

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive

Tuesday 19th May 2020 09:30 am

Cllr Peter John OBE was in the chair

Present

Member	Position
Cllr Peter John OBE	Chair
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	
Cllr Julian Bell	
Cllr Darren Rodwell	
Cllr Georgia Gould	
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Cllr Muhammed Butt	
Cllr Ruth Dombey	
Cllr Clare Coghill	
Cllr Danny Thorpe	
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell	
Catherine McGuinness	

Cllr Ravi Govindia CBE was in attendance.

London Councils officers were in attendance.

The Chair welcomed everyone to London Councils' first formal 'virtual' meeting, and reminded members of the 'housekeeping' rules.

1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies

No apologies for absence were tendered.

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr Bell declared an interest in that he was a member of the Transport for London (TfL) Board.

3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 3rd March 2020

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 3rd March 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

4. London Local Government Resilience Response to the Covid 19 Pandemic

The Chief Executive introduced the report. It:

- covered the range of activities undertaken and the context for the response in terms of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004;
- summarised the work of the London co-ordination arrangements which covered sub regional structures, and 'task and finish' group work as well as its links to the Strategic Co-ordination Group;
- referred to work done in individual boroughs and by London Councils.

Members raised points about:

- funding of future PPE provision;
- funding of hospital discharges and the need to try and reach a concerted position;
- the degree of political involvement in the first stages of the response, which should be picked up as part of review activity, alongside the way members had worked together with chief executives at different spatial levels;
- the potential for an Adult Social Care portfolio holders meeting. The relevant portfolio holder indicated that he thought that the priority should be on LHB Leaders working together in the first instance to consider the lessons from the pandemic so far for future integration of health and social care;

- the response to the crisis had demonstrated to Government the integral role of London boroughs in terms of understanding the needs of residents and supporting them.

The Chair made the following responses to the points made by members:

- he agreed with the value brought about by Group Leader discussions with the SCG Co-Chairs. He also agreed that review activity would need to build on previous work on London local authority resilience from 2017;
- he recognised the importance of both the PPE and NHS discharge issues.

The Chief Executive added that London Councils was undertaking some work with boroughs on hospital discharges and should this reach an agreed position it would be reported to members.

He also noted the Executive's comments about review activity.

The Chair thanked members for their comments and members noted the report.

5. Covid-19 – Recovery/Transition

The Chief Executive introduced the report.

The Chair reported that as well as the framework for Transition which, it was envisaged, would be overseen by a structure led by the Secretary of State and the Mayor, and on which London local government would have clear representation, there was also a London Recovery structure envisaged that would be jointly led by the Mayor and London Councils.

Members made the following comments in relation to the paper:

- it was important that the planned lobbying for a Climate Emergency Board continued, although integrated into the recovery model;

- the interconnectedness between the London economy and the national one should be emphasised. Also, transport considerations were crucial: it was important to enable people to return to the workplace safely because of its criticality to London business;
- the issues of culture and tourism had not been included in the paper;
- the comments on the role of sub regions were noted but those arrangements did not always align with the day to day work of boroughs, and also did not reflect partnership work carried out with others outside of the sub regional framework;
- an alternative should be found to the word 'reconstitution';
- regarding the issue of the financial challenge facing boroughs, in terms of lost income and the amount of unbudgeted spending required, in making a case to the Government, both for financial assistance and future investment, boroughs should be clear about their recovery and renewal 'offer' to the Government and the national economic recovery;
- there was a need to revisit the work being carried out by Localis, because of the changing context as a result of the pandemic.

The Chair commented that one of the advantages of the government being a co-sponsor of the Transition structures would be to raise the salience of the issues that boroughs were facing.

The Chair also reminded party groups to share their thinking on recovery priorities.

The Chair agreed that some thinking would be done to replace the word 'reconstitution' in the paper.

The Chief Executive also responded to members' comments, confirming that:

- there was an agreed Protocol covering the way London Councils worked collectively with London Chief Executives;
- the evidence base was envisaged as the first step of the recovery work;
- he had met with Localis on the subject of their work in a changed context;

- there was a recognition that different sub-regional structures would apply for different activities and in some cases were not relevant to the work that would proceed in any case;
- he had met with London and Partners on the issue of economic recovery and links to tourism and culture.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and felt that they would help Leaders and Officers in developing future work.

6. Proposed Protocol for London Councils Virtual Meetings

The Director of Corporate Governance introduced the report, informing members that the Coronavirus Act 2020 allowed Councils for the first time to hold decision making meetings virtually. The Regulations required a number of elements to be put in place to achieve compliance, which had been captured in a proposed Protocol attached to the report.

Members' views and comments on the report, the Protocol and a revised schedule of future meetings were sought. The schedule would normally have been reported to Leaders Committee and TEC AGMs in June; however it was proposed to move the AGMs to the autumn, and also to change the proposed next meeting of Leaders' Committee from 2nd June to 7th July, with the 2nd June meeting offered as a Leaders' call instead of the next scheduled call on 29th May. If accepted by Executive, it was proposed to take the report, including the Protocol and the schedule of dates, to the next Leaders' Committee meeting for formal adoption.

Cllr O'Neill supported the paper and felt that it would be useful for other boroughs to 'sense check' their processes against the report. Cllr O'Neill had previously suggested such an arrangement to be introduced, to make the best use of members' time, and was pleased to see that this was now in place.

Cllr Dombey asked about the practicality of taking a 'roll call' at the beginning of meetings. It was confirmed that there was a legal requirement to determine those present at meetings, and it was agreed as an alternative that the Chair could physically check who was on the call to ensure quoracy and confirm attendance.

Members agreed the report, the Protocol and the schedule of dates, subject to the amendment within the Protocol regarding the requirement for a roll call, which the Director of Corporate Governance was given permission to amend without referring back to the Executive.

7. Nominations to Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive informed members that the report was presented to members annually, providing information on nominations to outside bodies: the nominations process was delegated to the Chief Executive and discharged against a set of principles contained in the report, including the need to achieve some broad proportionality reflecting the political parties. The report provided the present position.

Cllr Bell confirmed that there remained a number of TEC vacancies which needed to be filled before August. However, the schedule of meetings contained in the previous item would now provide the ability to fill the vacancies within the timescales.

Members noted the report.

The meeting closed at 10.46.

Action points

	Item	Action by	Progress
4.	London Local Government Resilience Response to the Covid 19 Pandemic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of NHS hospital discharge costs results to be shared with members• Discuss with LAP on resilience the issue of emergency response governance structures	Chief Executive Chief Executive	Ongoing Ongoing
6.	Proposed Protocol for London Councils Virtual Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protocol to be amended to remove the need to take a roll call at the start of the meeting and substitute with alternative guidance	Director of Corporate Governance	Ongoing