to support for families who would previously have been made intentionally homeless. MHCLG should also ensure councils can draw on adequate resources to fulfil their duties and address homelessness.
18. The Home Office should act to ensure that the national transfer scheme for UASC is operating as fairly and efficiently as possible so that London boroughs are not disproportionately burdened.
19. The Ministry of Justice should review grants given to local authorities for procuring secure accommodation for children and young people on remand to ensure that they are keeping pace with the increasing numbers, placement costs and duration of remand.

Recommendations for local authorities acting individually

20. Carry out more forensic analysis of the impact of creative solutions to address particular areas of cost or demand
21. Work to break down internal silos between different parts of local government so that decision-making maximises the cost benefits to local government as a whole, rather than one service at the expense of another.
22. Conduct more joint analysis, commissioning and pathway planning for those young people who straddle both the SEND and CSC cohorts.
23. Be open and proactive in drawing on good practice from elsewhere.
24. Focus on doing the basics, in terms of core SEND and CSC support and financial management, really well.

Leaders' Committee

Exiting the EU - Update on Local Engagement

Item no: 6

Report by: Doug Flight **Job title:** Strategic Policy Lead
Date: 8 October 2019
Contact Officer: Doug Flight
Telephone: 020 7934 9805 **Email:** doug.flight@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: This paper provides an update on preparatory activity at a local and pan-London level in relation to identifying opportunities and mitigating risks for London local government as a result of the UK's planned exit from the EU.

Recommendations: Leaders' Committee is asked to note this report

Exiting the EU- Update on Local Engagement

1. London Councils has been actively engaging with Government, the Mayor of London, the LGA and London public services to ensure that London's particular needs in relation to exiting the EU are heard. We have also continued to engage with boroughs, chief executives and relevant professional networks to support local preparatory activity and promote the exchange of local insights and practice.
2. There are two main strands of pan-London activity:
 - Contingency planning, which is being taken forward under the auspices of the statutory London Resilience Forum, at the request of Government.
 - The collation and exchange of information across London boroughs, supported by London Councils. This is part of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's information sharing network, to provide a mechanism that helps identify and escalate issues identified by London boroughs and to feed information back.
3. The Chair of London Councils attends meetings of MHCLG EU Exit Ministerial Delivery Board, chaired by the Secretary of State, and has used the opportunity to raise issues identified by boroughs.

Contingency Planning

4. Contingency preparations are being taken forward under the established London Resilience Forum (LRF), at the request of Government. Local authority input to this process is co-ordinated through the Local Authorities' Panel, which is chaired by John Barradell, Chief Executive of the City of London Corporation. The Panel has led on liaison with local authorities in relation to preparedness for the short-term resilience related impacts of a no deal situation.
5. Brexit contingency planning continues to be developed, under the oversight of the LRF's Brexit Contingency Planning Group, based on advice from Government. The Group is developing support materials which will set out potential impacts and responses to mitigate against any disruption in the following sectors:
 - Fuel
 - Food
 - Social Care (*With input from Directors of Adult Social Care and Children's Services*)
6. It is envisaged that a formal Strategic Co-ordination Group will be established in the run-up to 31st October 2019. At the request of the Mayor for London, this Group will be chaired on

behalf of the wider partnership in an independent capacity by John Barradell, and supplemented by Eleanor Kelly, chief executive, LB Southwark. A London borough chief executive will represent London local government in the meetings, acting as EU Exit Gold, following the model developed in March 2019. This will build resilience within the system and allow the scheduled Local Authority Gold to remain available to respond to any large-scale emergencies unrelated to EU Exit.

7. A regular rhythm of meetings, reporting and assessment activity will be put in place to support the Group's activity. It is anticipated that the Group will be supported by thematic groups ('Cells'), focussing on key areas of risk, including: Medicines and Health; Social Care; Fuel/Utilities; Business; Funders and the Voluntary Sector and Food.

Pan London Information Sharing

8. John O'Brien is one of nine local authority chief executives nationally who are working with the MHCLG as part of a national information sharing network to facilitate information flow between central government and local councils. The focus is on gathering and organising up-to-date intelligence and information on the issues of most concern across each region – then escalating emerging risks and threats to Government.
9. The network of Single Points of Contact (SPOCS), which we established in each London local authority earlier in the year, has evolved to be a network of Brexit lead officers - following the Secretary of State's formal request that authorities appoint a Brexit Lead Officer. Weekly reporting across the network resumed in September, to inform both the escalation of emerging issues to Government and the LRF's contingency planning work.
10. London Councils organised London local government participation in a range of national government workshops in recent months, including:
 - Two Local Economies' Resilience Workshops:
 - Analysis and Policy Levers. The workshop explored policy thinking around how to support local economies.
 - SME engagement.
 - A series of task and finish groups covering:
 - Transport and planning related to port disruption.
 - Business support.
 - Support for the EUSS.
 - Trading standards and port health.

- A London roundtable with Home Office officials to discuss the Settled Status Scheme.
 - Roundtables with officials wishing to discuss wider preparatory activity in London.
11. London Councils continues to support borough Heads of Communications in relation to communicating with the public on EU Exit issues, including settled status and has facilitated engagement between the network and the Home Office. This is being supported by further information, key lines and signposting to good practice.
12. Boroughs have received a fresh allocation of funding from MHCLG to support local preparatory activity. Brexit Lead Officers have indicated to London Councils that most boroughs are holding at least part of the funding in a ring-fenced reserve to be drawn down as issues arise in the run up to, and following, EU exit. In addition, funding has been directly applied to staffing and support costs in relation to resilience, communication and engagement with residents, customer contact centres and support for residents applying for settled status.

Ministerial Board

13. The Chair of London Councils is a member of the MHCLG EU Exit Ministerial Delivery Board. The Board is currently meeting on a monthly basis and also includes senior political representatives from the LGA, County Councils Network, District Councils Network, and the Core and Key Cities Groups. The Board's last meeting was on 3 September 2019 and it discussed matters arising from a series of updates including:
- The Settlement Scheme. Members raised the challenges that council face in supporting children in care and those that were vulnerable but below the threshold.
 - The UK Shared Prosperity Fund. London Councils' Chair suggested that broader skills funding should be included within the discussions which are now taking place on the replacement for EU Structural Funds, with consideration being given to maximise devolution to local government.
 - The Department for Education's plans to communicate with local authorities and Academy Chains about preparations within schools.
 - The Department for Transport's plans, including:
 - traffic management
 - work with ports

- Mobile customs points

14. The Chair is due to attend the next meeting of the Board on 9 October 2019.

Conclusion

15. It will be important that boroughs continue to plan and prepare for any anticipated place-based impacts and opportunities as a result of the UK exiting the EU. Borough's continued collaboration with the information sharing mechanisms that have been put in place by London Councils is appreciated and supports:

- contingency preparations.
- the identification and escalation of emerging pan-London issues.
- the exchange of practice across boroughs.

16. As noted above, it is anticipated that a formal Strategic Co-ordination Group will be established under the auspices of the London Resilience Forum, in the run-up to 31st October 2019.

17. Leaders' Committee is asked to note this report.

Financial implications for London Councils

No immediate implications.

Legal implications for London Councils

None

Equalities implications for London Councils

None

Leaders Committee

Annual Audit Report 2018/19

Item no: 7

Report by:	David Sanni	Job title:	Chief Accountant
Date:	8 October 2019		
Contact Officer:	David Sanni		
Telephone:	020 7934 9704	Email:	david.sanni@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary	This report presents the annual audit report issued by KPMG, London Councils' external auditor, following the completion of its audit of London Councils accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019. The Audit Committee considered the contents of the audit report at its meeting on 18 September 2019.
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Recommendations	The Leaders' Committee is asked to note the contents of the Annual Audit Report for 2018/19 which can be found at Appendix A.
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Annual Audit Report 2018/19

Background

1. At its meeting on 18 September 2019, London Councils' Audit Committee considered the annual audit report issued by KPMG following the completion of its audit of London Councils 2018/19 accounts. The audit report reflects the outcome of KPMG's audit of London Councils accounts for 2018/19. The accounts were approved by the Audit Committee on 18 September 2019 and KPMG issued unqualified audit opinions on all three committee accounts.
 2. The audit report will be posted on London Councils' Website (www.londoncouncils.gov.uk under the "About us" sub-category) and a link to the document sent to all members of the Leaders' Committee, the Transport and Environment Committee, the Grants Committee and borough Chief Executives.
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Financial Implications for London Councils

None

Legal Implications for London Councils

None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

None

Appendices

Appendix A – KPMG External Audit Report 2018/19

Background Papers

Annual Audit Report 2018/19 – Report to London Councils Audit Committee 18 September 2019; and
Final accounts working files 2018/19.



External Audit Report 2018/19

London Councils

September 2019

Content

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Important notice

1. Summary

2. Financial statements audit

Appendices

- 1 Materiality and reporting of audit differences
- 2 Audit differences
- 3 Audit independence
- 4 Audit quality framework

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This report is addressed to London Councils and has been prepared for the sole use of London Councils. We take no responsibility to any member of staff acting in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

External auditors do not act as a substitute for the audited body's own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Neil Hewitson, the engagement lead to London Councils, who will try to resolve your complaint..

Important notice

Circulation of this report is restricted. The content of this report is based solely on the procedures necessary for our audit. This report is addressed to London Councils and has been prepared for your use only. We accept no responsibility towards any member of staff acting on their own, or to any third parties.

External auditors do not act as a substitute for London Councils' own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Basis of preparation: This Report is made to London Councils' Audit Committee in order to communicate matters as required by International Audit Standards (ISAs) (UK and Ireland) and other matters coming to our attention during our audit work on the Joint Committee, Transport and Environment Committee and Grants Committee financial statements that we consider might be of interest and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone (beyond that which we may have as auditors) for this Report or for the opinions we have formed in respect of this Report.

Limitations on work performed: This Report is separate from our audit opinion and does not provide an additional opinion on London Councils' financial statements nor does it add to or extend or alter our duties and responsibilities as auditors. We have not designed or performed procedures outside those required of us as auditors for the purpose of identifying or communicating any of the matters covered by this Report. The matters reported are based on the knowledge gained as a result of being your auditors. We have not verified the accuracy or completeness of any such information other than in connection with and to the extent required for the purposes of our audit.

Status of our audit: Our audit is not yet complete and matters communicated in this Report may change pending signature of our audit reports. We will provide an oral update on the status of our audit at the Audit Committee meeting. Aspects of our final closedown procedures including final quality review processes and receiving the management representation letters are still ongoing.

Financial statements audit – see section 2 for further details

Subject to the final closedown being satisfactorily completed we intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion on London Councils' Joint Committee, Transport and Environment Committee and Grants Committee financial statements, following the Audit Committee adopting them and receipt of the management representations letters.

We have completed our audit of the consolidated Joint Committee financial statements which comprises the Joint Committee, Transport and Environment Committee, Grants Committee and London Councils Limited financial statements, and the Transport and Environment Committee and Grants Committee financial statements. We have read the Narrative Report and reviewed the Annual Governance Statements (AGS). Our key findings are:

- There are no unadjusted audit differences.
- We agreed one audit adjustment relating to the net pension liability that was made following the McCloud and Sargeant Court ruling and minor presentational changes to all three financial statements with officers.
- We are not seeking any specific management representations beyond those considered as standard for any of the three Committees;
- We reviewed the Narrative Reports and Annual Governance Statements and have no matters to raise.

Other matters

ISA 260 requires us to communicate by exception 'audit matters of governance interest that arise from the audit of the financial statements' which include:

- Significant difficulties encountered during the audit;
- Significant matters arising from the audit that were discussed, or subject to correspondence with management;
- Other matters, if arising from the audit that, in the auditor's professional judgment, are significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process; and
- Matters specifically required by other auditing standards to be communicated to those charged with governance (e.g. significant deficiencies in internal control; issues relating to fraud, compliance with laws and regulations, subsequent events, non disclosure, related party, opening balances, etc.).

There are no other matters which we wish to draw to your attention in addition to those highlighted in this report or our previous reports relating to the audit of London Councils 2018/19 financial statements.

We have made no recommendations as a result of our 2018/19 work. This is similar to the 2017/18 audit.

Section Two

Financial statements audit

We audit your financial statements by undertaking the following:

Work Performed	Accounts production stage		
	Before	During	After
1. Business understanding: review your operations	✓	✓	–
2. Controls: assess the control framework	✓	–	–
3. Prepared by Client Request (PBC): issue our prepared by client request	✓	–	–
4. Accounting standards: agree the impact of any new accounting standards	✓	✓	–
5. Accounts production: review the accounts production process	✓	✓	✓
6. Testing: test and confirm material or significant balances and disclosures	–	✓	✓
7. Representations and opinions: seek and provide representations before issuing our opinions	✓	✓	✓

We have completed the first six stages and report our key findings below:

1. Business understanding	In our 2018/19 audit plan we assessed your operations to identify significant issues that might have a financial statements consequence. We confirmed this risk assessment as part of our audit work. We provide an update on each of the risks identified later in this section.
2. Assessment of the control environment	We assessed the effectiveness of your key financial system controls that prevent and detect material fraud and error. We found that the financial controls on which we seek to place reliance are operating effectively. We reviewed work undertaken by internal audit in accordance with ISA 610 and used the findings to inform our work.
3. Prepared by client request (PBC)	We produced the PBC to summarise the working papers and evidence we ask you to collate as part of the preparation of the financial statements. We discussed and tailored our request with the Chief Accountant and this was issued as a final document to the finance team. We are pleased to report that this has resulted in good-quality working papers with clear audit trails.
4. Accounting standards	We work with you to understand changes to accounting standards and other technical issues. For 2018/19 the key changes related to the implementation of IFRS 9 and 15. There were no issues arising from these changes that we need to report to you.

Section Two

Financial statements audit

5. Accounts production	We received complete draft financial statements for all three Committees on 15 July 2019. The accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures are in line with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19. We thank Finance for their cooperation throughout the visit which allowed the audit to progress and complete within the allocated timeframe.
6. Testing	We have summarised the findings from our testing of significant risks and areas of judgement in the financial statements on the following pages. During the audit we identified only minor presentational issues which have been adjusted.
7. Representations	You are required to provide us with representations on specific matters such as your going concern assertion and whether the transactions in the accounts are legal and unaffected by fraud. We provided a draft of this representation letter to the Chief Accountant on 6 September 2019. We draw attention to the requirement in our representation letter for you to confirm to us that you have disclosed all relevant related parties to us. We are not seeking any specific management representations beyond those considered as standard.

ISA 260 requires us to communicate to you by exception 'audit matters of governance interest that arise from the audit of the financial statements' which include:

- Significant difficulties encountered during the audit;
- Significant matters arising from the audit that were discussed, or subject to correspondence with Management;
- Other matters, if arising from the audit that, in the auditor's professional judgment, are significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process; and
- Matters specifically required by other auditing standards to be communicated to those charged with governance (e.g. significant deficiencies in internal control; issues relating to fraud, compliance with laws and regulations, subsequent events, non disclosure, related party, opening balances, public interest reporting, questions/objections, etc.).

There are no other matters which we wish to draw to your attention in addition to those highlighted in this report or our previous reports. To ensure that we provide a comprehensive summary of our work, we have over the next pages set out:

- The results of the procedures we performed over the annual IAS 19 valuation which was identified as a significant risk within our audit plan;
- The results of our procedures to review the required risks of the fraudulent risk of revenue recognition and management override of control; and
- Our view of the level of prudence applied to key balances in the financial statements.

Financial statements audit

SIGNIFICANT audit risk	Account balances effected	Summary of findings
All three Committees: Pension assets and liabilities	Net Pension Liability as at 31 March 2019 - Joint Committee: Pension assets £56.79 million PY £52.70 million Pension liability £83.42 million PY £80.72 million Net pension liability £26.63 million, PY £28.02 million	<p>The net pension liability represents a material element of the balance sheet. London Councils is an admitted body of London Pension Fund Authority which had its last triennial valuation at 31 March 2016. This forms the basis of the valuation as at 31 March 2019.</p> <p>The calculation of London Councils' pension liability relies on the actuary's methodology and uses financial and demographic assumptions such as the discount rate, inflation rates, mortality rates etc. These assumptions should reflect the profile of the entity's employees and should be based on appropriate data. For pension assets, the main assumptions relate to the rate of return of investments during the year. The basis of the assumptions is derived on a consistent basis year to year, updated to reflect changes.</p> <p>There is a risk that the assumptions and methodology used in the valuation of pension assets and liabilities are not reasonable. This could have a material impact to net pension liability accounted for.</p> <p>We evaluated the competency, objectivity and independence of Barnett Waddingham, your actuarial expert. We used our KPMG actuarial expert to review the appropriateness of the key assumptions made, compared them to expected ranges and found them to be appropriate. As part of our work we corresponded with the administering authority to gain comfort over the rate of return estimate used by the actuary (see below). We checked the disclosures in the financial statements were complete and supported by appropriate evidence.</p> <p>After London Councils had received their IAS 19 report from Barnett Waddingham that was used to prepare the draft financial statements, the Government Actuary Department reported its methodology to estimate the impact of the December 2018 Court of Appeal judgement in relation to the McCloud and Sargeant cases which related to age discrimination. In addition, on 27 June 2019 the Government was refused leave to appeal against this decision which meant that additional liabilities would exist. London Councils engaged Barnett Waddingham to estimate the impact. The outcome was an increase to the pension liability of £575K to the Consolidated Joint Committee accounts and smaller adjustments to the Transport and Environment Committee and Grants Committee. At the same time, Barnett Waddingham reviewed its estimate for the rate of return for the year based on year end figures by c.1% which increased pension assets overall by £425K.</p> <p>The financial statements for all three Committees were adjusted accordingly. Our review of the adjustments and assumptions underlying them indicated they were reasonable. We set out our view of the assumptions used in valuing pension assets and liabilities at page 9.</p>

Section Two

Financial statements audit

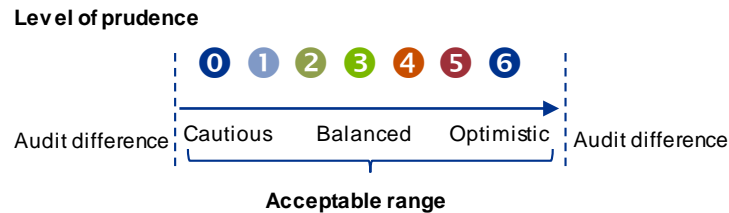
Risks that ISAs require us to assess in all cases	Why	Our findings from the audit
All three Committees Fraud risk from revenue recognition	<p>Professional standards require us to make a rebuttable presumption that the fraud risk from revenue recognition is a significant risk.</p> <p>We do not consider this to be a significant risk for any of the committee's income as there is unlikely to be an incentive to fraudulently recognise revenue.</p>	There are no matters arising from this work that we need to bring to your attention.
All three Committees Fraud risk from management override of controls	<p>Management is typically in a powerful position to perpetrate fraud owing to its ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Our audit methodology incorporates the risk of management override as a default significant risk.</p> <p>In line with our methodology, we carry out appropriate controls testing and substantive procedures, including over journal entries, accounting estimates and significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business, or are otherwise unusual.</p> <p>We have not identified any specific additional risks of management override relating to this audit.</p>	There are no matters arising from this work that we need to bring to your attention.

Section Two

Financial statements audit

Judgements in your financial statements

We consider the level of prudence in key judgements in your financial statements. We summarise our view below using the following scale:



Assessment of subjective areas				
Asset / liability class	CY	PY	Balance (£m)	KPMG comment
Accruals	3	3	£1.97M PY £1.70M	<p>For each Committee, we agreed a sample of the accruals recorded in the financial statements to supporting documentation, including confirmation of post-year end payment. We reviewed a sample of post-year end payments to check the cut-off of expenditure recorded in the period and ensured there are no unrecorded liabilities at the year end.</p> <p>We believe London Councils assessment for all three Committees represent a balanced view of future payables.</p>
Pensions liability	3	4	£26.63M PY £28.02M	<p>We used our KPMG actuarial expert to review the key actuarial assumptions of discount rate, CPI inflation, salary increases and mortality rates used in the IAS 19 valuation and concluded they are reasonable and were within our expected range of values. In addition we reviewed the rate of return used by Barnet Waddingham, as revised in its updated July 2019 report, and found it to be reasonable.</p> <p>We believe London Councils assumptions for all three Committees represent a balanced view.</p> <p>Last year it was noted there was c.1% difference in the estimated rate of return used and the actual year end position and we assessed the liability as slightly optimistic but within our acceptable range.</p>

Section Two

Financial statements audit

Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement

We reviewed the Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement and confirmed that they are consistent with the financial statements and our understanding of the entity.

Audit fees

Our fee for the audit was £37,100 excluding VAT (£35,100 excluding VAT in 2017/18). This fee was in line with that highlighted in our audit plan approved by the Audit Committee in March 2019. Our fee for London Councils Limited was £900 excluding VAT (£900 excluding VAT in 2017/18).

We have not performed any non-audit work during the year or in 2017/18.

Materiality and reporting of audit differences

The assessment of what is material is a matter of professional judgment and includes consideration of three aspects:

- Material errors by **value** are those which are simply of significant numerical size to distort the reader's perception of the financial statements. Our assessment of the threshold for this depends upon the size of key figures in the financial statements, as well as other factors such as the level of public interest in the financial statements;
- Errors which are material by **nature** may not be large in value, but may concern accounting disclosures of key importance and sensitivity, for example the salaries of senior staff; and
- Errors that are material by **context** are those that would alter key figures in the financial statements from one result to another – for example, errors that change successful performance against a target to failure.

Materiality for the Joint Committee consolidated financial statements was set at £1,250K which equates to c.2% of gross expenditure. For the Joint Committee core statements we have used £200K for materiality.

Materiality for the Transport and Environment Committee financial statements was set at £900K which equates to c.2% of gross expenditure.

Materiality for the Grants Committee financial statements was set at £150K which equates to c.2% of gross expenditure.

We design our procedures to detect errors in specific accounts at a lower level of precision.

Reporting to Audit Committee

Whilst our audit procedures are designed to identify misstatements which are material to our opinion on the financial statements as a whole, we nevertheless report to the Audit Committee any misstatements of lesser amounts to the extent that these are identified by our audit work. Under *ISA 260*, we are obliged to report omissions or misstatements other than those which are 'clearly trivial' to those charged with governance. *ISA 260* defines 'clearly trivial' as matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any quantitative or qualitative criteria. *ISA 450* requires us to request that uncorrected misstatements are corrected.

In the context of London Councils, an individual difference could normally be considered to be clearly trivial if it is less than £62,500 for the Joint Committee overall with £10,000 for its core activities, £45,000 for the Transport and Environment Committee and £7,500 for the Grants Committee.

Where management have corrected material misstatements identified during the course of the audit, we will consider whether those corrections should be communicated to the Audit Committee to assist it in fulfilling its governance responsibilities.

Audit differences

Unadjusted audit differences

Under UK auditing standards (ISA (UK&I) 260) we are required to provide the Audit Committee with a summary of unadjusted audit differences (including disclosure misstatements) identified during the course of our audit, other than those which are 'clearly trivial', which are not reflected in the financial statements. We are pleased to report that there are no unadjusted audit differences.

Adjusted audit differences

To assist the Audit Committee in fulfilling its governance responsibilities we present below a summary of non-trivial adjusted audit differences identified during our audit. It is noted that the three adjustments below arose as a result of the Government being refused leave to appeal in the McCloud and Sargeant cases in June 2019 which meant additional liabilities would exist and should be included in the financial statements.

Adjusted audit differences (£'000) – Consolidated Joint Committee				
No.	Detail	CIES Dr/(cr)	BS Dr/(cr)	Comments
1	Dr Cost of Services	£575		Adjustment to reflect the impact of the McCloud and Sargeant Court ruling and to update the rate of return used using latest available information.
	Cr Other Comprehensive Income and expenditure – actuarial gains		£425	
	Cr Net pension liability		£150	
Total		£575	£575	

Adjusted audit differences (£'000) – Transport and Environment Committee				
No.	Detail	CIES Dr/(cr)	BS Dr/(cr)	Comments
1	Dr Cost of Services	£176		Adjustment to reflect the impact of the McCloud and Sargeant Court ruling and to update the rate of return used using latest available information.
	Cr Other Comprehensive Income and expenditure – actuarial gains		£129	
	Cr Net pension liability		£47	
Total		£176	£176	

Appendix 2

Audit differences

Adjusted audit differences (Continued)

Adjusted audit differences (£'000) – Grants Committee				
No.	Detail	CIES Dr/(cr)	BS Dr/(cr)	Comments
1	Dr Cost of Services	£22		Adjustment to reflect the impact of the McCloud and Sargeant Court ruling and to update the rate of return used using latest available information.
	Cr Other Comprehensive Income and expenditure – actuarial gains		£17	
	Cr Net pension liability		£5	
Total		£22	£22	

There were minor adjustments to the notes to the financial statements, none of which need drawing to the Audit Committee's attention.

Audit independence

ASSESSMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVITY AND INDEPENDENCE AS AUDITOR OF LONDON COUNCILS

Professional ethical standards require us to provide to you at the conclusion of the audit a written disclosure of relationships (including the provision of non-audit services) that bear on KPMG LLP's objectivity and independence, the threats to KPMG LLP's independence that these create, any safeguards that have been put in place and why they address such threats, together with any other information necessary to enable KPMG LLP's objectivity and independence to be assessed.

In considering issues of independence and objectivity we consider relevant professional, regulatory and legal requirements and guidance, including the provisions of the Code of Audit Practice, the requirements of the FRC Ethical Standard and the requirements of Auditor Guidance Note 1 - General Guidance Supporting Local Audit (AGN01) issued by the National Audit Office ('NAO') on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

This Statement is intended to comply with this requirement and facilitate a subsequent discussion with you on audit independence and addresses: general procedures to safeguard independence and objectivity; breaches of applicable ethical standards; independence and objectivity considerations relating to the provision of non-audit services; and independence and objectivity considerations relating to other matters.

General procedures to safeguard independence and objectivity

KPMG LLP is committed to being and being seen to be independent. As part of our ethics and independence policies, all KPMG LLP partners, Audit Directors and staff annually confirm their compliance with our ethics and independence policies and procedures. Our ethics and independence policies and procedures are fully consistent with the requirements of the FRC Ethical Standard. As a result we have underlying safeguards in place to maintain independence through: instilling professional values; communications; internal accountability; risk management; and independent reviews.

We are satisfied that our general procedures support our independence and objectivity.

Independence and objectivity considerations relating to other matters

There are no other matters that, in our professional judgment, bear on our independence which need to be disclosed to the Audit Committee.

Confirmation of audit independence

We confirm that as of the date of this report, in our professional judgment, KPMG LLP is independent within the meaning of regulatory and professional requirements and the objectivity of the Audit Director and audit staff is not impaired.

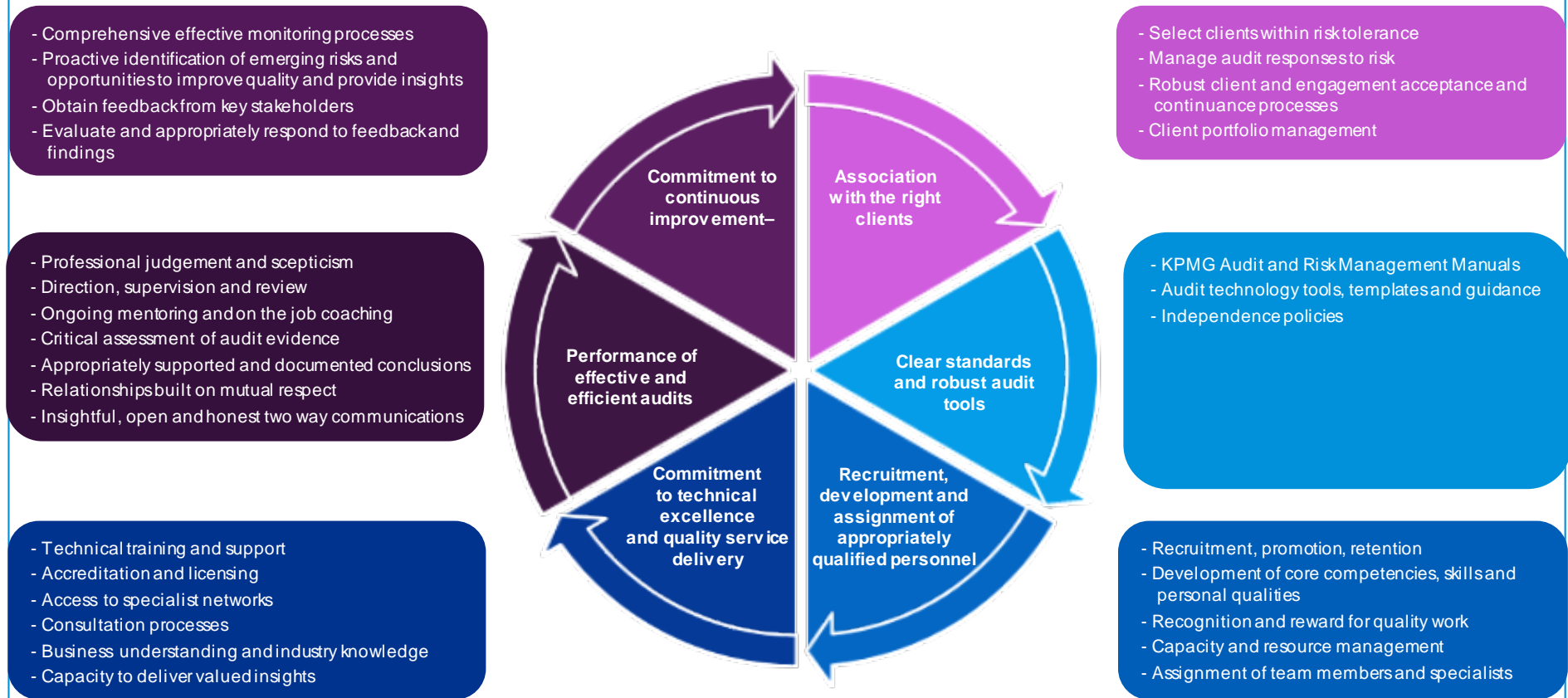
This report is intended solely for the information of the Audit Committee of London Councils and should not be used for any other purposes.

We would be very happy to discuss the matters identified above (or any other matters relating to our objectivity and independence) should you wish to do so.

KPMG LLP

Audit quality framework

Audit quality is at the core of everything we do at KPMG and we believe that it is not just about reaching the right opinion, but how we reach that opinion. To ensure that every partner and employee concentrates on the fundamental skills and behaviours required to deliver an appropriate and independent opinion, we have developed our global Audit Quality Framework





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Leaders' Committee

Extending the London HR Metrics Service to other regions

Item no: 8

Report by:	Steve Davies	Job title:	Head of Regional Employers' Organisation
Date:	8th October 2019		
Contact Officer:	Steve Davies		
Telephone:	020 7934 9963	Email:	Steve.davies@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary

The London Councils HR Metrics Service is a benchmarking club made up of all 33 London local authorities. It captures key human resources (HR) data on behalf of all London boroughs and the City of London Corporation. The service is funded by means of a specific subscription paid annually by each of the HR Directors under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) arrangement and this covers the cost of London Councils staff running the HR Metrics service and also the contract costs for an external sub-contractor providing an online graphical data sharing platform.

This report proposes expansion of the SLA and subscription service to local authorities outside London via regional employers, specifically at present the South East Employers organisation. This would have the benefit of expanding the benchmark pool of HR data allowing comparison with other authorities outside of London and vice-versa.

Recommendations

Leaders' Committee is asked to approve expansion of the HR Metrics Service outside of London, specifically:

- to extend the HR metrics and data sharing arrangements to authorities outside of London; and
- to permit the setting up of Service Level Agreement and appropriate subscription arrangements by London Councils with other regions (e.g. the South East Employers organisation) and local authorities.

Extending the London HR Metrics Service to other regions

Background

1. London Councils has managed the HR Metrics Service for the London boroughs and the City of London Corporation on a Service Level Agreement (SLA) and subscription basis since January 2015. The SLA covers the cost of the London Councils staff providing the service as well as the sub-contractor providing the web online portal platform. It is part of the London Regional Employers Service. All 33 London authorities are part of the service and benchmarking club.
2. The HR Metrics Service conducts a range of surveys with the subscribing boroughs and the City to deliver workforce related benchmarking and analysis, through which boroughs can consider relative data against other London local authorities. Beyond comparison across a range of HR measures, it supports the Heads of HR Network to work collaboratively to develop and progress best practice and tackle new challenges that require data insights.
3. Working closely with the London Councils Workforce Planning Network the service reports regularly to the London Councils Heads of HR network and is overseen by a Governance Board that includes two London Heads of HR, the Head of the London Regional Employers Organisation and an external adviser from the Institute of Employment Studies.
4. The service currently delivers 11 core surveys, each of which has a high response rate, highlighting the value given to the work by the participating authorities (the full list can be found at Appendix 1). Additionally, user surveys have given the service high overall satisfaction scores of 92% and the service recently won the Public Service People Managers Award 2019 for partnership working.
5. The service has a contract with a sub-contractor – Infinistats - that delivers an online web portal platform to deliver most of the surveys. This online tool enables the boroughs/City to enter their own data and access a range of outputs, including scorecards and detailed benchmarking reports, which are tailored to each individual authority. The surveys are continually developed and refined in response to new requirements for data collection as they arise.
6. The data and comparative analysis provided by the service has been used to aid decision making during a period of significant organisational change and transformation within London authorities.

Request from other regions to join the service

7. The South East Employers Organisation has recently approached the Head of London Regional Employers about utilising the HR Metrics service to provide survey and benchmarking data and analytics to local authorities within their region. They estimate that potentially 30 authorities, likely to comprise 3 counties, 21 unitaries and 6 districts, would be interested in contributing to and utilising the service.
8. Initial discussions have explored offering the HR Metrics service to the South East Employers' (SEE) local authorities on an SLA and subscription basis similar to the London authorities. SEE have their own HR metrics analysts so would not require the London HR Metrics service to undertake the day to day work, but would want to utilise the Infinistats online platform, the survey templates and London community comparator information. The subscription rates charged will be between £800 and £2,000 based on the type of authority i.e. county council, unitary or district. There would be required some initial configuration work on the infinistats platform at a cost of £5,750, which will be fully covered by SEE. The resultant costs associated with Infinistats consultants' ongoing support maintenance and development will be met by 70% of the subscription being passed directly to infinistats with no additional costs being charged to London Councils. 30% of the fee will be retained by London Councils' to fully cover support arrangements; ongoing survey development; and testing of Infinistats products together with contract administration, use of the survey templates and access to the London community benchmark information.
9. Other regional employers have also expressed an interest in using the service and are awaiting the outcome of the proposed South East Employers Organisation arrangements.
10. It should also be noted that currently the London Regional Employers' Organisation charges subscriptions and fees for the Greater London Provincial Council job evaluation scheme, including training and undertaking job evaluation, and that it has an income target incorporated into the base budget which helps toward covering the London Regional Employers' staffing costs, including an apprentice.

Relevant powers to deliver and expand the service – Legal advice

11. The Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department have advised that a decision to expand an existing service which is provided to the participating local authorities to other public authorities on a charging basis requires Member authority. "Public authorities" are specifically defined for the purposes of the provision of goods and services in accordance with section 1 of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, the powers being

exercised here to achieve best value for the purposes of the joint exercise of the functions referred to in Schedule 2 of London Councils Governing Agreement.

12. There are specific delegations under the Governing Agreement relating to London Councils role in jointly representing the 33 London local authorities as an employer. It may (para 1 (vi), Part 2, Schedule 2) also act for and on behalf of the London local authorities in their role as employers through the provision and development of a range of services including, in particular, research and information on human resources, development and funding.
13. There are also powers for charging for discretionary services in the Local Government Act 2003, so long as the service recipient agrees to receive the service and to pay for the services.
14. London Councils' Governing Agreement includes the following relevant powers to deliver this service:
 - To provide services to the London local authorities including the dissemination of information on local government and on other relevant issues;
 - To exchange information and opinion with other organisations and to provide a human resource service to subscribers and other contracted bodies;
 - To consider any other appropriate matters referred to it by the London local authorities relating to the terms and conditions of employment of employees;
 - To do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, any of the functions delegated to the joint committee;
 - To enter into contracts for services in relation to any aspect of the functions and to enter into service level agreements with any of the London local authorities or any other body in relation thereto; and
 - To implement in respect of the functions delegated any duties or powers arising under the Best Value regime under the Local Government Act 1999 which requires the authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Proposal

15. It is proposed to extend the offer of the London HR Metrics service to other local authorities on a Service Level Agreement and subscription basis. The subscription would be configured to cover the costs of the HR Metrics sub-contractor providing for the greater volume of services through the online platform (currently the sub-contractor is Infinistats) for ongoing support/ maintenance/ development of the online platform; the London Councils support arrangements, ongoing survey development and testing of Infinistats products together with contract administration, use of the survey templates and access to the London community benchmark information.
16. The benefits in doing this for the London boroughs and the City are in having a wider benchmarking and comparison pooling arrangement which includes local authorities outside of London. Many outer London boroughs consider their HR data comparators (including for pay information) are local authorities outside London, rather than inner London boroughs. Further, there are potential additional income/ finance benefits that will help with Regional Employers Organisation staffing costs including the costs of an apprentice.

Recommendation

17. Leaders' Committee is asked to approve expansion of the HR Metrics Service outside of London, specifically:
- to extend the HR metrics and data sharing arrangements to authorities outside of London; and
 - to permit the setting up of Service Level Agreement and appropriate subscription arrangements by London Councils with other regions (e.g. the South East Employers organisation) and local authorities.

Equalities: There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Financial: Any additional costs, as outlined in paragraph 8, will be fully covered by additional subscriptions received therefore extending the service will be at a nil cost to London Councils. The change to the Infinistats contract, as a result of the proposed expansion, will be conducted in line with London Councils procurement policies and procedures.

Legal: Comments incorporated in the section 'Relevant powers to deliver and expand the service', paragraphs 11 to 14.

Appendix 1 - Core Surveys (and participation levels) delivered in 2018/19

Survey Title	Summary	No of boroughs that took part
Chief Officer Pay & Benefits	Pay and Benefits of Chief Officers by occupational category and level	33
Pay & Benefits (inc perm CSW pay ranges)	Pay ranges, benefits and recruitment/retention difficulty for 40 key job families	32
Human Capital Metrics	Staff No., diversity profiles, sickness absence, length of service etc	33
Gender Pay Gap	Benchmarking of GPG data	33
Children Social Work Agency Workers Pay Rates	CSW agency rates being paid by LBs, categorised by job-type/level.	31
Analysis of DfE CSW Workforce data	CSW numbers, turnover, agency use etc.	33
Adult Social Work Agency Workers Pay Rates	ASW agency rates being paid by LBs, categorised by job-type/level	30
Trade Union Membership and Facilities Time	TU Membership + Collection of the data required by the Localism Act Transparency Regulations (2014 guidance) on facility time.	27
HR Outputs	HR Casework, recruitment, training course attendance data, appraisals etc.	31
HR Resources	HR team FTEs. Also round-up of HR/Payroll systems in use and other computer applications and external providers.	25
Terms and Conditions	Terms and Conditions in place and changes being considered.	31

Leaders' Committee

Pledges to Londoners - Update on Progress with Funding London

Item no: 9

Report by: Paul Honeyben **Job title:** Strategic Lead: Finance and Improvement
Date: 8 October 2019
Contact Officer: Paul Honeyben
Telephone: 020 7934 9748 **Email:** Paul.Honeyben@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: This paper provides an update on the "Funding London" pledges agreed by Leaders' Committee as part of its wider Pledges to Londoners.

Recommendations: Leaders' Committee is asked to note and comment on this report.

Pledges to Londoners – Update on Funding London

Introduction

1. As part of the Pledges to Londoners, London boroughs have committed to work together to ensure that each London borough is better resourced across the full range of public services; to ensure that London receives its fair share of funding; to win more freedom for Londoners to decide how they raise funds for services and to guarantee continuous efficiency improvements in how Londoners' money is spent.
2. The Pledges previously adopted by Leaders within the Funding London policy area were as follows:
 - Lobby to deliver an end to austerity in local government and try and ensure that no London borough loses from the Spending Review 2019.
 - Highlight the vital role of cities in funding UK public services by driving economic growth, where London contributes £32.5 billion in taxes after funding its own public services.
 - Press for government recognition of the unique cost demands on Britain's cities which in London include 34% of all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, two thirds of all people in temporary accommodation and £54 million on those with no recourse to public funds.
 - Press for London's fair share of the Fair Funding Review and recognition that dramatic increases in the costs of supporting SEND are creating unsustainable deficits across local authorities.
 - Lobby for the extension of business rates retention and its conversion into a genuinely devolved tax.
 - Argue for greater fiscal devolution to London, in line with the London Finance Commission, so that the city can fund the foundations for future growth.
3. The delivery of these pledges is being overseen by the Chair of London Councils as the Executive member for Finance and Resources. They reflect shared pan-London priorities for Leaders over the next three years, but the list does not reflect the entirety of London Councils' work on local government finance.

Progress Update

Spending Round 2019

- i. *Lobby to deliver an end to austerity in local government and try and ensure that no London borough loses from the Spending Review 2019.*
 - ii. *Highlight the vital role of cities in funding UK public services by driving economic growth, where London contributes £32.5 billion in taxes after funding its own public services.*
 - iii. *Press for government recognition of the unique cost demands on Britain's cities which in London include 34% of all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), two thirds of all people in temporary accommodation (TA) and £54 million on those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).*
4. There has been good progress against the first pledge; with less success so far in delivering on pledges 2 and 3.
5. London Councils has undertaken a range of activities intended to raise the profile, credibility and influence of the organisation in the lead up to Spending Round 2019 (SR19) through the *Investing in the future* campaign. Following briefings published last November and in January, a number of Leaders wrote to their local MPs over the summer setting out our key priorities for SR19. When it was confirmed that the SR would cover one year, London Councils' lobbying messages to government focussed on financial certainty and the most immediate priorities which were conveyed in a letter from the Chair to the new Chancellor in August.
6. A detailed representation was submitted to HM Treasury on 30 August, which included a short "key points" document¹, and a longer detailed submission which also included longer-term ambitions for next year's full Spending Review. The key asks were for:
 - An above inflation increase in funding next year
 - The need for immediate certainty over funding for next year
 - An extension of the London BRR pilot to 2020-21
 - Urgent funding to address London's most acute service pressures within children's social care (including UASC), SEND, adult social care, homelessness, and to support people with No Recourse to Public Funds; and
 - The need for investment in schools, skills (including confirmation of UKSPF), and roads maintenance, to help safeguard London's economy.

¹ Available here: <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/36154>

7. The outcome from SR19 was very positive, with local government receiving a 6% increase in funding: the biggest annual increase in the last decade. As no borough will lose from the SR, this meets the first funding pledge. The continuation of all the funding streams within Core Spending Power (CSP) and confirmation of intended council tax principles (2% main CT and 2% adult social care precept) provides the certainty London Councils had called for. Despite the increase in CSP of £400 million across London, boroughs had been planning to make almost £600 million of savings next year, meaning there is still an estimated funding gap of £200 – even assuming all boroughs raise council tax by the maximum permitted amounts.
8. With regard to pledge 2, some of the direction of travel appears to be towards rebalancing funding away from London to other parts of the country. This was reflected in the approach taken to certain distributional issues in terms of Government funding and the focus for the additional £241 million announced for the Towns Fund within the SR. Setting out the case for continued investment within London, as well as in other parts of the country (pledge 2) will become increasingly important in the context of the full Spending Review next year that will include zero based review of capital funding.
9. Finally, there was little recognition of the specific issues that set London apart from other areas of the country: its high levels of homelessness and the disproportionate impact of pressures relating to higher migration levels, which drives high spending on NRPF and UASC. Further progress is required to meet the objectives of Pledge 3.
10. Looking ahead to Spending Review 2020, it is proposed to continue the *Investing in the Future* campaign, and to intensify the pressure on government for a sustainable and comprehensive settlement, with a specific focus on the areas of importance for London boroughs.

Fair Funding and SEND

- i. *Press for London's fair share of the Fair Funding Review and recognition that dramatic increases in the costs of supporting SEND are creating unsustainable deficits across local authorities.*
11. The Government recently confirmed that the outcome of the review will be postponed by a year to April 2021. This at least has the benefit of providing certainty for boroughs for next year and allows more time to influence the outcome of the Review.

12. London Councils' key priorities will continue to be to ensure the review accurately takes account of London's higher living costs in any deprivation measures; London's hard-to-count population; has a separate formula for homelessness; and that the ACA excludes any unevidenced measures, such as remoteness as is currently proposed.
13. With regard to High Needs funding for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), officers have worked very closely with directors of finance and children's services in presenting a joined up and clear message regarding the increasingly difficult financial position boroughs face.
14. The announcement of £700 million of additional funding for SEND in the Spending Round, as part of a wider £2.6 billion of funding for schools next year, was therefore very welcome. However, while allocations are yet to be confirmed, the new funding is unlikely to be enough to eliminate accumulated deficits across London, with London borough accounting for a third of the national total. The national review of SEND announced after the SR, that will conclude by Easter 2020, is very welcome and was one of our key asks. With funding beyond 2020-21 still uncertain, we will continue to push for a sustainable solution to the significant funding pressures in this area.

Fiscal Devolution

- i. Lobby for the extension of business rates retention and its conversion into a genuinely devolved tax.*
 - ii. Argue for greater fiscal devolution to London, in line with the London Finance Commission, so that the city can fund the foundations for future growth.*
15. There has been limited progress against these two pledges.
16. It had been hoped the London business rates pilot would provide a platform for both extending further retention of business rates in the capital and for arguments about greater fiscal devolution to London Government. Unfortunately, as set out in detail on item E1 on the agenda, the government has chosen not to extend the London business rates retention pilot next year.
17. London Councils has consistently set out the need for longer-term reform of business rates as a tax and reiterated our broader ambitions for fiscal devolution within our strategic submissions and consultation responses over the last 9 months. The detailed SR submission called for the Government to commit to reforming council tax and business

rates in next year's full Spending Review, which provides an opportunity for the Government to devolve more to areas that have a track record of collaborating across boundaries. It emphasised that cities are well placed to take advantage of smaller specific taxes that will directly support local economic growth, such as a Tourism Levy, Vehicle Exercise Duty, or the Apprenticeship Levy.

18. It is proposed to continue to work with the GLA and other Mayoral Combined Authority areas to develop more detailed arguments regarding specific taxes that may be more suitable for devolution or greater local discretion ahead of SR20.

Next Steps

19. London Councils officers and Executive members will continue to work on supporting the implementation of the pledges as outlined in this report and will keep Leaders updated on a regular basis.

Recommendations: Leaders' Committee is asked to note and comment on this report

Financial implications for London Councils

None

Legal implications for London Councils

None

Equalities implications for London Councils

None

Leaders' Committee

Minutes and Summaries

Item no: 11

Report by: Lisa Dominic **Job title:** Senior Governance Support Officer
Date: 8th October 2019
Contact Officer: Christiane Jenkins
Telephone: 020 7934 9540 **Email:** Christiane.jenkins@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary Summaries of the minutes of London Councils

Recommendations Leader's Committee is recommended to note the attached minutes:

- YPES – 6 June 2019
- TEC – 13 June 2019
- Grants Committee AGM – 10 July 2019
- Executive – 10 September 2019

Young People's Education and Skills Board

Date	6 June 2019	Venue	London Councils
Meeting Chair	Cllr Georgia Gould, London Councils Executive Member for Employment and Skills		
Contact Officer	Peter O'Brien		
Telephone	020 7934 9743	Email	peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Present

Cllr Georgia Gould (Chair)	London Councils Executive Member for Employment and Skills
Ben Anderson	London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) business representative
Derek Harvey	Department for Work and Pensions
Gail Tolley	Association of London Directors of Children's Services
Graeme Atherton	Access HE
John Prior	NATSPEC
Mary Vine-Morris	Association of Colleges (AoC) London Region
Michael Heanue	LEAP
Sarah Wilkins	Greater London Authority (GLA)
Tim Shields	Chief Executives London Committee (CELC)
Yolande Burgess	London Councils

Officer

Peter O'Brien	London Councils
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Apologies

Cllr Nickie Aitken	London Councils Executive Member (Conservative Party)
Paul Wakeling	AoC – Sixth Form Colleges
Dr Caroline Allen	NATSPEC
Laraine Smith	AoC – General Further Education Colleges

1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Board members and invited them to introduce themselves.

2 Declarations of interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising

- 3.1 The notes of the previous meeting were agreed. Actions agreed at the last meeting had either been completed or were covered on the agenda.

4 London Councils' Pledges to Londoners and Young People

- 4.1 The Board agreed a process of engaging with young people to examine the relevance of London Councils' Pledges and provide young people an opportunity to provide feedback **Action: Young People's Education and Skills Team to report back to the next Young People's Education and Skills Board meeting.**

5 Vision for Young People's Education and Skills 2023

- 5.1 The Board agreed that a vision for young people's education and skills in London should be integral to the development of the Mayor's Skills for Londoners strategy; that this view should be

represented to the Skills for Londoners Board; and that there should be an exchange of research and data analysis between London Councils and the GLA.

Action: London Councils to ensure appropriate representation of 16 to 19 priorities in the Skills for Londoners strategy (being developed jointly by the GLA and London Councils) and exchange and share research and data analysis relevant to the strategy.

6 Updates

Performance: Participation, Achievement and Progression

- 6.1 The Board requested more detailed information on the main performance gaps between ethnic groups, eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) status before the next meeting. It noted that reducing the number of young people recorded as activity not known was the priority.
- 6.2 Gail Tolley and Tim Shields informed the meeting about how performance issues are being taken forward by ALDCS and CELC. Sarah Wilkins referred members of the Board to a recently published GLA report *Boys on Track* (https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/lkmco_boys_on_track_report.pdf).

Action: Young People's Education and Skills Team to provide more detailed analysis of statistics on NEET and activity not known performance gaps.

Policy

- 6.3 The meeting accepted a detailed Policy Update paper and commented on the Timpson Review, Careers Guidance (taking forward London Ambitions), the Review of post-18 funding (noting the AoC's continued campaign for funding increases) and a report on the Youth Jobs Gap (for which a London-specific report is being commissioned).
- 6.4 The meeting agreed that the response to the consultation on post-16 qualifications below level 3 could be sent, subject to adding sports as an example of specialist awards.

Action: Young People's Education and Skills Team to provide the next Board meeting with an update on London Ambitions and how it will be taken forward within the context of the Mayor's Careers Advice Strategy.

London Post-16 SEND Review

- 6.5 Yolande Burgess informed the meeting that the Young People's Education and Skills team is working with NHS England to convene a pan-London Supported Employment Board.;

Action: Yolande Burgess to discuss supported placements and employment in London with Gail Tolley and Tim Shields before the next meeting.

London Post-16 Trajectories Review

- 6.6 Yolande Burgess reported that the draft report will be provided to the next Board meeting.

Action: Yolande Burgess to circulate draft report of the London Post-16 Trajectories Review before the next meeting.

Apprenticeships

- 6.7 The meeting noted that there had been a 5.8 per cent increase in the total number of apprenticeships generated by London boroughs in the last financial year and there had been a 35.5 per cent increase in directly recruited apprentices by boroughs.
- 6.8 The meeting noted with disappointment that the Minister had rejected additional levy flexibilities proposed jointly by London Councils and the GLA and reaffirmed its view that Apprenticeship levy raised in London should be used primarily to support Apprenticeships in the capital. Successful initiatives in central and east London were also noted and further information will be shared with members.

7 Any Other Business

- 7.1 The Board expressed its thanks to retiring members of the Board: Caroline Allen., Laraine Smith and Derek Harvey.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 17 October 2019, 3 to 5 p.m., London Councils

Leaders' Committee

Report from the Transport & Environment Committee – 13 June 2019

Item no:

Report by: Alan Edwards **Job title:** Governance Manager
Date: 8 October 2019
Contact Officer: Alan Edwards
Telephone: 020 7934 9911 **Email:** Alan.e@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee held on 13 June 2019

Recommendations: For information.

1. Attendance: Cllr Syed Ghani (LB Barking & Dagenham), Cllr Peter Zinkin (LB Barnet - Deputy), Cllr Pater Craske (LB Bexley), Cllr Krupa Sheth (LB Brent), Cllr William Huntington-Thresher (LB Bromley), Cllr Adam Harrison (LB Camden), Cllr Julian Bell (LB Ealing - Chair), Cllr Guney Dogan (LB Enfield), Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald (LB Greenwich), Cllr Jon Burke (LB Hackney), Cllr Kirsten Hearn (LB Haringey), Cllr Varsha Parmar (LB Harrow), Cllr Hanif Khan (LB Hounslow), Cllr Claire Holland (LB Lambeth), Cllr Brenda Dacres (LB Lewisham), Cllr Martin Whelton (LB Merton), Cllr Zulfiqar Ali (LB Newham), Cllr John Howard (LB Redbridge), Cllr Alexander Ehmann (LB Richmond-upon-Thames), Cllr Richard Livingstone (LB Southwark), Cllr Manuel Abellan (LB Sutton), Cllr David Edgar (LB Tower Hamlets), Cllr Clyde Loakes (LB Waltham Forest), Cllr Richard Field (LB Wandsworth), Cllr Tim Mitchell (City of Westminster), and Alex Williams (Transport for London).

2. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Dean Cohen (LB Barnet), Cllr Stuart King (LB Croydon), Cllr Wesley Harcourt (LB Hammersmith & Fulham), Osman Dervish (LB Havering), Cllr Keith Burrows (LB Hillingdon), Cllr Claudia Webbe (LB Islington), Cllr Johnny Thalassites (RB Kensington & Chelsea), Cllr Hilary Gander (RB Kinston), and Alastair Moss (City of London).

3. Election of Chair of TEC 2019/20

Councillor Julian Bell (LB Ealing) was nominated to be the TEC Chair for 2019/20.

4. Election of Vice Chairs of TEC 2019/20

Councillor Claire Holland was elected as the Labour Vice Chair of TEC. Councillor Tim Mitchell was elected as the Conservative Vice Chair of TEC. Councillor Manuel Abellan was elected as the Liberal Democrat Vice Chair of TEC

5. Membership of London Councils' TEC 2019/20

The Committee noted the TEC membership for 2019/20

6. Appointment of the TEC Executive Sub Committee for 2019/20

The Committee received a report that set out the arrangements for the appointments to the TEC Executive Sub Committee.

The following appointments to the TEC Executive Sub Committee were made:

Labour

Cllr Julian Bell (LB Ealing – Chair), Cllr Claire Holland (LB Lambeth), Cllr Wesley Harcourt (LB Hammersmith & Fulham), Cllr Claudia Webbe (LB Islington), Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald (RB Greenwich), Cllr Richard Livingstone (LB Southwark) and Cllr Zulfiqar Ali (LB Newham)

Conservative

Cllr Tim Mitchell (City of Westminster), Cllr William Huntington-Thresher (LB Bromley), and Cllr Richard Field (LB Wandsworth)

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Manuel Abellan (LB Sutton)

City of London

Alastair Moss – *It was agreed that Alan Edwards would notify Alastair Moss of his appointment to the TEC Executive Sub Committee.*

7. Nominations to Outside Bodies

The Committee received a report that sought nominations to the TEC related outside bodies.

Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee (HACC)

Cllr Steve Curran (LB Hounslow) and Conservative Deputy nomination to follow

Thames Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (Thames RFCC)

West: Cllr Peter Zinkin (LB Barnet - Conservative)

South West: Cllr Julia Neden-Watts (LB Richmond – Liberal Democrat)

South East: Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald (RB Greenwich - Labour)

North East: Cllr Syed Ghani (LB Barking & Dagenham – Labour)

Central North: Cllr Wesley Harcourt (LB Hammersmith & Fulham – Labour)

Central South: Cllr Richard Livingstone – LB Labour

North: Cllr Jon Burke (LB Hackney - Labour)

The London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC)

Cllr Claudia Webbe (LB Islington)

Urban Design London

Cllr Nigel Haselden (LB Lambeth – Labour) and Daniel Moylan (Conservative nomination)

Thames River Basin Liaison Panel (Thames LP)

Cllr Wesley Harcourt (LB Hammersmith & Fulham)

London City Airport Consultative Committee (LCACC)

Cllr Osman Dervish (LB Havering)

London Cycling Campaign (LCC) Policy Forum

Cllr Clyde Loakes (LB Waltham Forest)

The Thames & London Waterways Forum

Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald (RB Greenwich), and Cllr Nick Draper (LB Merton)

Conservative nomination to follow

London Fuel Poverty Partnership

Cllr Claudia Webbe (LB Islington)

The Committee: (i) agreed that Alan Edwards would write to the above outside bodies, informing them of

the TEC nominations, and **(ii)** agreed that the above names would be passed on to the Chief Executive of London Councils for appointment to outside bodies.

The Chair thanked Councillor Feryal Demirci and Councillor Daniel Anderson for all their work on TEC.

8. TEC AGM Minutes of 15 June 2018

The Committee noted the TEC AGM minutes of the 15 June 2018, which had been previously agreed.

9. Constitutional Matters

The Committee received a report that provided the with detailed proposed variations to the London Councils' Constitutional documents. This was reported to Leaders' Committee at its AGM on 4 June 2019

The Committee: **(i)** Approved the changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in relation to the role of the Data Protection Officer, and note the remainder of the changes (attached as Appendix 1), **(ii)** noted the changes to the other London Councils Constitutional documents (attached at Appendix 2 – (London Councils Standing Orders) and Appendix 3 (Revised Authorised Signatories) in track change form, and **(iii)** noted the Terms of Reference for the Electric Vehicle Rapid Charging-Point Sub Group (Appendix 4)

10. Concessionary Fares 2019/20 Settlement & Apportionment

The Committee received a report that asked members to consider whether London Councils should discontinue with the practice of sending printed copies of committee papers to members of its Committee as standard practice. The Chair said that, in the first year, members could opt in to continue to receive hard copies of TEC papers.

The Committee: **(i)** agreed that TEC members could agree to opt-in to continue to receive hard copies of the papers, and **(ii)** agreed to carry out an audit of members' needs and set-up a working group to consider the implications of going paperless in more detail.

11. TEC Priorities for 2019/20

The Committee considered a report that provided members with a look back at what had been achieved in 2018/19, and a look forward to the TEC priorities for 2019/20.

Spencer Palmer, Director of Transport and Mobility, London Councils, introduced the report. He said that TEC had a Governing Agreement that stated what TEC could do. Amendments were made to this Agreement to enable London Councils TEC to be active in other areas. There were also a number of policies and a number of services that were delivered

The Committee: **(i)** agreed to change the sentence in paragraph 16 (page 7, first bullet point) – "Support the strategic review of the bus network by TfL" to "*engage with TfL on the review of the strategic review of the bus network*", and **(ii)** agreed to bring the report to the TEC Executive Sub Committee, for more a detailed discussion.

12. Chair's Report

The Committee received and noted a report that updated members of transport and environment policy since the last TEC meeting on 21 March 2019 and provided a forward look until the next TEC meeting on 10 October 2019.

13. Re-appointment of Environment and Traffic Adjudicators

The Committee received a report that proposed the re-appointment of ten environment and traffic adjudicators under the terms of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

The Committee: **(i)** agreed that the following adjudicators be re-appointed for a period of 5 years from 11th June 2019: Jane Anderson, Teresa Brennan, Michael Burke, Anthony Chan, Andrew Harman, Anju Kaler, Alastair McFarlane, and Kevin Moore, **(ii)** agreed that adjudicator John Lane be re-appointed until 12th August 2019, and **(iii)** Agreed that adjudicator Michael Lawrence be re-appointed until 4th July 2021

14. Dockless Bicycles – Londonwide Byelaw

The Committee considered a report that updated TEC on the proposed pan-London parking byelaw for the regulation of dockless bicycle hire schemes in London. The report asked TEC to agree to start the process of amending the TEC Agreement to delegate the boroughs' functions related to making the pan-London byelaw to TEC.

The Committee: **(i)** noted that the final wording of the byelaw would go back to TEC before any agreement was made, and **(ii)** agreed to consult on and seek written agreement for all London local authorities and TfL to amend the LCTEC Agreement as outlined in paragraph 10 of the report.

15. Flooding Investment in London

The Committee received a report that followed on from the last Flood Partnerships update report that went to TEC on 6 December 2018, and presented a business case on behalf of the Thames RFCC for an increase in the locally raised levy by 1.99%.

The Committee agreed that a steer be provided to the TEC members who serve on the Thames RFCC to increase the levy by 1.99% for 2020/21.

16. New Wandsworth Byelaws: Setting Penalty Levels

The Committee considered a report that provided the results of the new Wandsworth Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws consultation which was run on behalf of TEC from 26 April 2019 to 26 May 2019.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the consultation outcome, **(ii)** Agreed to set a fixed penalty level of £80 for breaches to the new Wandsworth Park and Open Spaces Byelaws, and **(iii)** Agreed to set the level of reduced payment at £50 if the fixed penalty is paid within 14 days from the date of the notice.

17. Local Implementation Plans (LIPs) Funding Formula Review

The Committee received a report that set out the current position on the review of the formula that was used to calculate boroughs' allocations from the Corridors, neighbourhoods and supporting measures" funding.

18. Safe Speeds Review for London Update

The Committee received a report that provided a further update on current activities examining the speed enforcement process in London and outlined future proposals following the Committee's firm commitment in March 2019 to explore the feasibility of boroughs enforcing speed limits on their roads.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the contents of the report, **(ii)** approved the estimated £12,000 (+ VAT) from TEC's research budget to seek legal Counsel advice, and **(iii)** agreed that a further report on Safe Speeds in London would be presented to TEC on 10 October 2019.

19. Direct Vision Standard (DVS) for Heavy Goods

The Committee considered a report that was an update on the Phase 2c consultation on the proposed London HGV Safety Permit Scheme to reduce road danger in London, which included a statutory consultation on a traffic order to implement the Scheme under the Committee's traffic regulation order powers.

The Committee: **(i)** considered the responses from the Phase 2c consultation detailed in this report, together with comments, and at Appendix G, **(ii)** agreed to continue with the process to make the Amendment Order, **(iii)** noted the position regarding the identified potential objections described in paragraph 18, **(iv)** agreed not to hold a public inquiry before making the Amendment Order and authorise the Director Transport & Mobility to cancel the provisional public inquiry arrangements, **(v)** agreed to make the Amendment Order and delegate to the Director Transport & Mobility authority to publish notice, and **(vi)** noted the position regarding Barnet LBC participating in the Scheme and the LLCS.

20. Freedom Pass Progress Report

The Committee received a report that provided members with the following: an update on the outcome of the Freedom Pass 2019 renewal update on plans for the 2020 renewal of 730,000 passes, a reminder to boroughs regarding the assessment of eligibility for the disabled persons' Freedom Pass Scheme, and the potential changes to the way in which the settlement with the Rail Delivery Group (RDG) was calculated.

The Committee: (i) agreed that the recommendation "d" in the report would be re-worded and that the recommendation would be re-issued, (ii) noted progress of the 2019 renewal, (iii) Noted the update on plans for the 2020 renewal, and (iv) agreed to ensure that sufficient borough resources were in place to undertake the 2020 renewal.

21. Royal Borough of Greenwich CCTV Enforcement Approval

The Committee received a report that sought approval for the Royal Borough of Greenwich to commence CCTV enforcement of parking contraventions under the Traffic Management Act 2004, bus lane contraventions under the London Local Authorities Act 1996 and moving traffic contraventions under the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003.

The Committee agreed that permission be given to the Royal Borough of Greenwich to enforce parking, bus lane and moving traffic contraventions using CCTV

22. TEC & TEC Executive Sub Committee Dates 2019/20

The Committee considered a report that notified members of the proposed TEC and TEC Executive Sub Committee dates for the year 2019/20. The dates were agreed by TEC.

23. Items Considered by the TEC Elected Officers under the Urgency Procedure

The Committee received a report detailing an item that was sent to TEC Elected Officers under the Urgency Procedure on the proposal to set-up a Safe Speeds for London steering group.

The Committee noted the report that went to TEC Elected Officers on 14 May 2019 on the proposal to set-up a Safe Speeds for London Steering Group and the Terms of Reference for the Group.

24. Minutes of the TEC Meeting held on 21 March 2019

The minutes of the TEC meeting held on 21 March 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

The meeting finished at 16:45pm

Leaders' Committee

Report from the Grants Committee AGM Item no: – 10 July 2019

Report by: Ana Gradiska **Job title:** Principal Governance and Projects Officer
Date: 8 October 2019
Contact Officer: Ana Gradiska
Telephone: 020 7934 9781 **Email:** Ana.gradiska@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 10 July 2019.

Recommendations: For information.

London Borough & Royal Borough:

Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Bexley
Brent
City of London Councils
Croydon
Ealing
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Harrow
Hounslow
Islington
Kingston upon Thames
Lewisham
Merton
Newham
Redbridge
Richmond
Southwark
Sutton
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth

Representative:

Cllr Saima Ashraf
Cllr John Hart
Cllr David Leaf
Cllr Tom Miller
Dhruv Patel OBE
Cllr Hamida Ali
Cllr Jasbir Anand
Cllr Miranda Williams
Cllr Philip Glanville (Chair)
Cllr Adam Connell
Cllr Sue Anderson
Cllr Katherine Dunne
Cllr Una O'Halloran
Cllr Sam Foulder-Hughes
Cllr Jonathan Slater
Cllr Edith Macauley MBE
Cllr Charlene McLean
Cllr Helen Coomb
Cllr Gareth Roberts
Cllr Evelyn Akoto
Cllr Marian James
Cllr Asma Begum (deputy)
Cllr Louise Mitchell
Cllr Paul Ellis

London Councils officers were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Colin Smith (LB Bromley), Cllr Jonathan Simpson (LB Camden), Cllr Viddy Persaud (LB Havering), Cllr Anne Cyron (RB Kensington and Chelsea) and Cllr Candida Ronald (LB Tower Hamlets).

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Helen Coomb declared that her sister was a trustee of Redbridge CVS.

3. Acknowledgement of new members of the Grants Committee

3.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director: Young People's Education and Skills, Grants and Community Services at London Councils welcomed new members of the Grants Committee, and welcomed back the existing members.

3.2 Members asked for their thanks to the former members of the Grants Committee to be recorded, in recognition of all the work carried out for the Committee.

Action: The Strategy Director to write a letter of thanks to all members who have left the Grants Committee this year.

4. Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

4.1 Mayor Philip Glanville was nominated as the Chair of the Grants Committee by Cllr Paul Ellis (LB Wandsworth), seconded by Cllr Saima Ashraf (LB Barking and Dagenham).

4.2 There being no other nominees for the Chair, the Strategy Director declared Mayor Glanville Chair of the Grants Committee, and stepped down to allow the elected Chair to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

5. Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2018/19 Municipal Year

5.1 The Chair called for nominations for the three Vice Chairs for 2019/20. The following members were nominated by Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) and seconded by Cllr Begum (LB Tower Hamlets):

- Cllr Saima Ashraf as the Labour Vice-Chair.
- Cllr Paul Ellis as the Conservative Vice-Chair.
- Cllr Gareth Roberts as the Liberal Democrat Vice-Chair

5.2 There being no other nominees the Chair declared Cllrs Ashraf, Ellis and Roberts as the Vice Chairs.

6. Election of the Grants Executive for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

6.1 The following members were appointed:

Labour - Mayor Philip Glanville (Chair), LB Hackney, Cllr Saima Ashraf, LB Barking & Dagenham, Cllr Miranda Williams, RB Greenwich, Cllr Charlene McLean, LB Newham and Cllr Jonathan Slater, LB Lewisham. The Chair noted that there was currently one Labour vacancy on the Executive.

Conservative - Cllr Paul Ellis, LB Wandsworth Cllr David Leaf, LB Bexley, and Cllr Iain Bott, City of Westminster.

Liberal Democrat - Cllr Gareth Roberts, LB Richmond.

City of London – Dhruv Patel OBE.

7. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 11th July 2018 (for noting – already formally agreed)

7.1 Members noted the minutes of the July 2018 Grants AGM.

8. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 20 March 2019

8.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting which took place on 20 March 2019.

9. Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 7 February 2019 (for information)

9.1 Members noted the minutes of the meeting which took place on 7 February 2019.

10. Constitutional Matters

10.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item, which detailed several variations to the London Councils Constitutional documents which were agreed at Leaders Committee at its AGM on 4 June 2019. She said that all the variations in the constitutional documents were for noting, except the changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in relation to the role of the Data Protection Officer, under Article 37 of GDPR, which members were being asked to approve.

10.2 Members:

- Approved the changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in relation to the role of the Data Protection Officer, and noted the remainder of the changes in Appendix 1.
- Noted the changes to the other London Councils Constitutional documents in Appendix 2 (London Councils Standing Orders) and Appendix 3 (Revised Authorised Signatories).

11. Operation of the Grants Committee

11.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item and drew members' attention to Paragraph 2, in which members were invited to undertake visits to partners who were delivering the projects on behalf of the Grants Committee.

11.2 The Chair invited members to inform him and the Grants team if there were any particular projects they wanted to visit. He said that the visits would be held on the days of the Grants Executive meetings. The Chair added that the date of the September Grants Executive meeting may need to be re-arranged due to a prior engagement, but that care would be taken that it did not clash with the Liberal Democrat conference.

11.3 Grants Committee noted:

- The Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive (Appendix 1).
- The programme of meetings (below)

Grants Main Meeting	Time (Pre-meetings 10:00)
10 July 2019 (AGM)	11:00
13 November 2019	11:00
18 March 2020	11:00
8 July 2020 (AGM)	11:00
11 November 2020	11:00
Grants Executive	Time
12 September 2019	14:00
5 February 2020	14:00
16 September 2020	14:00

12. Performance of Grants Programme 2017-21: April 2017 to March 2019

12.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report, which provided members with an update on the three priorities of the Grants Programme. She said that for Priorities 1 and 2, this report presented an update for the period April 2017 to March 2019, and included information submitted by partners who were asked to identify their successes and challenges. For Priority 3, the report presented an update on delivery from October 2016 to March 2019.

12.2 The Strategy Director also drew members' attention to the annual update in Appendix 4, which contained information on the delivery of the different priorities broken down by borough. She added that Appendix 3, which contained the Project Delivery Information and Contact Details of all the partners, was bound separately so it could be used as an on-going resource

12.3 Members' attention was drawn to the fact that the format of the annual equalities report had changed from previous years', when it was presented primarily as an analytical comparative report, using demographic data. However, due to the nature of services the programme delivers, the user demographic was slightly different, and the new format better reflected this.

12.4 Members were reminded that the Grants Committee pays for all boroughs' membership of London Funders, and that the relationship with them has been extremely positive; there has been joint work on a number of initiatives including Fair Funding, unaccompanied minors, and communicating with third sector organisations. Members were invited to read the resources that London Funders had produced over the last year, which were made available for them at the meeting.

Action: The issue of quarterly reporting to be discussed more fully at the Grants Executive meeting in September.

13. Priority 3 underspend: addressing issues related to No Recourse to Public Funds to support work to combat homelessness and tackle domestic violence

13.1 The Chair introduced this item and said that the Grants Executive had had extensive discussions on this issue. The consensus was to consider re-allocating the Priority 3 underspend to No Recourse to Public Funds

13.2 The Strategy Director said that access to immigration advice was proving to be a significant problem, leading to more complex cases and more families ending up in crisis. Earlier intervention would mean that there was less pressure on borough services. The team has been discussing this with a number of relevant organisations, including the NPRF Network, the London Modern Slavery Leads Group, the Law Centres Network, London Funders the GLA, the Home Office, Trust for London, The Migration Exchange Funder Network, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and London Councils policy leads.

13.3 The Strategy Director added that it was a criminal offence for a person to provide immigration advice or services in the UK unless their organisation is regulated. Advisers must be registered with and regulated by the Institute of Legal Executives or the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. One of the options was to help advisers become regulated quicker so that they could give this advice, which would relieve pressure on the system.

13.4 The Chair said that once members had expressed a preference for one of the options, the Grants Executive would discuss this issue in further detail in September, and the decision needs to be made in November. He added that he had reservations on Option 2 due to its complexity.

13.5 Members were then presented with the three options:

Option 1: Commissioning advice services that help prevent destitution through either signposting to specialist advisers or resolving lower-complexity immigration issues that could develop into complex issues for statutory services, e.g.:

- change of conditions applications
- renewing Leave to Remain
- raising awareness of basic steps that need to be taken by people to address immigration status concerns

- Destitute Domestic Violence Concession applications

Option 2: Commissioning legal support to deal with complex local authority cases to reduce the caseload burden on local authorities, combined with action research (using the cases that are being resolved) into early interventions that could mitigate complexity and the strain on local authority resources. The research benefits of this option are likely to produce findings that have medium and long-term benefits to local authorities.

Option 3: Commissioning both options 1 and 2.

13.6 After a discussion by members, the Chair concluded by saying that Option 1 seemed to be the preferred option for most members, however, Option 2 would not be closed as a possibility. This would be further discussed at the Grants Executive in September.

14. Grants Programme 2021-25

14.1 The Chair informed members that the Leaders' Committee have set a number of specific pledges to all Londoners, across seven key policy areas: housing, better health and care, supporting business and inclusive growth, crime and public protection, transport and environment, funding London, and new ways of working.

14.2 The Strategy Director said that aligning the Grants Priorities to the Leaders' pledges would acknowledge that Leaders' Committee has already confirmed its priorities for London.

14.3 The Chair then detailed the broad implementation timeline:

- Summer/Autumn 2019: Grants Committee recommends to Leaders' that a new Programme is established for 2021-25; Leaders' Committee approves the principles and priorities of the Programme and the budget for the Programme
- Autumn 2019: Focused review of priorities to better understand borough needs and develop service specifications with the boroughs
- March/July 2020: Grants Committee reviews and endorses service specifications
- Summer 2020: Service specifications advertised, and bids sought
- Autumn 2020: Applications assessed with boroughs and other key stakeholders
- November 2020: Leaders' Committee considers the 2021-22 budget, following recommendations from Grants Committee.
- February 2020: Grants Committee considers recommendations for individual applications
- April 2020: New Programme starts.

15. London Councils Grants Committee Pre-Audited Final Accounts 2018-19

15.1 Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources, introduced this item and said that the figures provided were the pre-audited results. He added that Table 1 showed the actual outturn position compared to the approved budget for 2018/19 and stated that the movement between the Month 9 forecast position and the provisional outturn was marginal.

15.2 The Director of Corporate Resources also said that Table 5 showed the position on reserves, containing two elements: the forecast £1m likely to be available in respect of Priority 3,

and the resources for Priorities 1 and 2 in excess of the Committee's benchmark, amounting to around £473,000 (subject to audit). Members were now able to decide how these funds should be spent. The Director added that London Councils consolidated position for 2018/19 had already been presented to the London Councils' Executive in June, and it was aware of the estimated level of reserves for the Grants Committee. The Director of Corporate Resources confirmed that the existing reserves could also be rolled over into the 2021-2025 programme and potentially be used to establish a contingency to cover future emerging issues.

15.3 The Chair said that in the lead up to the November 2019 meeting, a discussion with Leaders would need to be carried out relating to the future of the Grants programme.

15.4 Members noted:

- the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £200,000 for 2018/19, the second year of the 2017-21 programme;
- the provisional level of reserves at paragraphs 17-19 and the financial outlook, as
- detailed in paragraphs 20-23 of this report; and
- That the benchmark will be reviewed by the Grants Executive and will subsequently be brought to the full Grants Committee in the autumn, as part of the discussion of the use of the Committee's reserves.

Leaders' Committee

Report from the Executive Committee – 10 September 2019

Item no:

Report by: David Dent **Job title:** Principal Corporate Governance Officer

Date: 8 October 2019

Contact Officer: David

Telephone: 020 7934 9753 **Email:** david.dent@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the Executive Committee held on 10 September 2019.

Recommendations: For information.

Present

Member	Position
Cllr Peter John OBE	Chair
Cllr Nickie Aiken	
Cllr Julian Bell	
Cllr Darren Rodwell	
Cllr Muhammed Butt	
Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE	Substitute
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Cllr Liz Green	Substitute
Cllr Georgia Gould	
Cllr Clare Coghill	
Catherine McGuinness	

London Councils officers were in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies

Apologies were received from Cllr Athwal, Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE for whom Cllr Liz Green was substituting and Cllr O'Neill OBE for whom Cllr Govindia CBE was substituting.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 18th June 2019

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 18th June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Forward Look

The Chief Executive introduced the report, which provided an overview of work and events over the next nine month period. He drew attention to:

- The Spending Round
- Mayoral Election
- London Governance
- Devolution and Public Service reform
- EU Exit

The Chair and members confirmed the request for London Councils to produce the document for the mayoral candidates, and that, in terms of priorities, the Pledges should form the core of this. Further reinforcement to the call for devolution should also feature.

In terms of London Governance, the Chair also mentioned that, as well as having discussions with Localis, Centre for London had also confirmed to him that they were to carry out a piece of work on the subject of London government, twenty years work which had anticipated the creation of the post of Mayor and the formation of the GLA. London Councils should be involved in this as well in some way. He hoped that these pieces of work would involve Leaders in discussions about the effectiveness of the current structures and would seek their views about potential future London governance arrangements.

Regarding EU Exit, the Chair confirmed that both he and Cllr Coghill continued to attend the MHLG Brexit Delivery Board. He fed back the key discussion points of the most recent meeting. It was confirmed that much of the local government and communication issues discussed at the Board meeting were also reflected in the Resilience Forum work, coordinated by John Barradell, Chair of the London Resilience Local Authority Panel.

Members were informed that weekly conference calls with all London borough Brexit Lead officers were resuming. It was also likely that a weekly reporting cycle which supported both the MHCLG Information hub and resilience strands of work would be resumed as well.

The Chair agreed that an update letter would be sent to Leaders after each Brexit Delivery Board meeting.

The Chair reported that the Government had recently published local authority level information on the number of settled status applicants in London. In Southwark 30% of

all those thought to be EU citizens had applied, and consideration was being given to setting up information pop up stands in those parts of the borough with concentrations of EU citizens to improve awareness of the application process. The Chair invited members to consider what additionally needed to be done in their boroughs to communicate the process of applying for settled status.

He also informed members that the Government had updated the Brexit information section of their website and were encouraging all boroughs to link to it from their own front web pages.

Members then made the following observations:

Regarding EU Exit, Cllr Gould asked if there were examples of creative ways in which boroughs were using the additional resources provided by Government to prepare for Brexit.

Cllr Puddifoot raised the issue about the impact of EU Exit on Heathrow Airport in terms of checks on imported food.

Cllr Govindia asked whether there were statistics available for people who had applied for dual nationality as an alternative to settled status.

Catherine McGuinness highlighted EU Exit implications for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and would be interested in linking with others to help communicate these issues to SME businesses.

Cllr Gould mentioned that a 'call to action' setting out London government's devolution aspirations in the area of skills and employment was about to be published

Regarding London Governance, Cllr Govindia felt it important for any organisation seeking to produce a study on governance to talk widely to boroughs to elicit a range of views.

It was generally recognised that, because of the potential for a general election, there was limited time to ensure that London devolution issues were discussed in order to influence and be reflected in, the respective party manifestos.

Cllr Rodwell felt that a 'grid' of public affairs' interventions would be useful.

Cllr Bell mentioned the possibility of a future increase in police numbers following the Spending Round. Members felt that a visible police presence in communities was paramount in how such resources were to be deployed.

In response to these points, the Chief Executive responded that:

- London Brexit Lead Officers were being asked about how boroughs were using additional resources for Brexit preparations. The results of this would be shared with Leaders
- The Pledges, as well as the 'Investing in the Future' campaign, already included strong themes that could inform the preparation of material ahead of both a general election and Mayoral election.

5. Recent developments in housing policy

The Corporate Director of Policy & Public Affairs, introduced the report, informing members that it covered three areas of housing policy, the first two of which were for noting, and the last which sought guidance from members.

i) Out of London placements

Recent communications from Leaders of Councils in Essex had raised a range of issues relating to this issue. Similar issues presented themselves in respect of other out of London areas, including Kent.

The Chair appreciated Essex and Kent's Leaders' concerns in terms of pressure on their services. He urged that Leaders in London carefully considered how their boroughs were implementing their Temporary Accommodation practices. He also recommended effective communications with surrounding boroughs on this issue.

Cllr Rodwell mentioned that Barking and Dagenham had been looking into setting up support agreements when making placements with authorities outside London and noted that communication with authorities involved a range of borough departments as well as housing services.

Cllr Govindia felt it important that any support for Essex should not be disproportionate to placement arrangement support with other London boroughs

Cllr Coghill recognised that although the numbers of households placed out of London was small, it was important to understand the reasons for such decisions, in that there might be very good reasons why a household could not remain within the borough in which they applied for housing.

Cllr Gould recognised that affordability was a factor in placements. She cited issues in her own borough because of the impact of short-term lettings.

ii) Fire Safety and Building Regulation Reform

London Councils consultation response to the Hackitt Review had recommended a wider threshold for buildings in scope, a reduction in the height of buildings included, a longer transition period for changes, the introduction of legislation regarding leaseholder

access, and greater deployment of approved inspectors. Cllr Rodwell recognised from his own experience in Barking the safety aspects of some low-rise buildings.

Cllr Julian Bell mentioned the increasing range of materials that Councils were being asked to consider in respect of identifying buildings - in any ownership – that could have cladding that needed removal. This burden needed to be met by the Government.

iii Cross Sector Collaboration Options

This element of the report followed on from the June 2019 meeting of the Executive and a previous informal discussion of Executive members on this topic. It had been agreed that there was an opportunity for task and finish groups to take forward opportunities for cross sector (Councils, Private Developers and Housing Associations) to build on themes identified at the London Councils Housing Conference earlier in 2019. The eight options detailed in the report had been produced after discussions with a range of cross sector partners.

Cllr Rodwell also noted the changing supply, affordability and impacts on borough services of the short lets market and expressed a desire for some work to be undertaken to produce basic information about the extent of short term letting in boroughs.

Although it was recognised that this work was in addition to the options in the report, members felt that there would be value in carrying out the research. It was therefore agreed that officers would report back to members on the results of this work.

In relation to the options included in the report, members agreed that the following would be prioritised, as they provided synergy with other work areas:

h) Exploring the potential for increased local authority financial flexibility to enhance building capacity; and

f) Develop proposals for more effective and earlier access to capital funding for the infrastructure requirements of housing development, and in that order of priority.

In closing, the Chair encouraged members in developing the options to think strategically about where money could most effectively be spent.

Members noted the first two sections of the report and agreed options h) and f) from the list in the report's third section.

6. The Future of the London Business Rates Retention Pilot Pool

The Director of Local Government Performance and Finance introduced the report, commenting that since it had been written the Government had indicated that it did not intend to extend the current London Business Rates retention pilot next year and to push

back the 75% Business Rates Retention and outcome of the Fair Funding Review to 2021.

It was proposed therefore that a joint letter be written from the Chair of London Councils and the Mayor of London asking the Government to reconsider its decision.

Members were advised that, should the Government not reconsider, they would have to make a decision in principle at Leaders' Committee in October as to whether London would want to continue to pool under the existing rules. The financial incentives of that decision would be lower, with the benefit likely to be in the region of £30 million. The decision to sustain such a pool would continue to show an appetite collectively to shape the 75% retention regime for 2021. It was, however, acknowledged that there would be less financial benefit and less certainty. It would be for boroughs to take individual decisions on establishing such a revised pool.

Cllr Puddifoot agreed with the proposal that the Chair of London Councils should write jointly with the Mayor asking the Government to reconsider the issue. He felt the Mayor and Chair should make the point that the work done to date could be lost if a final year of the pilot could not sustain through to the wider 75% retention regime from 2021.

Members agreed that the Chair of London Councils and the Mayor would write formally to seek a meeting with Ministers.

7. Month 3 Revenue Forecast 2019/20

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the report.

In terms of the overall levels of reserves KPMG, the external auditors, had now signed off the accounts from the previous year. Projected reserves were estimated to be £11.5m, although there would be discussions at Grants and Transport and Environment Committees later in the week about the levels of reserves currently held by those Committees.

Members noted the report.

8. Debtors Update Report

The Director of Corporate Resources reported that all boroughs have now paid any outstanding amounts, reducing the overall debt to just over £400,000.

Members noted the report.

9. Nominations to Outside Bodies

Members noted the nominations made by the Chief Executive on behalf of London Councils.

The meeting ended at 11.20am