

# Executive

## Business Planning 2020/21

Item no: 5

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**Date:** 21 January 2020  
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**Summary**      This paper sets out a short and focused process for establishing the context for the 2020/21 London Councils Business Plan, culminating in an extended discussion by the Executive at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Recommendation**      The Executive is asked to consider and endorse the proposed Business Planning Process for 2020/21.



# Business Planning 2020/21

## Introduction

This paper sets out a short and focused process for establishing the context for the 2020/21 London Councils Business Plan, culminating in an extended discussion by the Executive at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

## Background

The Executive has had an extensive round of discussions on priorities and Pledges to Londoners over the past eighteen months. A full set of Pledges was agreed by Leaders' Committee in 2019 and run through to 2022.

Linked to those is a set of individual business plan projects and work streams. These were subject to full discussion in bilateral sessions between the Chair and portfolio holders and shadow portfolio holders culminating in Spring 2019.

The core of those items is likely to endure – not least as the Pledges are a commitment by Leaders through to 2022. The General Election, of course, and what flows from it, will now require consideration in terms of its impact on some detailed work streams and activities.

In this context, the Chair wrote to Executive members in December proposing that in order for the organisation to be sufficiently agile and flexible to take account of this evolving picture, he would favour an extended *collective* discussion at the Executive in March on work plans for 2020/21. He felt that this would be particularly appropriate given the changes in more normal timescales that had flowed from the calling of a December General Election. The Chair said he would ask officers to put a proposition before the Executive at this meeting.

## Proposition

It is, therefore, proposed that in the next few weeks officers liaise with Executive portfolio holders and shadow portfolio holders to review existing themes and activities – in the context both of the Pledges to 2022 and the changing landscape, e.g. the outcome of the General Election.

A revised outline list of tasks and activities would be drawn together in February. In effect, this would focus on how best the 2020/21 activities could contribute to the Pledges to 2022, but based on the *new* political, policy and wider environment.

This would feed into an extended *collective* Executive discussion on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Rather than simply being an invitation to approve a draft Business Plan, this would also be much more an opportunity for a mutual challenge and interrogation of which activity should, in the context of a post-election environment and available London Councils resources, be afforded most priority in terms of next year's business plans and, by the same token, which should receive less. The Executive would, at that session, wish to consider the relative resource priority to be given to those items that are likely to drive forward the sort of collaboration it has been calling for and which reinforce a number of the Pledges to Londoners.

This extended, collective discussion would inform a final draft business plan for consideration by Leaders' Committee later in March.

### **Recommendation**

The Executive is asked to consider and endorse the proposed Business Planning Process for 2020/21.

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### **Financial Implications for London Councils**

None within this paper.

### **Legal Implications for London Councils**

None specifically flowing from this paper.

### **Equalities Implications for London Councils**

None specifically flowing from this paper.