

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive**  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 09:30 am**

**Cllr Peter John OBE was in the chair**

**Present**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cllr Peter John OBE	Chair
Cllr Julian Bell	
Cllr Darren Rodwell	
Cllr Georgia Gould	
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Cllr Muhammed Butt	
Cllr Ruth Dombey	
Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE	Substitute

London Councils officers were in attendance.

**1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Clare Coghill, Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE (with Cllr Govindia substituting) and Catherine McGuinness.

In addition, the Chief Executive informed the Executive that Cllr Nickie Aiken had now resigned from the Executive. Consequent changes to the Executive would be put to the next meeting of the Leaders' Committee.

**2. Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

**4. Chief Executive Update**

The Chief Executive introduced the report, informing members that the paper updated the Executive on a range of developments since their last meeting:

- Group Leaders had written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Minister for London following the outcome of the general election, seeking meetings with both, and there had been a meeting with the Minister for Local Government regarding the Local Government Finance Settlement

- The work of the nine Regional lead chief executives in relation to Brexit had shifted focus to concentrate on the more medium-term issues flowing from the forthcoming withdrawal from the European Union
- The Chair had written to Executive members in December regarding the themes and agreed outcomes from the Awayday, following on from the General Election.

The Chair asked for feedback on the report, and also for members to consider the lobbying issues related to national and London priorities, following the December election. Members made the following comments:

- In terms of lobbying, there was a need to achieve balance between the requirements of London and national priorities
- in lobbying government, previous statements made by the previous Mayor of London, regarding the importance of investment in London, should be reiterated, and that the National Infrastructure Strategy was also supportive of London as an investment focus
- there would be some value in better understanding the stated priorities and specific progress being advanced for consideration by other regional groupings

The Corporate Director of Policy and Public Affairs was happy to provide a summary of such projects, but felt that an understanding of the timing of those projects as well as their funding methods was important, to enable members to compare national priorities with those in London.

The Chair summarised the discussion, recognising the importance when lobbying government to have full knowledge of London's requirements, whether projects were looking for financial guarantees or direct funding, how London's requirements integrated with national priorities, and to achieve the right level of engagement within government departments. Officers would provide a short summary of key London Local Government Budget 2020 costs to use by Executive members. This would reflect the written submission London Councils would make ahead of the 11<sup>th</sup> March Budget.

In addition, the Chief Executive confirmed that conversations were taking place with ministers arising from sending the Ministerial letters following the election.

Members noted the report.

## **5. Business Planning 2020/21**

The Chief Executive introduced the paper, mentioning that the report sought agreement for the business planning process initially set out in the Chair's letter sent to Executive members in December 2019.

Cllr Bell mentioned that climate emergency was not specifically included in the Pledges and noted that boroughs had already made decisions regarding the allocation of relevant funds, most boroughs having now declared climate emergencies.

Cllr Govindia felt that climate change work should inform all the outcomes of the Pledges rather than being seen as stand-alone.

Members recognised the importance of jointly driving the climate change agenda by both the Mayor and boroughs, particularly in view of the present Mayor's pledge to make London carbon neutral by 2030. They also recognised that the challenge presented the opportunity for innovative policy making which linked in the affordability and environmental aspirations of London's communities.

Members agreed the approach to business planning, and that officers would now work with portfolio holders and shadow members over the next few weeks, leading to an extensive collective discussion on relative priorities at the March 2020 Executive. The Chief Executive confirmed that the planning process would take account of the points raised in both this and the previous item and would also have regard to the outcomes of the election.

Cllr Govindia mentioned the present gap in the permanent appointment to the position of Deputy Mayor for Housing and felt that this should be raised as an issue. Cllr Rodwell confirmed that Jules Pipe was undertaking the role on a temporary basis and that he would communicate members' concerns to City Hall about the importance of filling this vacancy on a permanent basis.

## **6. Review of Scale of Election Fees 2020/21**

The Chief Executive reported that this report was submitted annually and contained recommendations of the London Elections Management Board, informed by the London branch of the Electoral Administrators, proposing an increase in election fees and expenses for 2020/21 in line with recent pay awards.

Members were invited to commend the report to boroughs.

Executive noted the report and commended it to boroughs.

The meeting closed at 10.15.

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**Action points**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action by</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Chief Executive Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summary to be compiled of funding priorities advanced by other regional groupings</li><li>• Short summary of key London local government Budget 2020 asks to be circulated for use by executive members</li></ul>	<b>Corporate Director of Policy and Public Affairs</b>  <b>Director of Policy and Public Affairs</b>	Ongoing  Ongoing