

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive
Tuesday 12th November 2019 10:00 am

Cllr Peter John OBE was in the chair

Present

Member	Position
Cllr Peter John OBE	Chair
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	
Cllr Nickie Aiken	
Cllr Julian Bell	
Cllr Darren Rodwell	
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Substitute
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Catherine McGuinness	

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

The Chair opened the meeting by congratulating Cllr Rodwell on his award as Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) Leader of the Year, and also Cllr Aiken on her selection as a Parliamentary candidate for the Cities of London and Westminster.

1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies

Apologies were received from Cllr Muhammed Butt, Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE, Cllr Georgia Gould and Cllr Clare Coghill for whom Cllr Clyde Loakes was substituting.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 10th September 2019

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 10th September 2019 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

4. Climate Change Policy

Cllr Bell introduced the report, informing members that:

- Climate change had increased in importance for most local authorities, and the issue had also been discussed at London Councils' Transport and Environment

Committee (TEC) in terms of how boroughs could be supported in implementing their Climate Emergency Action Plans

- The programme of work being developed, estimated to cost a maximum of £289,000, could be funded from TEC's own resources. However, climate change related activities were outside that Committee's formal authority
- The report therefore required in principle approval from the Executive to take a full report to Leaders' Committee requesting that this work should be undertaken

Members made the following points:

- An effective method of regular reporting back to Executive and, on occasion, to Leaders' Committee on the development of this work, over and above receiving minutes of meetings, was required
- In addition to the baseline of emissions mentioned in the table of goals within the report, there should also be a baseline of boroughs' own performance measures in reducing their overall carbon footprint
- Consideration should be given to the focus on a range of alternative fuels, for example hydrogen, in addition to that on electric charging points
- Consideration should be given to responding to some of the wider London challenges such as the increase in road traffic occasioned by rise of online deliveries and taxi services
- There needed to be a recognition that the issue would need to be addressed differently in different boroughs and that some things that could help mitigate climate change effects – eg investment in major public transport infrastructure – was beyond the direct control of individual boroughs
- There should be a good level of ambition in the work and 'polluter pays' principles should be considered
- It would be important for the work to coalesce around two or three big things that boroughs could exercise most influence over. That may not be straightforward, but it was important to reach some common lines as well as supporting boroughs' own work in this area.

Members agreed the recommendation for a report to be taken to Leaders' Committee on 3rd December 2019 regarding the funding of the climate change work, and the Chair thanked the Executive for their input to shape future work on the subject.

5a. Audited Accounts 2018/19

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the accounts, which followed on from the report of the Auditor's Letter to Leaders' Committee at its last meeting and now included the adjustments agreed with KPMG.

Members agreed to adopt the Accounts.

5b. Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2019/20

The Director of Corporate Resources reported a marginal increase in the overall forecast surplus, primarily as a result of TEC's income projections becoming clearer.

Members noted the revenue forecast position as at 30 September 2019.

5c. Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2020/21

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the proposed budget for 2020/20, noting that it:

- Absorbed all the budgetary pressures anticipated in the next financial year
- Included proposed additional income arising from a smarter use of the Southwark Street building via adaptations, building improvements and the rollout of agile working
- Highlighted the strategic discussions members of the Executive had commenced about the future capacity and resourcing of the organization that would need to be reflected in budgetary planning from 2021/22 onward.

Members were informed that there were no increases in the contributions and charges to boroughs in 2020/21 and there were also recommended reductions on appeal charges within TEC, and in the call on reserves which had been reduced by £745,000. Proposed draft Grants Committee and TEC budgets would be discussed by those Committees in the days following this meeting.

Subject to agreement regarding the budgets, there would be uncommitted reserves of approximately £10 million.

Referring to paragraph 12 of the report, Cllr Puddifoot recognised that boroughs were now contributing significantly less than in the past as a result of London Councils reducing its overall costs and congratulated the team for its work in establishing the strong financial position demonstrated in the 2020/21 budget.

In response to a question from Cllr Aiken regarding a fall in the number of Parking Charge Notices issued by boroughs and the subsequent impact on borough income, it was pointed out that as part of the TEC budget setting process account was taken of emerging trends arising from volumes generated by parking systems, including the issuing of PCNs.

Members recommended the revenue budget and subscriptions for 2020/21 as set out in the report.

The meeting ended at 10.30am

Action points

	Item	Action by	Progress
4.	Climate Change Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report back on progress with climate change work to be made to Executive on a regular basis	Strategic Lead for Transport and Environment Policy	Ongoing