



# Leaders' Committee

11 July 2023 – 11:30 am

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

Refreshments will be provided. London Councils offices are wheelchair accessible

**Labour Group:** Room 5 10:00

Political Adviser: 07970) 008191)

**Conservative Group:** Room 1 10:30

(Political Adviser: 0753 5584134)

**Liberal Democrat Group:** Room 6 10:00

(Political Adviser: 07858 924941)

**Contact Officer:** Reuben Segal

**Email:** Reuben.segal@londoncouncils.gov.uk

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### **\*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 Chair to move the removal of the press and public since the following items would be 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).

Agenda item

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E1	Exempt minute of TEC meeting held on 23 March 2023	1
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# London Councils

Minutes of the Meeting of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 7 March 2023

## Present:

BARKING & DAGENHAM  
BARNET  
BEXLEY  
BRENT  
CAMDEN  
CROYDON  
EALING  
ENFIELD  
GREENWICH  
HACKNEY  
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM  
HARROW  
HAVERING  
HILLINGDON  
HOUNSLOW  
ISLINGTON  
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA  
KINGSTON  
LAMBETH  
LEWISHAM  
NEWHAM  
REDBRIDGE  
RICHMOND UPON THAMES  
SUTTON  
WALTHAM FOREST  
WANDSWORTH  
WESTMINSTER  
CITY OF LONDON

Cllr Darren Rodwell (attending virtually)  
Cllr Barry Rawlings  
Cllr David Leaf (Deputy)  
Cllr Muhammed Butt  
Cllr Georgia Gould (Chair)  
Mayor Jason Perry  
Cllr Peter Mason  
Cllr Nesil Caliskan  
Cllr Anthony Okereke  
Mayor Philip Glanville  
Cllr Stephen Cowan  
Cllr Paul Osborn  
Cllr Ray Morgon (attending virtually)  
Cllr Ian Edwards  
Cllr Shantanu Rajawat  
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz  
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell  
Cllr Andreas Kirsch  
Cllr Claire Holland  
Mayor Damien Egan  
Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz  
Cllr Jas Athwal  
Cllr Gareth Roberts  
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE  
Cllr Grace Williams  
Cllr Simon Hogg  
Cllr Adam Hug  
Tis Broeke (Deputy)

## Apologies:

BEXLEY  
BROMLEY  
CITY OF LONDON  
HARINGEY  
MERTON  
SOUTHWARK  
TOWER HAMLETS

Cllr Baroness Teresa O'Neill OBE  
Cllr Colin Smith  
Christopher Hayward  
Cllr Peray Ahmet  
Cllr Ross Garrod  
Cllr Kieron Williams  
Mayor Lutfur Rahman

Officers of London Councils were in attendance.

## **1. Apologies for absence and notification of deputies**

Apologies were as listed above.

## **2. Declarations of interest**

Councillor Peter Mason declared that he was a Non-Executive Board Member of the London Pensions CIV.

## **3. Minutes of the informal Leaders Committee on 13 December 2022**

Members agreed the Leaders Committee minutes of 13 December 2022.

## **4. Update on CIV Pensions**

The Chair introduced the CIV Chief Executive Officer, Dean Bowden, who updated members on the progress of the London CIV. Members were informed that:

- Mr Bowden had taken over as CIV CEO in December 2022 and had provided a report to the CIV Board on the key issues, concentrating on maturity and relevance on the CIV. 12 workstreams had arisen from the report, and a full report back on progress was due
- There was a need to review the processes and practices of the CIV and to achieve efficiencies
- A governance review was due in June and all shareholders would need to agree any changes; there was also a need to engage with clients more effectively
- In terms of available products, it was important that they were competitive and that they achieved net zero requirements
- The CIV funding model was currently under review, including fees, and a report to Board was imminent. CIV were also looking at tangential services and opportunities for outsourcing
- Two fora were being established to look at common issues and to improve collaboration

In response to a question about using the CIV to help unlock investment for infrastructure, members were informed that the CIV private markets team had already started looking at this.

Members were also informed that, in relation to the issue of shareholders not currently agreeing to the amendments to its Articles and Agreement, the CIV remained unaffected operationally, and that the likelihood of resolution was good in terms of the changes required.

Members thanked the Pensions CIV CEO for his presentation.

## **5. Pan London Infrastructure Framework**

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell summarised the work around the Infrastructure Framework, informing members that:

- at a recent meeting with investors there was huge support for the Infrastructure work
- Opportunity London presented a great potential for channelling funds into investment
- the Framework would be more effective if boroughs were allowed to retain more of their own funds

Leaders' Committee noted the work done to date regarding the Framework.

## **6. Local Government Finance Update**

The Strategy Director: Local Government Finance & Improvement informed members that:

- The Final Local Government Finance Settlement provided an additional £18m for London compared with the Provisional LGF Settlement. Core Spending Power would increase by 9.3% in 2023-24 compared with 2022-23, but remain 18% below 2010 - 11 levels in real terms. A briefing would be supplied to members following the Government's budget the week after this meeting
- Fiscal Devolution task and finish group – this had been commissioned to update London Councils' policy positions in respect of fiscal devolution and enabling boroughs to have greater financial autonomy. It had met twice since January; recommendations would be made back to Leaders' Committee on the priorities for the next 18 months and for the longer term in July.
- Executive had agreed that a clear and robust set of cross-party asks be developed in relation to relative needs and resources, and so a further work-strand was being established to take this forward. This would utilise the Elected Officers and Executive meetings, and a progress update would be provided to Leaders' Committee in July.

Members made the following comments in response:

- The unique position of the City of London should be specifically referenced within the work

- There should be some thought given to some 'quid pro quo' arrangements that could demonstrate to government the advantages of allowing more flexibility locally
- In terms of funding it was hoped that boroughs could retain a greater percentage of business rates; the issue of financial inequities such as not being able to access Vehicle Excise funds was also mentioned
- Account should be taken of local deprivation data where the position sometimes contrasted with ONS data

Members were thanked for their comments and noted the report.

## **7. Census**

The Strategy Director: Local Government Finance & Improvement informed members of the recent work in analysing the 2021 Census and presented a number of slides. Members were informed that the Census had been taken during the pandemic. The results were therefore impacted by this. The headlines were:

- London's population was growing but more slowly than previously thought, and was getting older
- London was becoming less deprived according to ONS indices of deprivation
- The capital was becoming more diverse in comparison with the rest of the country
- Home ownership had fallen compared with the rented sector
- There was a greater reduction in homes with gas central heating in London compared with the rest of the country
- Unemployment was higher in London than other parts of the country, particularly long-term unemployment
- London had become healthier since the last Census

Further refinement of the results would be undertaken but feedback from boroughs would be welcome.

Members made the following comments in relation to the presentation:

- In terms of health statistics, there would be value in overlaying the Census results with the pattern of funds allocated by Public Health England
- The Census results masked displacement issues between inner and outer London; also a much broader view of funding was needed to recognise inner and outer London concerns

- Some consideration should be given to mapping wellbeing in relation to Fair Funding considerations
- It would be useful to draw out life expectancy information as there was a perception that a lowered life expectancy in poorer communities was being masked by overall averages in boroughs
- There should also be some consideration given to how decisions had been made – perhaps incorrectly – arising from previous Census results, and what can be learned from this
- There needed to be increased use of data across boroughs as part of working more closely together and to look creatively at problem solving, for example when addressing falling school pupil numbers

Members noted the results of the survey.

## **8. Local Authority Housing Standards**

Cllr Rodwell introduced the item, informing members that:

- The report highlighted that 57% of damp and mould maladministration cases occurred in London, compared to 19% of the national social housing stock; it was recognised that HRA funding issues had contributed to this.
- There was a shortage of skills within the sector
- A pan-London programme had been developed to help councils raise standards.

The regulatory reforms being brought forward over the next year were noted. It was highlighted that it was essential that councils put in place the governance and assurance frameworks needed to deliver high landlord standards, as well as ensuring they had high quality data on property conditions and residents. It was noted that regulatory action would be brought against councils if they failed to meet standards, regardless of the financial pressures they faced within the HRA.

Members supported the work, and made the following additional comments;

- It was important for boroughs to have a devolution of power and finances, rather than responsibility alone, in order to meet these challenges
- There was an inequality between the housing association and local authority sectors in addressing these issues
- The challenge of increasingly overcrowded households contributed to the issue

- Damp and mould issues often related to major works programmes and there was a tension between funding such programmes and maintaining new build housing pipelines.

Cllr Rodwell thanked members for their comments. Members noted the report.

## **9. London Councils 2021/22 Annual Audit Report and Statement of Accounts**

Leaders Committee noted the contents of the Annual Audit report and Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.

## **10. Minutes and Summaries**

Leader's Committee noted the attached minutes:

- GLPC – 18 October 2022
- Grants Committee – 30 November 2022
- TEC – 8 December 2022
- Audit Committee – 1 December 2022

## **11. Urgency Report**

Leaders Committee noted the urgency reports in relation to decisions taken following the Leaders' Committee on 13 December 2022 and Audit Committee on 2 February 2023:

The meeting ended at 12:50.



# Leaders

## Shared Ambitions - refresh

Item no: 4

**Report by:** Alison Griffin      **Job title:** Chief Executive  
**Date:** 11 July 2023  
**Contact Officer:** Sam Armittt  
**Telephone:** 020 7934 9575      **Email:** [alison.griffin@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:alison.griffin@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

**Summary:** This report outlines progress and provides an update on London Councils' Shared Ambitions themes and priorities since they were agreed by Leaders in July 2022. We have substantial progress to report across the board, in a context for London and Londoners which is particularly challenging. Leaders are invited to agree a new roadmap for the six months ahead (Appendix 1)

**Recommendations:** Leaders are asked to:

- Note the progress report (Appendix 2) and agree-recommendation of the suggested Shared Ambition theme priorities and milestones (Appendix 1) for the second half of the year to Leaders Committee in July 2024.
- Note reserves will be used for the one-off expenditure for the website (£107K) and the invest to save expenditure for the records management programme (£259k) with approval from Leaders' Executive.

# London Councils' Shared Ambitions Progress report

## 1. Introduction

1.1. This report outlines progress on London Councils' Shared Ambitions milestones, 6 months on from their agreement by Leaders in December 2022. The 'Shared Ambitions' framework is illustrated on the next page.

1.2. Presentation slides to Leaders on 11 July 2023, will reflect progress on the observations and feedback from Leaders' Executive on 20 June 2023 relating to the branding of the Shared Ambition theme icons, mapping of cross cutting themes and relationship between Executive member portfolios to the Shared Ambitions theme priorities.

1.3. Since December 2022, the cost-of-living crisis has worsened, particularly affecting those with lower incomes. Inflation has at times surpassed 10 percent and the cost of essential items has increased even more rapidly. Rising energy and fuel expenses have impacted all businesses, especially high energy users like the hospitality sector. Despite these challenges, we have made significant progress in line with our Shared Ambitions framework, adapting our support to the boroughs and lobbying efforts to accommodate the changing circumstances. A detailed progress report against the framework is set out in Appendix 2.

1.4. The London Partnership Board continues its focus beyond recovery and brings partners together to tackle three draft policy priorities for London:

- **Housing and investment** - Telling a compelling story about housing and wider investment opportunities in London, with a focus on significant socio-economic benefits for the capital and the rest of the UK.
- **Unlocking opportunities for young Londoners and those most in need** - bringing together extensive work including provision of skills, mentoring, mental health support, and building on pathways to reach Londoners most in need.
- **Tackling the cost of living** - preparing the Board and partners for further challenges over the winter through alignment of programmes and budgets.

## London's Future: a city for all Londoners

- Enhancing affordable housing supply, stability and standards
- Delivering an infrastructure pipeline that enables an inclusive and sustainable city
- Enhancing opportunity for Londoners through access to skills & jobs
- Promoting the role of London and UK cities in enhancing national prosperity
- Building collaboration between partners to create resilient communities



## Climate adaptation and net zero - supporting the boroughs to deliver a net zero and resilient London

- Accelerating London's delivery through our cross-borough climate programmes
- Developing sources of funding and finance for climate change action
- Supporting a fair transition for all Londoners
- Promoting greater adaptation and resilience
- Supporting the development of climate change capacity in boroughs



## Wellbeing and the London borough role in Prevention: communities and prevention at the heart of health and care

- Supporting boroughs to enable the creation of strong place partnerships
- Supporting boroughs place communities at the heart of tackling health inequalities
- Improving health and wellbeing through social, economic and environmental policies
- Developing and delivering sustainable and accessible mobility and transport options
- Preventing and addressing violence and abuse against women and girls
- Supporting boroughs to enable communities to reshape policing in London



## Our Shared Ambitions

### Political Leadership

#### Trusted Partner

#### Focus on pan-London efforts

#### Championing innovation and practice

**LONDON COUNCILS**

## London's Voice: developing a shared narrative to maximise the city's opportunities for all Londoners

- Lobbying for London
- Building collaboration between partners in London and nationally
- Lobbying for a fair share of funding for Londoners
- Developing a vision for greater financial autonomy
- Greater devolution and levelling up
- London Councils as a trusted partner



## Value Proposition for Boroughs: ensuring our services and everything we do adds value to the work of boroughs

- Led by the boroughs
- Ensuring our services continue to deliver value for money
- Supporting and linking professional networks
- Promoting innovation and leading practice
- Helping boroughs to prepare for OFLOG regime
- Strengthening borough resilience including workforce planning & development



## Organisational Development: enabling the organisation and its people to do their best work on behalf of London and Londoners

- Legal powers and governance arrangements
- Delivering a new operating model
- Learning and development
- Promoting diversity and inclusion in the organisation
- Digital transformation and innovation
- Move to affordable premises with lower environmental impact



1.5. Our recommendation is to maintain the Shared Ambitions framework going forward, while remaining adaptable and responsive. Straplines and milestones have been updated through organisation wide consultation. The work will be refreshed every 6 months to align with evolving priorities. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the revised roadmap. The proposed priority milestones for the next 6 months are:

- Harnessing sector-led improvement to raise housing standards and landlord services and launching a report into solutions to the reduction of PRS housing supply (October-December 2023). *London's Future*
- Working with government and partners to deliver a 'place-based' asylum approach with improved information flows and informed scenario planning (Summer 2023). *London's Future*
- Supporting the London Partnership Board to enable pan-London collaboration to deliver the London Economic Strategy missions and Anchor Institution Network objectives (June 2023). *London's Future*
- Developing London "net zero neighbourhood" demonstrators (June 2023) *Climate net zero*
- Launching updated consumption-based emissions profiles for every borough (June 2023) *Climate net zero*
- Launch of the next phase of climate programmes & additional programme management resources (September 2023) *Climate net zero*
- Building working groups across ICSs with common priority outcomes to share intelligence and ideas (Autumn 2023). *Wellbeing and prevention*
- Regular engagement with the Met Commissioner including London Boroughs, Leaders, and partners to develop the London Councils response to the Casey Review (over 6 months). *Wellbeing and prevention*
- Drafting a submission to Treasury for the Autumn Budget. *London's Voice*
- Lobbying for London at the Party Conferences in Autumn. *London's Voice*
- Negotiating the Freedom Pass settlement with TFL and the Rail Delivery Group (5 months culminating in December) *Value Proposition*
- Launching a new digital service for Freedom Pass and TaxiCard (Summer 2023) *Value Proposition*
- Launch and delivery of cohorts 7 and 8 of the London Leadership Programme (June 2023 and January 2024) and launch of Aspiring Chief Executives Programme pilot (October 2023) *Value Proposition*

- Engaging with DLUHC following the launch of the Office for Local Government and working with boroughs to influence future direction and sets of metrics (June 2023) *Value Proposition*
- Implement the learning and development framework across London Councils, including refreshing the race equality learning and development offer to embed anti-racist practice. (June - December 2023) *Organisational Development*
- Operating model review to be completed (July – August 2023) *Organisational Development*
- ICT modernisation and refresh programme, including new laptops, telephony system, website, enhanced cybersecurity and record management capabilities (implementation commencing July 2023) *Organisational Development*
- Securing a new premises (September 2023) *Organisational Development*

## 2. Recommendations

Leaders are asked to note the progress report (Appendix 2) and approve the suggested Shared Ambitions theme priorities and milestones (Appendix 1) for the second half of the year. Members are also asked to note the below economic, policy and resource implications.

### Economic landscape

The economic outlook has improved slightly since late 2022, but continued high inflation and other structural weaknesses mean the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) expects to see GDP contract by 0.4% at the beginning of 2023. The UK economy is widely expected to avoid a recession in 2023, but weak growth, projections for rising unemployment rates, and economic inactivity due to population ageing means the economic landscape remains challenging.

Inflation peaked at 11.1% CPI in October 2022 and is expected to fall significantly to 2.9% by the end of 2023. A recent decrease in wholesale gas prices means household energy bills are expected to fall below the energy price guarantee limit this summer, but real household disposable income is still expected to fall by 5.7% through the end of the 2023-24 financial year. Overall, economic weaknesses continue to hold back

productivity with business investment stagnated since 2016 and labour market participation lower than expected.

### **Policy implications**

The milestones should also be viewed within the wider policy context and key political events that will occur in the year ahead. These include, but are not limited to:

- June 2023 APPG for London summer reception
- July 2023 LGA conference
- Sep-Oct 2023 – Party Conferences
- Sept-Nov 23 King's Speech (autumn)
- Sept-Nov 23 Autumn statement
- Nov 2023 – UNFCCC COP28
- May 2024 – London Mayoral and Assembly elections
- Jan 2025 - UK general election

### **Resource implications**

London Councils is already working to deliver the Shared Ambitions as set out in the report. At its meeting in November, the Executive recommended that the Leaders' Committee approve the proposed budget for 2023-24 and MTFS. The budget and financial strategy aims to ensure that we make the best use of our resources to deliver our leaders' ambitions.

### **Move to new premises**

As set out in the report to the Executive on 8 November 2022, the move to a smaller premises will result in one-off fit out, relocation, and project management costs. The fit out and project management costs can be capitalised and depreciated over the life of the lease in accordance with London Councils' accounting policies.

A Premises Transition Earmarked Reserve was established in December 2022 to support the move to a smaller premises and cover those one-off costs that are not spread over the term of a new lease.

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, an accounting provision has been built up over the life of the existing leases to fund the dilapidations costs

payable to the landlord on the termination of the leases.

### **Development of new website**

Forming part of the ICT and Digital Strategy laid out in Appendix 2, London Councils' website will need to move to a new platform and be redesigned to ensure that it effectively reflects the organisation's brand, supports the delivery of the Shared Ambitions, and enables us to provide a highly accessible and excellent user journey for the customers of our services such as the Freedom Pass. The design and build of the site based on customer insight will be completed during the autumn of 2023 with the soft launch of a corporate beta site in early 2024. This will be followed by a phased roll out of service-specific microsites after user testing throughout the year. The total cost of the project is estimated to be £107,000.

### **Record management strategy implementation**

Forming part of the ICT and Digital Strategy laid out in Annex 2, project implementation will involve planning, designing, and building a global Sharepoint site, cleansing and migrating data and managing cultural change including providing training and learning for all members of staff on the new ways of working. The project will require the procurement of external expertise to implement the different project components as London Councils does not have the specialist technical expertise and capacity to deliver this in-house. The total project timeline is expected to be between 15 – 18 months including procurement. The estimated total budget is likely to be in the region of £259,000 which includes a resource to coordinate activities across London Councils. Annual savings of £44,000 will be achieved through migrating internal data to Sharepoint and decommissioning current shared drives.

Leaders' Executive has agreed to fund this activity from reserves.



## APPENDIX 1: Shared Ambitions Roadmap till December 2023





### 1. Progress against Shared Ambitions themes

#### 1.1. London's Future: a city for all Londoners

**Cost of living:** London Councils established a member-officer working group chaired by Cllr Claire Holland to assist boroughs with the cost-of-living crisis. The first phase of the pan-London Pension Credit campaign, co-funded by the GLA, resulted in 1,282 successful claims, providing an estimated £7.1m benefit across 18 boroughs. The cost-of-living dashboard received positive feedback and is being enhanced with further data. London Councils and the GLA will collaborate on recommendations for the autumn Budget and winter preparedness, supported by commissioned research.

**Building collaboration:** The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is in delivery phase, with boroughs receiving GLA allocations brokered by London Councils. A workshop addressed shared learning and delivery challenges. London Councils and borough officers reviewed proposed GLA projects for competitive bidding under supporting local business. London Councils lobbied for accelerated UKSPF people and skills funding 23-24, but the announcement delay hindered funding reprofiling. Sub-Regional Partnerships and boroughs are collaborating with the GLA to advance UKSPF funding and define people and skills proposals.

**Local Welfare Assistance:** The Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) launched in February, offering boroughs an evaluation framework. It played a key role in changing the guidance for the Household Support Fund, enabling boroughs to use the funding for advice and support. London Councils and the GLA are collaborating on a digital solution for Local Welfare Assistance, aiming to improve scheme administration and establish a standardized evaluation approach.

**Pan-London plan on SEND:** The government released its SEND and alternative provision improvement plan committing to a more inclusive system. London Councils lobbied for this change and are collaborating with the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) to enact proposals.

**School places:** In London Councils' report - "[Managing Surplus School Places in London \(2023\)](#)" - we analysed borough forecasts for reception and Year 7 school places. We provide policy recommendations for central and local government to address declining rolls. We have engaged with the DfE Regional Group and London Dioceses, along with the ALDCS network, to discuss the challenges.

**Leadership on refugee resettlement and reform of asylum dispersal:** The London Asylum Dispersal Plan went live in early 2023 alongside a co-developed governance model to assure the delivery. London Councils' Local Government Working Group amplifies the pan-London voice and evidence base concerning support systems for asylum seekers.

Amid migration pressures, we participate in workshops and scenario planning and monitor all resettlement routes. We lobby and collaborate with boroughs on system pressures, particularly homelessness presentations, following the Streamlined Asylum Process, the closure of Afghan Bridging hotels. We continue to establish best practice and support integration via the Ukraine Response London Borough Working Group.

**London's infrastructure:** The London Infrastructure Framework was launched at UKREiiF in March identifying 67 schemes across 4 categories. We will regularly update the framework for boroughs to propose new schemes. Our goals include engaging government departments, the private sector, and investors while implementing three key recommendations: a growth and devolution deal, an infrastructure development and expertise centre, and shared delivery vehicles. We will collaborate with Opportunity London and 3Ci to assist boroughs in developing investible propositions. The next mayoral review will precede the Comprehensive Spending Review.

**Working with GLA, boroughs, SRPs and businesses to deliver the Economic Recovery Framework:** The "London Economic Framework" updated in autumn 2022 supports the missions and reports to the new London Partnership Board. Co-chaired by the London Councils Chair and the Mayor of London, the Partnership Board will prioritise recommendations from a task group within the Board. The recommendations were reviewed at the June meeting.

## **1.2. Climate Adaptation and Net Zero: Working with boroughs to deliver a net zero and resilient London.**

**Delivery Plan of Climate Programme actions:** Boroughs are keen to accelerate delivery and identified a need for additional resource to achieve this. London Councils, working with LEDNet, has developed a new mixed resourcing model toward which most boroughs have agreed to make a direct financial contribution. With these enhanced resources, London Councils will assist each of the programmes to secure dedicated programme management capacity alongside access to a small commissioning budget. Governance and reporting arrangements will be updated to provide greater accountability to boroughs and a new communications strategy, including a new webpage to enable boroughs to easily access data and case studies as well as share learning, is being rolled out. A soft relaunch of the programmes is planned for autumn. At its first meeting in February, the London Partnership Board agreed that options for accelerating retrofit across the whole of London's built environment should be explored, which is currently being scoped out with the GLA. The programme management for Retrofit London is now hosted at London Councils, to build its momentum and maintain strategic oversight from the lead boroughs. Other notable achievements include the completion of an options appraisal to enable boroughs to collectively procure energy and the launch of a pan-London campaign to reduce food waste.

**Developing funding and finance:** Having developed an Outline Business Case in partnership with BEIS to Treasury green book standards and rules, 3Ci is now engaging with Treasury on the move to a Full Business Case. This is supported by the establishment of a time-limited Private Sector Net Zero Investment group, led by Catherine McGuinness, to secure greater public support for 3Ci's work amongst key investors, and to discuss how they can contribute to market creation. 3Ci is exploring routes to fund a series of "net zero neighbourhood" demonstrators around the country. Arup has been commissioned to make recommendations for a technical assistance programme, focusing on corporate leadership, procurement, finance, and development project managers. The proposals for the programme will be tested with boroughs from May through August this year, before considering formal structure and set up needs. Options for funding the programme are also being explored. Finally, 3Ci is developing its engagement with the government minister, the shadow front bench, and

parliamentarians, together with other sector bodies, to develop and land its role as the key initiative in place-based net zero financing.

**Supporting a fair transition for all Londoners:** The London Economic Framework around the green jobs and skills agenda has been strengthened and London Councils has ensured that the Infrastructure Framework includes net zero compatible projects and speaks to 3Ci. Officers are developing a strategic climate framework that outlines: an overarching vision for achieving net zero in London; key areas of focus for action; and identifies the roles and responsibilities of key partners. This work is based on the economic recovery framework and incorporates a just transition at its heart. London Councils is also developing approaches to build equity into its climate policy development work, and the climate programmes have work focused in this area, which is primarily reported under the Wellbeing and Prevention Shared Ambition.

**Supporting climate change capability in boroughs:** London Councils has begun hosting a series of well-attended peer learning sessions with borough officers around borough Climate Action Plans, addressing climate adaptation; monitoring and evaluation; and citizen engagement. Officers have working with boroughs to identify and collectively develop basic climate training materials.

### **1.3. Wellbeing and the London borough role in Prevention: communities and prevention at the heart of health and care**

**Drive up representation of London boroughs in ICSs:** The Chief Executives' ICS Leads group now includes professional leads for adult social care, children's services, and public health – strengthening our voice within ICSs. London Councils' Leader representatives on the London Health Board convene to share insights on ICSs and place partnerships.

The Hewitt Review into the accountability and autonomy of ICSs has triggered a commitment to seize the opportunity to enhance the prevention and resilience. We published a Member Briefing on borough-focused recommendations. Early reviews of emerging ICB strategies and joint plans promote sharing ideas, challenges, and successes.

We facilitated meetings between CELC and SLT leads, the NHSE London Regional Director and Chief Finance Officer, strengthening strategic relationships for improved prevention services. The refreshed Health Equity Group for London, co-chaired by the lead Chief Executive for health, prioritises reducing access, experience, and outcome inequalities.

**Improvement in housing standards and conditions:** Our report launch: "Delivering for Tenants: Foundations of an effective local authority landlord service" with London Directors of Housing Group, in consultation with tenants and stakeholders, includes key principles, a self-assessment framework, and a toolkit for local authorities and landlords measuring progress against the five foundations.

A successful December 2022 APPG meeting on homelessness supported the group's co-chairs in a parliamentary debate on Homes for Ukraine scheme, highlighting the capital's homelessness pressures.

### **Preventing and Addressing Violence and Abuse Against Women and Girls**

**(VAWG):** A London Councils-commissioned research report, published in May, on the funding of specialist support services for VAWG victims launched at a parliamentary event. We met with the Shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Safeguarding, Jess Phillips MP, to discuss our priorities in this area.

An officer-member Task and Finish Group is developing the London Councils response to the Casey Review. It created a framework for resetting local authority-police relationships, including borough asks of the MPS, which was presented to the Met Commissioner in June. During a meeting with Sarah Jones MP, Shadow Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, London Councils further explored our priorities.

**Review of Climate Programme actions with public health outcomes:** A London climate and health advisory group has been established (and includes London Councils' Climate Change Programme Director) to strengthen institutional connections. ADPH-L has set new priorities for its climate and health network, emphasising health and health equity in London's climate change decision-making.

London Councils secured resources for programme delivery and will incorporate equalities objectives and health equity impact analysis, into public health outcomes.

#### **1.4. London's Voice: developing a shared narrative to maximise the city's opportunities for all Londoners.**

**Levelling Up and London:** London Councils has influenced the focus of the Levelling Up Advisory Council's London workstream, and will continue to input and influence this work, starting with a workshop with government officials in June. The three themes for this work are:

- London's relationship with the wider UK - analysing the economic linkages between London's economy and the broader UK.
- Levelling up London - exploring inequalities within the capital and the challenge of inclusive growth.
- Exploring the strengths and challenges of London's devolution settlement.

**Fair funding campaigning:** Campaigning ahead of the Autumn Statement in November was successful, with government confirming the largest increase (9%) in funding since 2010 at the 2023-24 Local Government Finance Settlement and clarity over most of the funding for 2024-25 provided. The adult social care funding reforms were pushed back to 2025 and social care funding increased by over £380 million in the 2023-24 LGFS. We successfully lobbied for no borough to be worse off from reforms to the Homelessness Prevention Grant, and for two-year allocations to be confirmed – mirrored in the Public Health Grant allocations. We persuaded the government to change the guidance for the Household Support Fund to enable funding for supplementary advice services, to be considered eligible spend. We also successfully lobbied for an increase to High Needs funding for London boroughs (which increased by £177m in 2023-24) and an extension to the statutory override on the DSG to 2026. Work has begun on updating London Councils' core priorities for reform of core funding, which is expected to conclude by the autumn.

**Budget submission:** Our 2-page submission to HM Treasury ahead of the Spring Budget in March reflected the key priorities at the time, focussing on housing and homelessness pressures; health & social care; support for businesses; delivering Net Zero; and devolution. While the announcements in the Budget were limited, the

discounted PWLB borrowing rate for council housebuilding from June 2023; the new £63m Swimming Pool Support Fund to help public swimming pools with cost pressures and energy efficiency were welcome. The announcements following the Budget permitting local authorities to keep all their RTB receipts from sales in 2022/23 and 2023/24 and freezing the acquisition cap at 50% from 1 April 2023, were very welcome and met some of London Councils' longstanding policy asks on housing finance.

**Making the case for London:** London Councils has led the Opportunity London Partnership to present a powerful narrative about London's future. It has supported the formation of a steering group comprised of London Councils' Executive members to ensure effective oversight of the programme going forwards. There has also been a strong London presence at recent conferences such as MIPIM and UKREiiF. This involved the design of a new "London stand" at these events and having a diverse panel of speakers with well attended events. Additionally, at UKREiiF, London Councils had a joint stand with Manchester to illustrate the partnership between London and other cities, to strengthen the message of London being part of "Team UK".

**Fiscal devolution:** A task and finish group has been established to renew and update LC policy to achieve fiscal devolution and greater financial autonomy for London local government. The group has met monthly since January 2023, considering: how fiscal devolution may align with functional/service devolution; a broad range of options for existing or new taxes that may be suitable for devolution to local government; reforms to the current system including business rates, council tax and grant funding; and has started to consider infrastructure financing, following the pan-London infrastructure project recommendations. It has been agreed to continue the T&F group beyond its original deadline of July to conclude in the autumn.

### **1.5. Value Proposition for Boroughs: ensuring our services and everything we do adds value to the work of boroughs.**

**Led by boroughs:** The London in Brief series will continue this year, with officers and members of London Councils' Executive presenting to councillors on our work and on key issues that might affect them in their work. Planned events cover: London as a borough of Sanctuary, fiscal devolution, 2021 census analysis, modern slavery in London, and the London Infrastructure Framework.

As provider of the secretariat for the London APPG, we organise briefings on shared priorities, including asylum seekers and cost of living, to inform parliamentarians about their impact on boroughs and boroughs' efforts in tackling them.

**Freedom Pass:** The 2023-24 Freedom Pass settlement was reduced to £226.64 million from £236.87 million, saving £10.224 million. The rail fare increase announcement was delayed, a 5.9% increase instead of the assumed 13.3%.

The annual Freedom Pass renewal saw over 80,000 passes issued and just under 9,000 passes not renewed, saving boroughs about £1.75 million.

**Senior workforce development:** Four additional cohorts of the London Leadership Programme (LLP) have been commissioned to develop collaborative systems leaders who understand the complex social and organisation systems that exist. Cohort 7 will launch in June with graduation in January 2024.

We commissioned the Leadership Centre and Solace to deliver pilot cohorts for an 'aspiring chief executives programme', supporting directors and executive directors to transition to chief executive roles. The first pilot will launch in Autumn.

**Performance benchmarking:** We have engaged with DLUHC on the establishment of the Office for Local Government (Oflog) and analysed their proposed metrics to understand London and borough performance. We will continue to seek to influence future metrics and develop a London indicator set which reflects key priorities.

Deep dives on children's services and housing were presented to the Self Improvement Board (SIB) in January and April, analysing performance and identifying areas at risk of failure. We will deliver an annual report on trends and pressures.

**Peer to peer support:** The 2022/23 CE2CE peer support programme successfully held 27 one-to-one meetings involving 29 chief executives. The 2023 programme for Directors of Finance will begin shortly. Participation and engagement remain high.



**Support for networks:** We are working on aligning professional networks in London for closer collaboration and information sharing. We have collated key priorities and structures across the networks, and will establish a shared meeting schedule to support pan-London collaboration.

**New major areas of focus:** We will focus on influencing the Office for Local Government's model and future metrics through the SIB, and reshaping sector support and assurance framework in collaboration with the LGA.

Continued senior workforce development includes supporting recruitment of chief officers and exploring a leader-to-leader peer support programme pilot.

#### **1.6. Organisational Development: enabling the organisation and its people to do their best work on behalf of London and Londoners.**

**Budget and premises strategy:** Steps have been taken to ensure London Councils' financial arrangements remain sustainable and reduce reliance on reserves when setting annual budgets. A review of the operating model began in early 2023 to assess its support for the Shared Ambitions. This review will identify areas for improvement, increase effectiveness, and find savings and efficiencies, informing the budget for December 2023.

The search for smaller premises has started following positive discussions with City of London officers about terminating the lease on the Southwark Street building early. The search involves reviewing properties in the City's portfolio and commissioning an external search. The outcomes will be reported to members for consideration and approval.

In January, CMT approved recommendations from the internal climate change group to enhance environmental sustainability. Changes in procurement, packaging use, grant funding, contracting, reporting, and evaluation will embed sustainability and social value. The goal is to create a more sustainable workplace during London Councils' office relocation. Policy evaluation tools are being tested to assess climate and equalities impacts.

**Powers and governance:** Workshops organised by the City of London's Solicitor's Department have highlighted London Councils' powers and governing agreements for members and staff. A governance toolkit has been created as a guide for amending governing agreements to support the Shared Ambitions.

Legal advice has been sought on several matters, including understanding constraints related to grant funding, enabling agile responses to future policy issues, delegating responsibilities to TEC for climate change programmes, and formalising TfL's role in the Taxicard Scheme.

**Leadership and values:** The first year of Race Equality Learning and Development Sessions saw significant staff participation. The recent staff survey revealed improved perception of London Councils' commitment to tackling racial inequality but emphasised the need for further equality efforts.

The internal leadership group continues to meet regularly, providing a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, peer support, and professional development.

**Learning and Development Framework:** London Councils launched the Learning and Development Framework, prioritising continuous learning and development to deliver the Shared Ambitions. The framework aims to hone expertise, promote consistent knowledge sharing, foster collaboration and innovation, and celebrate achievements while striving for improvement.

**ICT and Digital Strategy:** The ICT and Digital Strategy for 2023-2026 has been launched, outlining plans for stable and secure systems, cyber security, data sharing, website enhancements, and digital transformation projects. Lessons learned from pilot projects will inform future initiatives and promote innovation and best practices across the organisation.

**Records Management Strategy:** London Councils developed a records management strategy to ensure effective information management and utilisation. The strategy supports data sharing and collaboration, both internally and with external stakeholders, to deliver the Shared Ambitions. Leveraging the Office 365 platform, data migration to SharePoint online will streamline compliance with information governance legislation.

# Leaders

## London Council's Climate Programme    Item no:    5 23 - 25

**Report by:** Hannah Jameson      **Job title:** Climate Change Programme Director  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
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**Summary:** This report sets out the proposed activity for the London Councils climate programme for 23/24 and 24/25. Boroughs have collectively invested £2 million in the programme to accelerate climate action over the next two years. This report sets out how that investment will be used to meet London's climate goals.

**Recommendations:**

- 1) To agree the proposed actions and deliverables for the climate programmes for 23/24 and 24/25
- 2) To agree the allocation of resources and oversight arrangements
- 3) To note the reporting and oversight arrangements for the programmes

# London Councils' Climate Programme – 2023-2025

## Introduction

1. This report provides Leaders with an overview of the plans to support the next phase of the climate programme, transitioning from the action planning and set up phase into delivery and growth.
2. The report marks a significant milestone in the development of London Council's climate programme. 27 boroughs have agreed to invest in the next phase of the programme, providing input, leadership and financial contributions. Leaders can therefore expect to see the programme move into delivery with the roll out of pan-London projects, research and data to support boroughs' individual and collective climate action.
3. To date, the programme has primarily been reporting into the Transport and Environment Committee on plans and progress. But given the additional financial contribution that boroughs will now be making to enhance the programme's delivery capabilities, it is timely to enhance their governance and oversight arrangements as well. Accordingly, it is proposed that more comprehensive updates are brought to Leaders Committee twice a year.

## Background

4. The London Councils climate programme was launched in 2019, following LEDNet and TEC's joint statement on the climate emergency. Each of the 7 themes are led by London's boroughs, and each brings together a range of partners to collaborate on some of our city's biggest climate challenges.
5. Over the course of 2020 and 2021, the lead boroughs established governance arrangements, engaged partners and undertook work to scope the programme. This culminated in the publication of action plans for each theme, which were shared with TEC and Leaders' Committee in 2022 and which are available on the [London Councils website](#).
6. During 2022 the lead boroughs worked closely with their steering groups to identify a set of delivery priorities from the agreed action plans that would accelerate London's climate transition and build momentum for further action and investment. At the same time, London Councils has been working with LEDNet and SLT to agree a resourcing model for this first phase of delivery.
7. In February 2023 a proposal was sent to all the boroughs and the City of London. The proposal asked for a financial contribution of £40,000 per year for the next two years to provide some core funding for the 6 of the 7 thematic areas of the programme. It should

be noted that Retrofit London is already supported by the Housing Director's Network. It also set out the proposed activity for the programme, and therefore what benefits boroughs, and London as a whole, could expect to see. Boroughs were asked to provide feedback on the plans and how leadership, governance and reporting should operate. That feedback has been incorporated and is reflected in the plans presented in this report.

### **Programme activity 23/24-34/25**

8. In response to the proposal 27 boroughs have agreed to invest and support the next phase of the climate programme. The investment from boroughs allows London Councils and the lead boroughs to begin to accelerate the delivery of the action plans. This is an important opportunity for London; while every borough is leading climate action in their area they also recognize that if we are to achieve our goals we must be able to act more quickly and at scale through collaboration. Local government has a critical role to play in leading and coordinating climate action, but we must also invest in our capacity and capability to do so. Therefore, the priorities identified for the next two years focus on pan-London projects that:
  - Help boroughs make faster progress on climate action through developing shared solutions that can be adopted and implemented in multiple boroughs
  - Address skills, capacity and coordination gaps that can help London to deliver at scale
  - Strengthen London's research, data and intelligence to enable more strategic action on climate and enable us to track progress
  - Develop new delivery models and partnerships that can attract investment and bring additional capacity, expertise and innovative solutions to London's climate challenges
9. A breakdown of projects by theme is included in Appendix 1. It should be noted that these may evolve over the next two years, with further activity added should resources be found.
10. The funding provided by boroughs will be used to employ up to 6 new staff to support the lead boroughs in their work. These staff will be employed by London Councils but work closely with the lead boroughs to support project delivery. This is in addition to the programme team already established for Retrofit London and funded by Housing Directors. Each thematic area will also have a commissioning budget to fund projects or use as match funding to enable them to attract grants or other forms of investment.
11. London Councils will continue to support and enable the programme through effective governance, supporting a more effective climate finance and funding landscape and climate policy oversight.

## **Reporting, oversight and communications**

12. Each theme steering group will be responsible for overseeing their project delivery, making day to day decisions on the use of resources and ensuring value for money. The role of the Climate Oversight Group will expand to include overseeing the allocation of resources, monitoring and supporting overall delivery as well as disseminating progress reports back into London's professional networks and the boroughs and engaging them in the programme's development.
13. At a political level, Leaders' Committee continues to provide leadership and oversight for the climate programme in recognition of the breadth of policy areas affected by the work, and the overall importance of this programme to London's Shared Ambitions. We will therefore continue to report to Leaders' Committee on a twice-yearly basis alongside TEC.
14. As the programme moves into delivery there is an opportunity to strengthen our communications to engage a wider audience in our climate work. This will be important in supporting greater knowledge transfer across London, engaging new partners in our work, and influencing policy. London Councils is therefore committing more of its resources to this work including improving the programme's online presence, stakeholder engagement and advocacy work.

## **Recommendations**

1. To agree the proposed actions and deliverables for the climate programmes for 23/24 and 24/25
2. To agree the allocation of resources
3. To note the reporting and oversight arrangements for the programmes

## **Financial implications for London Councils –**

London Councils will collect the financial contributions from boroughs and be responsible for managing and reporting on those budgets in line with its own policies and procedures.

At this point we are anticipating receiving £2,080,000 over the two years – 2023/24-2024/25. This equates to 25 boroughs contributing £40,000 per year and two boroughs contributing £20,000 per year.

**Legal implications for London Councils - None**

**Equalities implications for London Councils –** The 7 action plans describe the climate risks facing London's communities and the risk associated with an unjust transition. Within the action plans lead boroughs have identified opportunities to address London's inequalities and considerations for policy development to ensure that those most at risk from climate change are at the centre of decision-making.

During this next phase it will be important to develop this initial insight into a cross-programmes equalities analysis and set of equalities objectives. This will allow us to proactively identify opportunities to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between groups sharing protected characteristics and systematically address equalities risks in individual projects and programmes. This work will be incorporated into the programme for 23/24.





## Appendix 1: London Council's Climate Programme 23/24-24/25

Thematic area	Project	Output	Timeline
<b>Retrofit London:</b> Our focus is on scaling residential retrofit across London, increasing the number of homes retrofitted to EPC B or above and in doing so reducing energy costs for Londoners at the same time as reducing emissions. Over the next two years Retrofit London will work on the factors that will enable us to scale retrofit in London, such as policy, partnerships, finance, skills, coordination and technical solutions. Retrofit London will support and connect boroughs and their partners to develop new funding and delivery models. It will become the centre of collaboration and innovation for our city; a trusted partner to regional and central government and the private sector with the ability to bring knowledge of delivery to policy and investment discussions.			
	Outcomes based funding and delivery model for retrofit in London	Options appraisal to identify approaches to scale retrofit in London	Q4 23/24
	Home Upgrade Grant 2	400 low income homes receive measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills	Q4 24/25
	Community engagement for retrofit	Pilots to trial new approaches to engaging Londoners on retrofit and collation of best practice and learning to support boroughs, housing associations and other landlords	Q2 24/25
	Retrofit training and skills	Programme of training for council staff developing skills and knowledge needed for retrofit	Q3 23/24
	London's retrofit pipeline	Collation of data to build a pipeline of London's retrofit projects to help inform skills planning, procurement and delivery approaches, and funding and finance	Q2 24/25
	Supporting borough-led retrofit	Guidance and support including on leaseholders, engagement and integrating retrofit into repairs and maintenance programmes. Regular practitioner network meetings to enable peer learning.	Q3 23/24
<b>Renewable Power for London:</b> Our aim is to maximise local innovative energy and heat generation and storage projects and to support the development of a net zero energy plan for London. Over the next two years the programme will work closely with the GLA to roll out Local Area Energy Planning, identify the decentralised energy assets London needs to achieve net zero, and work with commercial partners, central government and other stakeholders to realise delivery of that network, including through development of the necessary resources and capabilities.			

<p>RP4L will support public sector bodies to increase their procurement of renewable energy by developing a model for collective Power Purchase Agreements that can be replicated by groups of boroughs, supporting the decarbonisation of the grid, reducing costs and enabling boroughs to reach their own net zero goals.</p> <p>The programme will work with GLA and others to review London's energy advice services to ensure they are supporting residents to access renewable power effectively while reducing energy costs and contributing to decarbonisation.</p>			
	Developing the strategic leadership in London boroughs needed to deliver a net zero energy system	<p>Assessment of energy-related capacity and capability gaps within boroughs, including overall technical, financial and leadership skills and model JDs, approaches to organisational support and governance models for LAEP delivery</p> <p>A dynamic resource that brings together information and best practice on funding, financing and investment and skills development on energy</p>	<p>Q3 23/24</p> <p>Q3 23/24</p>
	Deliver Local Areas Energy Plans (LAEPs) across London boroughs and sub-regions that enable and accelerate a net zero energy system	A funded sub-regional LAEP roll out plan with clear roles and responsibilities for boroughs and GLA to result in a LAEP for each sub-regional grouping (stage 1-4), including an outline of next steps needed to deliver stages 5 – 7	Q4 24/25
	Make full use of the new statutory powers on heat zoning across London to accelerate the decarbonisation of heat	<p>Coordination of heat zoning plans with current infrastructure plans to build a holistic understanding of London's net zero infrastructure needs and pipeline.</p> <p>Support provided to boroughs to engage strategically with heat zone planning to develop their new functions.</p>	<p>Q3 23/24</p> <p>Q4 23/24</p>
	Build the London net zero energy	Support to create a small suite of energy infrastructure catalysts that can accelerate boroughs' learning around delivery models.	Q4 23/24

	infrastructure pipeline	An updated, dynamic 3Ci Net Zero Project Pipeline for current energy projects, including heat networks.	Q1 24/25
	To collaboratively procure 100% renewable energy for London's public sector	Establish options for collaborative routes to market and deliver a collaboratively procured Power Purchase Agreement for a group of London boroughs.	Q4 24/25
	Energy advice to decarbonise and reduce bills	Evaluation of the current energy advice model across the capital with delivery partners, GLA and other stakeholders.  Proposals to strengthen current services and review and improve information available to all Londoners to support decarbonisation	Q2 23/24  Q1 24/25
<b>Resilient and Green:</b> This programme's goal is to help London become environmentally, socially and economically resilient to the changing climate, in a way that safeguards and enhances green and blue infrastructure and ensures that they are equally accessible to all. Over the next two years, the programme will focus on developing a strong shared vision for a climate resilient London, and strengthening London local government's strategic adaptation capacity. It will focus on developing effective partnership, governance and leadership arrangements to manage London's key climate risks. These will be supported by the identification, collation and promotion of the data and evidence needed by boroughs to effectively understand climate risks and to assess the impact we are having on London's resilience. In two years, we will have identified and promoted good practice on adaptation for London's councils – for example, developing toolkits and core elements for producing local adaptation plans or incorporating adaptation into CAPs, Local Plans, and risk management frameworks.			
	Strengthening borough leadership and capacity on adaptation	Best practice for boroughs to effectively identify, manage and mitigate climate risks. Guidance on defining and developing strategic adaptation leadership roles within councils and access to training to support leaders in their roles.	Q4 24/25
	Developing data and evidence base on adaptation	Frameworks and guidance for data and information sharing, supporting boroughs to identify, monitor and respond to climate risk. Improved access to research for boroughs on flood, drought and heat inform local planning.	Q4 23/24

	Strategic partnership development	Review of London's governance and partnership arrangements on climate resilience with recommendations and actions for improvement to support pan-London and local area coordination.	Q3 23/24
	Adaptation Planning Blueprint	Develop blueprint and guidance for boroughs to develop their adaptation plans	Q1 24/25
	Integrating adaptation and resilience	Developing integrated plans and guidance with other climate themes to ensure adaptation and resilience are incorporated. For example in Low Carbon Development, Retrofit London and Low Carbon Transport.	Q3 23/24
<p><b>Low Carbon Development:</b></p> <p>London's councils are ambitious about achieving low carbon development and in challenging themselves and each other to go further and faster. They recognise that low carbon development will not only reduce emissions, but help create buildings that enable occupants to have healthier, more sustainable lives and to better cope with a changing climate. This programme aims to provide the support boroughs need to achieve low carbon outcomes through policy, research, guidance and learning.</p> <p>Over the next two years this programme will provide councils with the support they need to lead low carbon development and strengthen collaboration across London. The programme will provide resources and training for borough planning teams, support to strengthen strategic leadership on low carbon development, research to drive innovation and policy development, greater recognition of best practice and improved access to information to allow Londoner's to take action on their own homes.</p>			
	Improving the take-up of low carbon materials and technology	Research report on the potential of cross laminated timber in London's new development with recommendations for policy-makers	Q1 24/25
	London's low carbon outcomes policy toolkit	Toolkit of guidance, draft policies and resources to enable borough planning teams to secure low carbon development	Q2 2023/4
	Low Carbon Development training programme	Training modules for London's planning teams to strengthen the application of policy	Q1 2024/5

	LCD Engagement and awareness	Events programme for members, borough planning and development teams to share, promote and celebrate best practice	Q2 23/24 – end 24/25
	Linking carbon offset pricing with the cost for London's boroughs of offsetting carbon emissions	Implement carbon offset pricing increase across London boroughs	Q1 2024/5
	Increasing access to retrofit information for residents in conservation areas	Clear guidance for residents in each borough on the benefits, process and priority steps for achieving low carbon in conservation areas	Q2 2023/4
<p><b>Low Carbon Transport:</b></p> <p>This programme's goal is to halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel and encourage sustainable and active travel options. The focus of the programme over the next two years will be to strengthen London's data and evidence on pathways and interventions to reduce transport emissions, while providing support and guidance for boroughs to implement low carbon transport strategies and infrastructure. The programme will develop London's sub-regional approach to EV charging planning and roll-out to enable the shift to EVs, while providing support and coordination for the successful expansion of micro-mobility.</p> <p>The ambition for the programme is to become the centre of practice, data and expertise for London local government on transport decarbonisation. It is to become an effective convener of boroughs to help align and accelerate policy development and allow Net Zero interventions to be delivered at scale by building coalitions of the willing. By bringing together boroughs it can also support councils to be an effective strategic partner to TfL and DfT on shared climate goals.</p>			
	Data, evidence and pathways to net zero	Consistent methodology for transport emission data and borough level baseline data for London	Q4 23/24
	Supporting boroughs to use parking levers for decarbonisation	Commissioned evidence base for carbon impact of CPZs, kerbside strategies, net zero led parking permits. Guidance and best practice to support boroughs to implement kerbside strategies.	Q2 24
	Active travel evidence base, and engagement.	Report summarising the benefits of active travel interventions, including health and other co-benefits, and how to communicate these. Programme of member training and dissemination to boroughs with resources to enable boroughs to implement behaviour change campaigns.	Q3 24 Q4 23

	Enabling active travel infrastructure	Research and toolkit for boroughs on approaches to funding active travel infrastructure. Guidance for boroughs on the barriers and levers for active travel infrastructure roll out in the planning system	
	Support boroughs to introduce rental schemes for e-bikes and e-scooters, and support London's long-term strategy on micro-mobility rental services	Deliver phase 1 of the e-scooter trial and publish findings. Deliver phase 2 contract of the e-scooter trial. Prioritise safety, collect data on usage, and assess the scheme's environmental impact. Identify best practice and support boroughs to deliver high-quality schemes locally. Complete procurement for a single contract for rental e-scooters and e-bikes in London. Carry out procurement in line with environmental best practice. Ensure the new contract is set up to maximise environmental and health benefits from the scheme.	Ongoing – Q4 23 Q3 23 – Q2 25  Ongoing – Q2 25  Q2 25
	Accelerate the transition to electric vehicles through the provision of EV charging infrastructure	Develop sub-regional partnerships to coordinate the planning and implementation of EV charging infrastructure plans. Invest £35m over the next 3 years to double the number of on-street charge points in London.	Q3 23/24  Q4 25/26
	Work with LEDNet to explore common policy positions on future road user charging	Road user charging policy options paper	Q1 24/25
	Decarbonising the freight sector	Commission a study to determine the challenges faced by the Freight, Servicing and Deliveries industry in replacing London's fleet by 2030-2040 with Zero Carbon alternatives and to replace some journeys with walking, cycling and small EV alternatives, and the levers that boroughs have to make change.	Q3 24/25

<p><b>Building the Green Economy:</b></p> <p>This programme's goal is to double the size of the green economy in London. Over the next two years the programme will focus on building a robust evidence base for boroughs to act to support the growth of the green economy in their area and ensure a just transition. It will develop data and metrics to enable London to collectively track its progress and identify the right interventions.</p> <p>The programme will grow London's understanding of the skills and business support needed to ensure the growth of key sectors and engage partners in developing plans to address these gaps.</p> <p>It will test and develop new models for financing and delivering climate infrastructure and support boroughs to navigate the right funding sources for their projects.</p>			
	Data, insight and research to grow the green economy	Monitoring and evaluation framework and metrics to track growth of green economy and just transition	Q3 24/25
	Green skills for London	Assessment of current green skills provision relative to employment opportunity and market demand. Engagement of partners, including other programmes, to agree interventions to address gaps through a green skills plan.	Q3 23/24
	Supporting green SME growth	Best practice analysis and mapping of effective green finance and support programmes for SMEs	Q3 23/24
	Mobilisation of financing to stimulate Green Economy transition	<p>Set up of working group for Net Zero Neighbourhoods to develop learning for boroughs and influence policy on funding and delivery models for climate infrastructure.</p> <p>Collate guidance to support boroughs to access appropriate green financing.</p> <p>Support development of a robust Net Zero Projects pipeline for London, and associated skills and capabilities within boroughs</p>	Q4 23/24
	Public procurement to support the green economy	Analysis of public sector procurement and projects pipeline to identify key opportunities for green economy businesses and skills development/ transfer. Support and guidance for boroughs and partners to make these opportunities accessible to a wide range of businesses.	Q4 24/25

<p><b>One World Living:</b></p> <p>This programme's goal is to reduce consumption emissions by focusing on food, textiles, electricals and plastics. Over the next two years the OWL programme will focus on creating a city-wide and bottom-up model of consumption-based emissions reduction.</p> <p>It continue to focus on the three main action areas we've identified where local authorities can make a real difference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Engaging with Communities: We will enable London boroughs to support businesses and residents to take practical actions</li> <li>2) Data-Driven &amp; Influencing Policy: We will develop good data which London can rely upon and influence change</li> <li>3) Our Organisations: We will help London boroughs reduce our own consumption emissions and walk the talk</li> </ol> <p>The outputs the programme seeks to create are 1) a <b>culture of sustainability</b> amongst Londoners where new attitudes and behaviours around diet, sustainable product choices, food waste, repair, reuse recycling and refills are normalised, and 2) an <b>enabling environment</b> where Londoners are provided with accessible and convenient means to take practical actions in these areas.</p>			
Engaging with Communities	Food Campaign	Continue with the delivery of the pan-London food campaign (Eat Like a Londoner) focusing on sustainable diet and food waste	Phase 2 from Q3 23/24
	Expansion of TRAID textile collections	Roll out phase 3 of the TRAID refresh campaign with the final 11 boroughs	Q4 23/24
	Scaling of resident facing initiatives	Across each material theme, work with boroughs to scale up successful existing models and/or pilot new initiatives, e.g. school based refill stations, local repair cafes, local rental schemes	Q2 24/25
Data-Driven & Influencing Policy	Consumption Based Emissions Account for London	Promote consumption-based emissions accounting across all London boroughs and incorporation into local climate action strategies	Ongoing from Q2 23/24
	Textile Material Flow Analysis (MFA)	Using textile MFA to raise awareness of textile emissions with London boroughs and develop actions and interventions local authorities can take (subject to funding) to enable residents to reduce emissions within this material theme	Ongoing from Q2 23/24
	Plastics Material Flow Analysis (MFA)	Develop a Plastic MFA (subject to funding)	Q3 24/25
Our Organisations	Food procurement by London boroughs	Implement sustainable and circular food procurement commitment	Q2 24/25
	Plastics commitment	Develop and implement low plastic commitment for councils	Q2 24/25



	Textile procurement	Implement sustainable and circular textile procurement commitment	Q2 24/25
	Electricals procurement	Implement sustainable and circular electricals procurement commitment (e.g. IT)	Q2 24/25

# Leaders' Committee report

## London homelessness and Temporary Accommodation pressures

Item no: 6

**Report by:** Alex Sewell      **Job title:** Interim Strategic Lead for Housing and Planning

**Date:** 11 July 2023

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### Summary

This paper provides Leaders' Committee with an overview of the escalating difficulties in managing homelessness and housing need in London, with a particular focus on the significant challenges in securing suitable accommodation for residents – including Temporary Accommodation (TA) and private rented sector (PRS) lettings – and increasing budgetary pressures for local authorities. Data collected by London Councils from its member authorities shows:

- Rising levels of housing need over the past year, with an increase in the number of residents owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty by their local authority.
- Growing difficulties for councils in securing suitable accommodation, with fewer PRS properties procured and an increase in the number of leasing arrangements brought to an end by TA providers.
- Consequently, a significant growth in the number of families living in bed and breakfast accommodation, including for more than the statutory six-week limit.
- A widening budget deficit for councils as they seek to provide support for residents within a more challenging rental market where insufficient properties are available.

This report also provides a high-level summary of research commissioned by London Councils (with contributions from the London Housing Directors' Group, Trust for London and Capital Letters), which is being delivered by LSE London and Savills, regarding London's evolving PRS market. Most notably, the number of new lettings available across London has decreased by 41.1 per cent since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, while rents have increased by 20 per cent and the number of PRS listings affordable to residents supported by Local Housing Allowance (LHA) have reduced to 2.3 per cent by 2022/23.

The report evidences the escalating challenges faced by all councils across London in managing homelessness demand. With London accountable for nearly two-thirds of all TA placements, and a growing scarcity of suitable accommodation, London boroughs are increasingly unable to manage their growing homelessness pressures, which represents a national problem demanding urgent intervention from government.

The report also summarises existing London Councils workstreams and lobbying asks in this area.

**Recommendations** The meeting is asked to note the contents of the report and provide feedback on London Councils' response.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 London is facing an unprecedented and deepening crisis in relation to homelessness and TA, with rising demand for housing support, increasing challenges in securing and retaining suitable accommodation, and a growing financial deficit within borough homelessness services. As a result, homelessness and accommodation services in many London boroughs are increasingly financially unsustainability.
- 1.2 The severe lack of TA supply means London is increasingly unable to accommodate its homelessness crisis within the capital, as evidenced by the fact that the total number of Out of London placements in Q3 2022/23 was 42% higher than the previous quarter, representing the highest number of placements outside of London by boroughs for at least 6 years (over 9% of all placements). With London accounting for almost two thirds of England's homelessness population, this crisis has national implications.
- 1.3 The underlying driving force is London's severe housing affordability crisis. This comes at a time when the financial pressures on low-income Londoners have never been greater. Homelessness acceptances are rising while the availability of TA is shrinking. The problem has been made worse by rising rents, benefit shortfalls, the acute shortage of affordable housing and a collapse in the supply of PRS properties compared to before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of asylum and resettlement pressures, and competition with other public sector agencies and government-appointed contractors, such as Clearsprings, for available properties is an additional pressure.
- 1.4 Without significant government intervention, all the indicators suggest that existing pressures will continue to worsen. As the crisis escalates, we can expect increasing adverse commentary, media coverage and legal challenges on London boroughs.

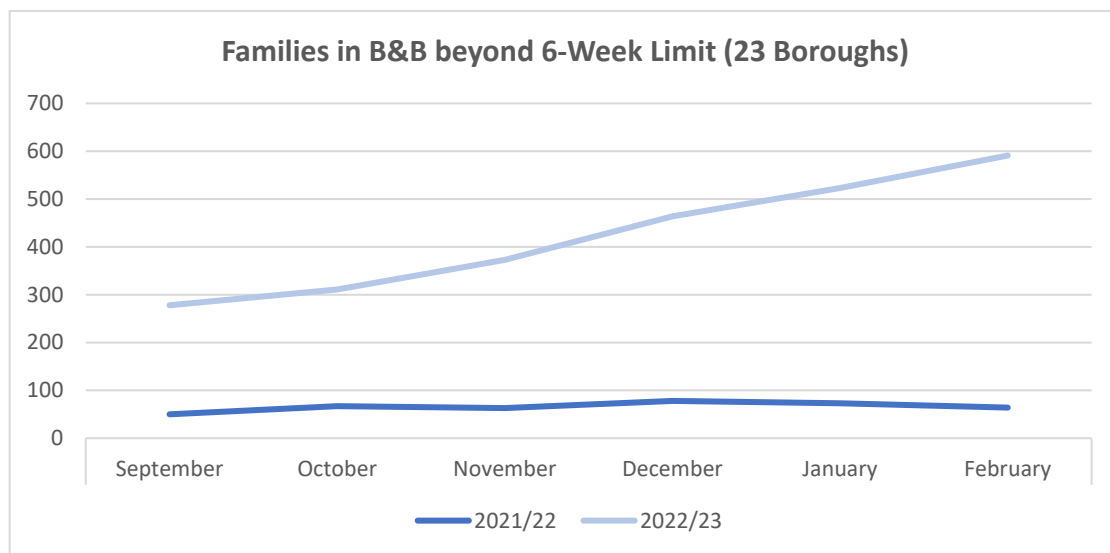
## 2. London Councils Data Return

- 2.1 London Councils has started a regular homelessness and TA survey to capture the increasing pressures not yet reflected in the official statistics. Data provided up to February 2023 continues to show an ever-worsening situation across nearly every measure compared to the year before. None of the fundamental indicators suggest a reversal in this trend. Unless otherwise specified the figures given in this paper are drawn from this return.
- 2.2 The number of households owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty continued to increase in February, where it was up by 14.4% compared to the same month a year earlier. For every month for which we have data the number of duty acceptances has been consistently higher than the previous year.

2.3 The number of households living in TA in February 2023 increased by 4.6% from February 2022. Based on data provided by boroughs we forecast that the number of households in TA will exceed 63,000 by August 2023.

2.4 Yet even these figures do not reflect the severity of pressures faced by London boroughs, particularly in the procurement of accommodation. This is graphically illustrated by the significant increase in the number of families in B&B, placed there by boroughs as a last resort where no other suitable accommodation is available.

2.5 The number of families living in B&B accommodation is continuing to show significant increases. In February 2023, 24 authorities reported 1,550 households living in B&B accommodation, up 167.2% on the year before. For the same period, data from 23 councils shows the number of families living in B&B accommodation for longer than the maximum six-week period increased an alarming 823% compared to February 2022, increasing by 527 families.

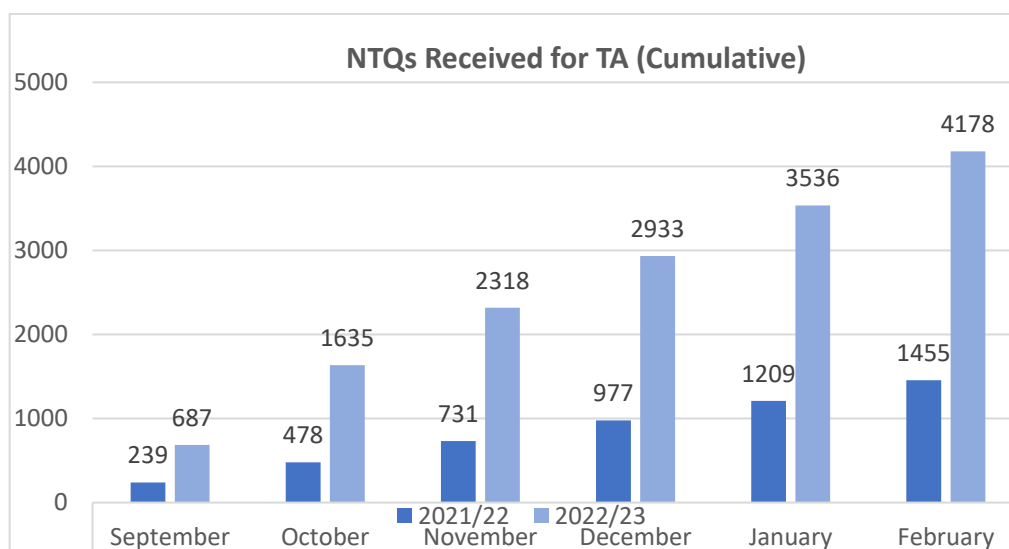


### 3. TA Procurement and Supply

3.1 The rapid increase in B&B usage is driven by a collapse in the availability of alternative accommodation types. The borough survey data shows a worsening situation for councils in procuring and retaining suitable accommodation. The number of notices to quit received by 18 councils for TA accommodation (a notice that providers will be ending a leasing arrangement with a council) was 150% higher in February 2023 compared to the same month a year earlier.

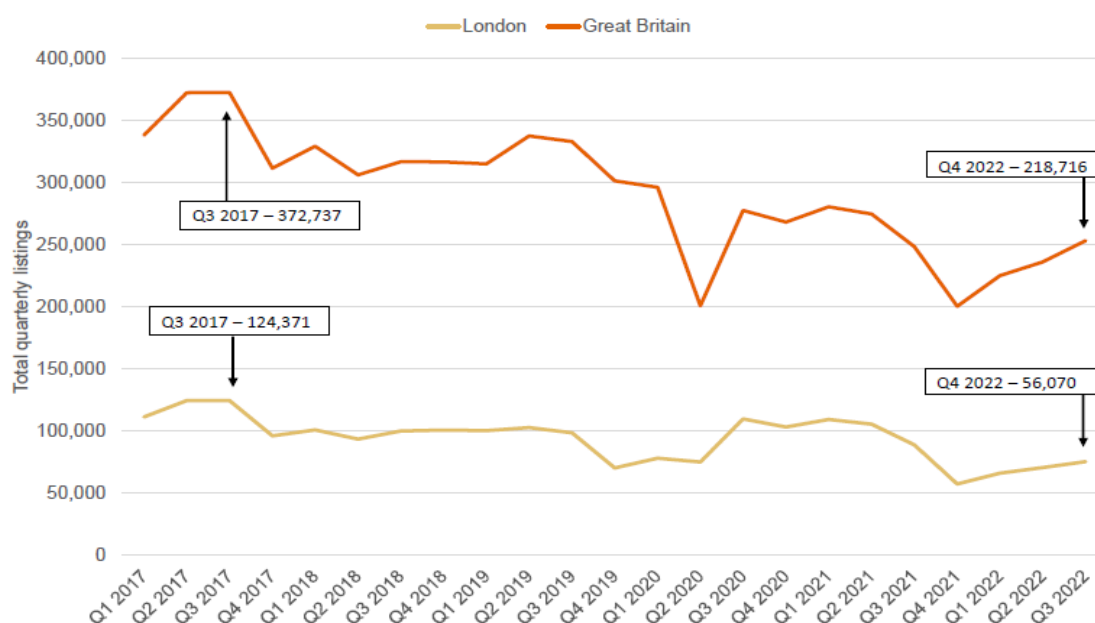
3.2 In the six months from September 2022 to February 2023 boroughs reported receiving 4,178 notices to quit from TA providers: equivalent to 7% of London's total TA stock. Data from 23 councils showed they procured 26% fewer private rented sector properties in February 2023 than the same month a year earlier. If these trends of shrinking availability

of TA stock continue for a sustained period, the cost implications for boroughs will be hugely problematic.



3.3 Taken together this suggests a significantly reduced ability to secure, or even retain self-contained accommodation for homeless households and a consequent increased reliance on the use of accommodation with shared facilities.

3.4 London Councils – along with the London Housing Directors’ Group (LHDG), Trust for London and Capital Letters – has commissioned an in-depth analysis of trends within the PRS, to understand the scale and causes of the reduction in new lettings. **The report was published 5 July 2023.** This project was led by Savills and LSE London. Early findings found that PRS supply overall in London continued to fall throughout 2022. In Q4 2022 there were 41.1% fewer listings than the 2017 quarterly average.

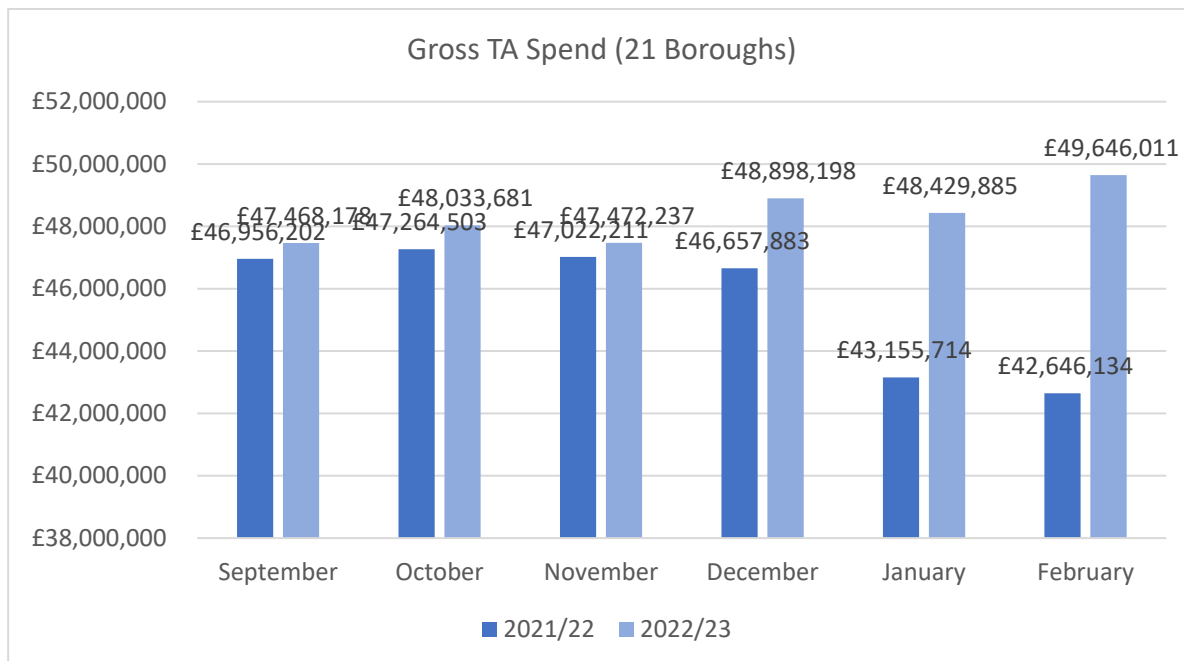


3.5 Other key findings from the research are:

- Asking rents in London are 20% above their pre-Covid level and the weakness in new lettings coming to the market indicates that further rental growth is likely.
- Strong rental growth over the past 18 months, combined with the freeze in LHA rates, means that the level of listings affordable to LHA claimants is now back to pre-Covid levels at just 2.3% of all listings and will likely fall further with rents rising.
- More rental properties are being advertised for sale than before the pandemic, and the proportion is rising. The proportion of 3, 4 and 5+ bed properties listed for sale that were previously listed to rent has doubled from 2018-19 to 2022, and for 1 and 2 bed properties it has increased by two and a half times. This research cannot confirm what has happened to these properties once they have been sold (i.e., whether they have left the PRS market).
- The turnover of rental properties has decreased since 2009 for all bed sizes, with average tenancy lengths broadly doubling. The availability and cost of PRS properties, plus restricted access to home ownership, drives this increased length of stay in properties, which looks set to continue.
- Recently, more landlords are reducing their portfolios rather than growing them – but most are looking for stability. Sentiment indicates more current landlords are thinking of reducing their portfolio than did so in the last year. The balance of landlord sentiment and practice is towards selling property and moving away from catering for TA and homelessness prevention.
- Policy and economic factors are increasing landlord costs, and this impacts particularly those letting at lower rents. Against the backdrop of a pressured cost and policy environment, fears around non-payment of rent and damage to property are a real issue in driving how prepared landlords said they were to let in the lower end of the market, as is councils' practice of moving away from short leases.
- It is not necessarily the case that this trajectory will continue. There are many factors influencing the situation that any of them may change and influence the pattern. However, rental growth will continue to increase in the short term, and the housing and debt markets are strong influencers of tenant turnover and landlord acquisition and sale behaviours that are unlikely to change soon.

#### **4. Financial Pressures**

4.1 Data from 22 councils shows the gross total monthly TA spend for February 2023 compared to the same year prior is up 15.7%, or approximately £7m. Gross spend has shown a continued upward trajectory for those months for which we have data. The below table shows data from 21 councils that have provided data to this question for every month since September 2022 (and equivalent months a year previous).



4.2 Based on the data provided we project that the gross monthly TA spend will exceed **£55.5m by August 2023 or an average of £2.64m per borough.**

4.3 Data from **18 boroughs showed that the net deficit on homelessness service spending is projected to be 27.5% (£21.9 million) higher in 2022/23 than it was in 2021/22.** This total figure masks significant variation, with a number of boroughs forecasting even more severe increases in their deficit.

## 5. Asylum, refugee, and resettlement

5.1 In addition to existing homelessness pressures, there are also more than 17,000 asylum seekers in contingency hotels in London. Constraints on PRS supply (as discussed at para 3.4) are contributing to competition for alternative accommodation between boroughs and Home Office through its sub-contractor Clearsprings, which appears to be driving costs up. There is evidence that Clearsprings have been outbidding boroughs for hotel/B&B places so we have been trying to engage both DLUHC and Home Office in a discussion about how to secure accommodation to address both homelessness and resettlement needs while not exacerbating pressures on different parts of the London system.

5.2 Earlier this year DLUHC published a Statutory Instrument to temporarily exempt asylum accommodations from HMO licensing requirements, although at the time of writing this had not been approved by Parliament. The exemption will be in place until 2024 and apply to properties for a two-year period (meaning some properties would be exempt until July 2026). As well as raising concerns about property standards and the creation of a two-tier housing rights system, boroughs are worried this will further reduce the supply of TA as providers and landlords shift supply to asylum accommodation.



5.3 The Home Office has launched a Streamlined Asylum Processing (SAP) pathway, through which asylum seekers fleeing countries with a historically high (98%) successful application rate will be fast-tracked for an asylum assessment and decision. As of 21 February 2023, there were 3,342 claimants in London, 26% of the national caseload. It is quite possible that a significant proportion of asylum seekers receiving a positive decision via the SAP will approach a local authority for homelessness assistance.

5.4 London boroughs are also being approached by Ukrainian households for homelessness support, where existing accommodation arrangements have broken down. The latest data provided by DLUHC shows over 1,300 Ukrainian households presented as homeless to a London borough between February 2022 and February 2023, representing over 25% of all Ukrainian homeless presentations in the UK.

5.5 The Home Office intends to end hotel accommodation for Afghan households. This carries the risk of London boroughs being approached by Afghan households wishing or needing to be rehoused in the capital. London boroughs are already reporting homelessness approaches from families previously relocated by the Home Office from London bridging hotels to hotels outside of London.

## **6. Existing work streams**

6.1 London Councils and the LHDG (the professional network of senior borough housing officers) has led a significant body of work to seek to address the ongoing and escalating challenges around homelessness and TA:

- Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Data Return: Providing bi-monthly data to monitor the evolving pressures within London.
- Temporary Accommodation Working Group: The LHDG has been convening this group to work through new ideas for addressing and mitigating London's increasing temporary accommodation pressures.
- Publishing the LSE/Savills-led PRS Supply Research, analysing the extent and drivers of changes in supply across London's PRS, with a further assessment of likely trends going forward.
- Setting the Standard: A pan-London shared service commissioned by London Housing Directors and delivered by the West London Alliance to collectively inspect and share inspection reports for higher-risk temporary accommodation. The programme seeks to provide assurance for London's 30 participating councils and drive improvements in standards across London.

- Inter-Borough Accommodation Agreement: A pan-London agreement on temporary accommodation rates to reduce competition between councils and price escalation.
- DLUHC London Strategic Homelessness Discussions: Ongoing meeting with senior DLUHC officials leading on homelessness to review trends in the London TA and Homelessness Pressures survey and discuss policy mitigations. The meetings are led by London's Chief Executive leads for housing – Ian Davis (Enfield) and Mike Jackson (Richmond and Wandsworth).
- Reviewing the potential for institutional investment into new affordable housing and temporary accommodation supply, including acquisitions.

London Councils also continues to use its lobbying and communications activity to highlight the growing pressures in London and seek policy change. On 26 June 2023 London Councils wrote to Felicity Buchan MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Housing and Homelessness) – to highlight the London trends and challenges in relation to homelessness, stressing the need for urgent action and seeking a meeting.

## **7. London Councils lobbying asks**

7.1 London Councils has advocated for the following interventions from government to address homelessness and TA pressures:

- Restore LHA rates to at least 30% of market rents to increase housing affordability for low-income Londoners and boost borough's ability to prevent and relive homelessness. LHA rates for TA should be raised to match the equivalent rates for general needs accommodation.
- Provide capital funding to support acquisition programmes by councils to increase access to accommodation for homeless households, including for use of TA.
- Immediate increase in Homelessness Prevention Grant funding, which should rise at least in line with inflation this year.
- Comprehensive cross-departmental review of homelessness funding with the aim of developing a needs-based funding model that captures homelessness pressures faced by local authorities, including housing affordability.
- Development of a national, cross-cutting homelessness and TA strategy to prevent homelessness and increase the supply of both TA and settled homes.

# London Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Dashboard

**Data for January and February 2023 – including comparison with the same months the year previous**

Correct as of 27 April 2023

# London Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Dashboard

- The following dashboard contains information collected from the recent temporary accommodation (TA) and homelessness pressures survey sent to all London boroughs.
- Data is correct as of the date shown on the front slide.
- Comparable data has been provided from 26 London boroughs, although some data fields requested could not currently be completed by all councils. No data was provided for January and February 2023 by Bexley, Bromley, Ealing, Hounslow, Richmond, Tower Hamlets and Wandsworth.
- Where some data has not been provided, the previous or next month's data might be used where appropriate to provide consistent reporting between months (for example, January 2023 data for homelessness presentations may be used for February 2023)
- Arrows indicate change from the same month the previous year unless stated otherwise. Red indicates a worsening situation, amber relative stability (up to 3% difference) and green an improvement.

# Data Headlines

- Homelessness presentations for February 2023 were 0.8% higher than a year earlier, while the number of households owed a prevention or relief duty was up 14.4%.
- The number of households living in TA in February 2023 had increased by 4.6% in comparison to February 2022.
- The number of families living in B&B accommodation is continuing to show a significant increase. For February 2023, 24 authorities report 1,550 households living in B&B accommodation, up 167.2% on the year before. For the same period data from 23 councils shows the number of families living in B&B accommodation for longer than six weeks increased 823.4% - an additional 527 families.
- The data shows a worsening situation for councils in procuring and retaining suitable accommodation, driving the increase in B&B usage. The number of notices to quit received by 18 councils for TA accommodation was 150% higher in February 2023 compared to the same month a year earlier. In the six months from September 2022 to February 2023 boroughs reported receiving 4,178 notices to quit from TA providers: equivalent to 7% of London's total TA stock.
- Data from 23 councils showed they procured 26% fewer private rented sector properties in February 2023 than the same month a year earlier.
- 22 authorities report average weekly TA rates were 3.8% (£11.23) higher in February 2023 compared to February 2022, while 19 authorities report the average incentive paid for all TA types increased 13.8% (up £183.23) for the same period.
- Data from 22 councils shows the gross total monthly TA spend for February 2023 compared to the same year prior, is up 15.7% or approximately £7m.
- Data from 18 boroughs showed that the net deficit on homelessness service spending is projected to be 27.5% (£21.9 million) higher in 2022/23 than it was in 2021/22.

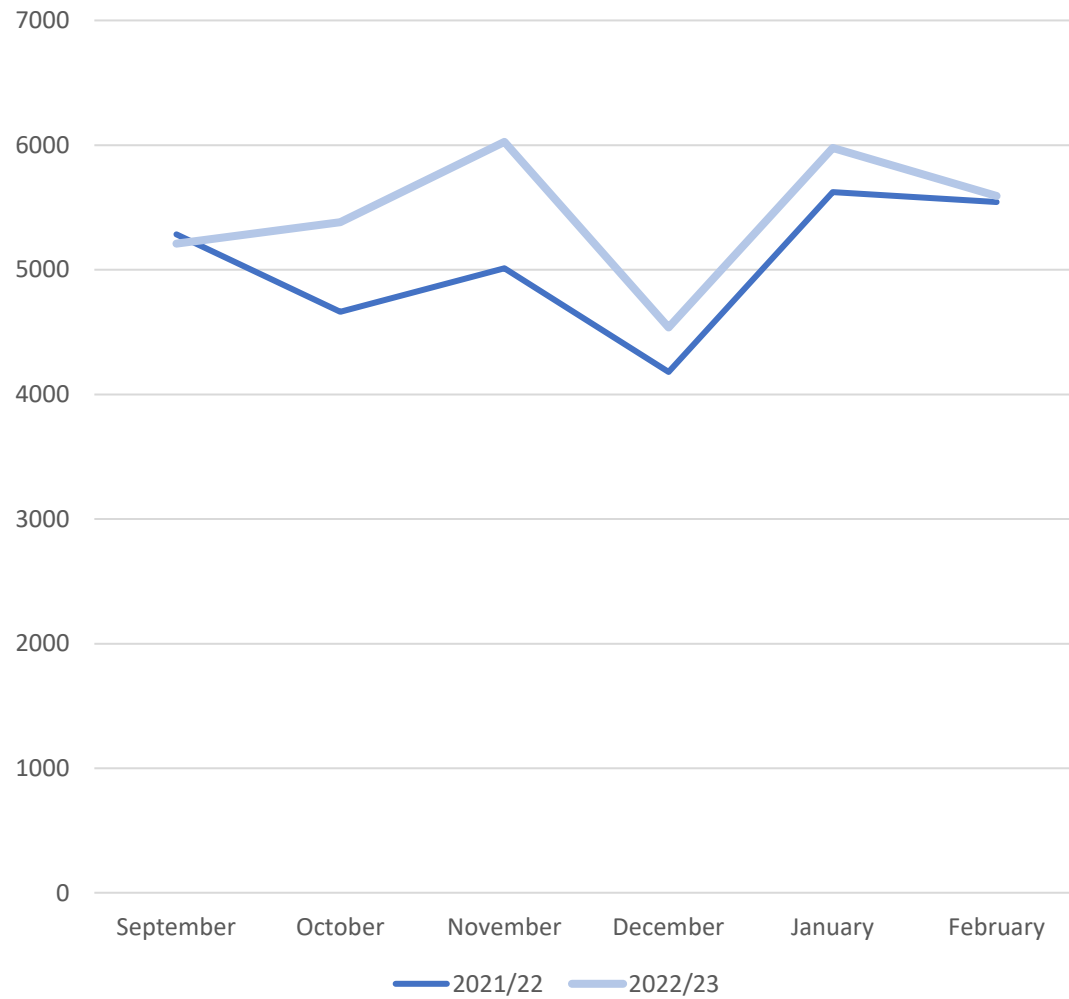
# Homelessness pressures

	January 2022	January 2023		Number of responses
Total number of homelessness presentations	6,006	6,507	+8.3% +501	26
Total number of households owed a prevention or relief duty	5,589	6,387	+14.3% +798	26
Total number of households in TA	47,751	50,573	+5.9% +2,822	26
Total number of Children in TA	62,632	64,516	+3.0% +1,884	22
Families in Bed and breakfast (B&B) hotels (including shared annexes)	587	1,458	+148.4% +871	24
Families in B&B hotels (including shared annexes) for longer than 6 weeks	73	523	+616.4% +450	23

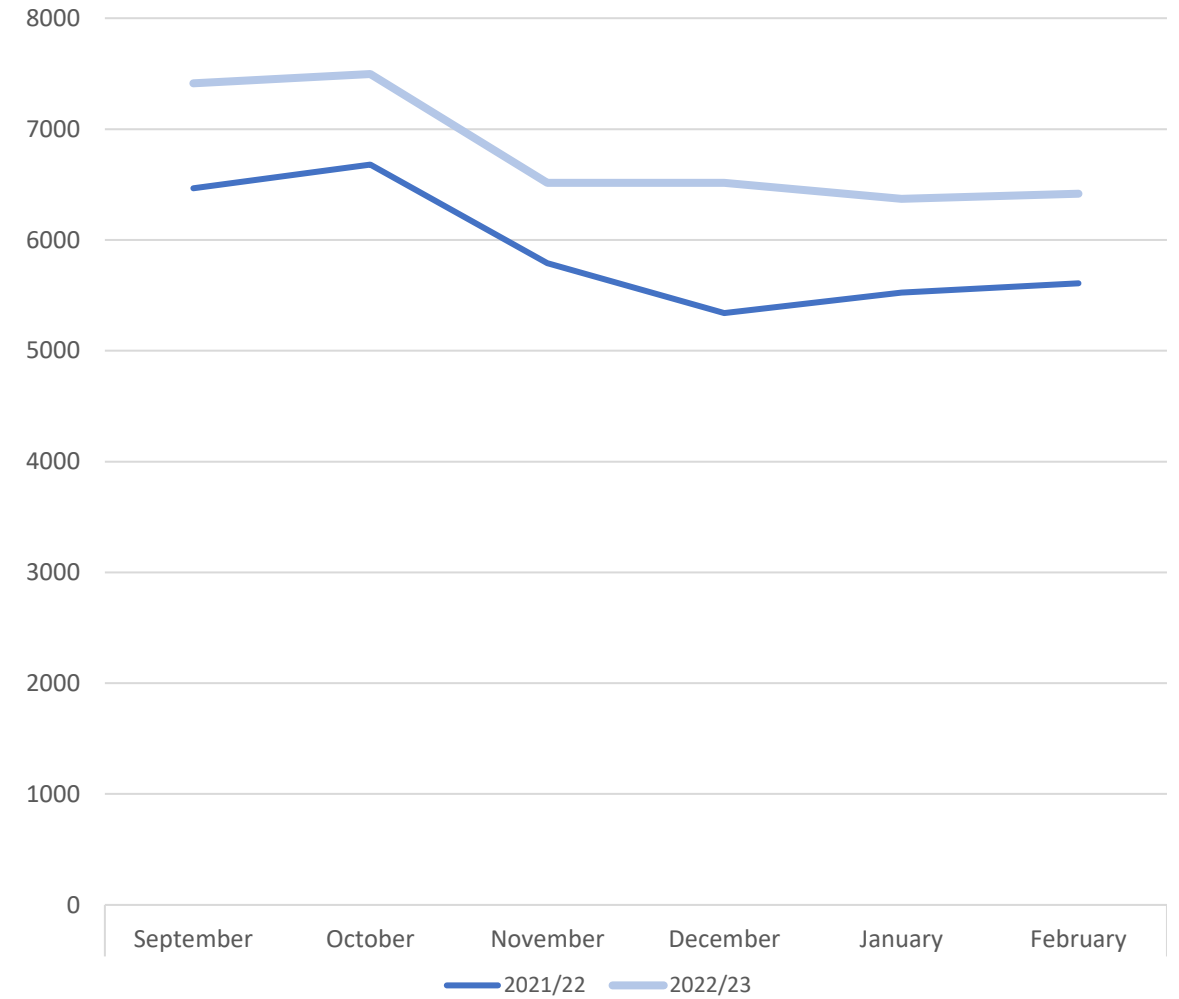
# Homelessness pressures

	February 2022	February 2023		Number of responses
Total number of homelessness presentations	5,545	5,592	+0.8% +47	23
Total number of households owed a prevention or relief duty	5,609	6,418	+14.4% +809	25
Total number of households in TA	47,961	50,168	+4.6% +2,207	25
Total number of Children in TA	61,128	63,418	+3.7% +2,290	21
Families in Bed and breakfast (B&B) hotels (including shared annexes)	580	1,550	+167.2% +970	24
Families in B&B hotels (including shared annexes) for longer than 6 weeks	64	591	+823.4% +527	23

### Homelessness Presentations (25 Boroughs)

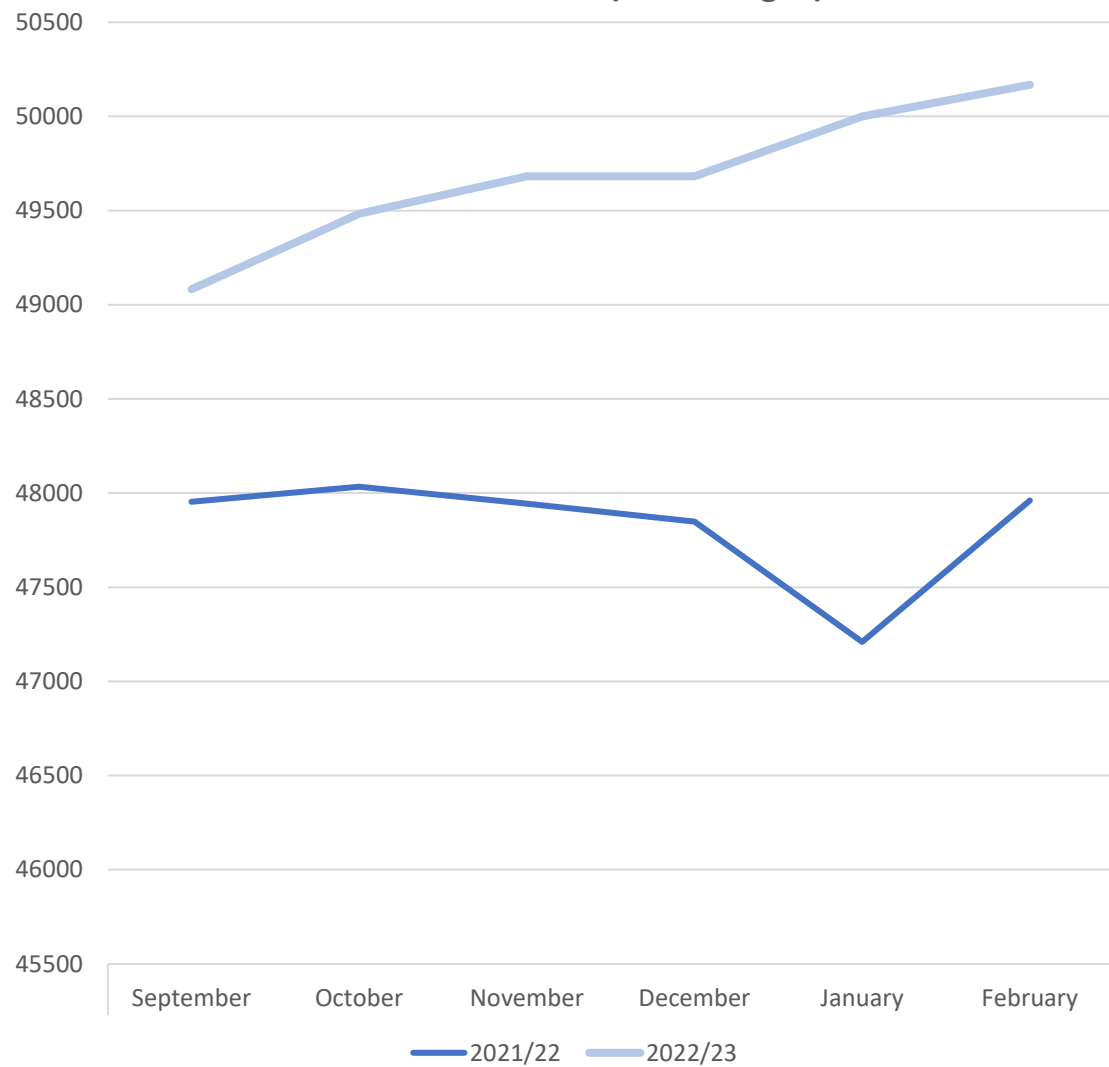


### Prevention & Relief Duty (25 Boroughs)

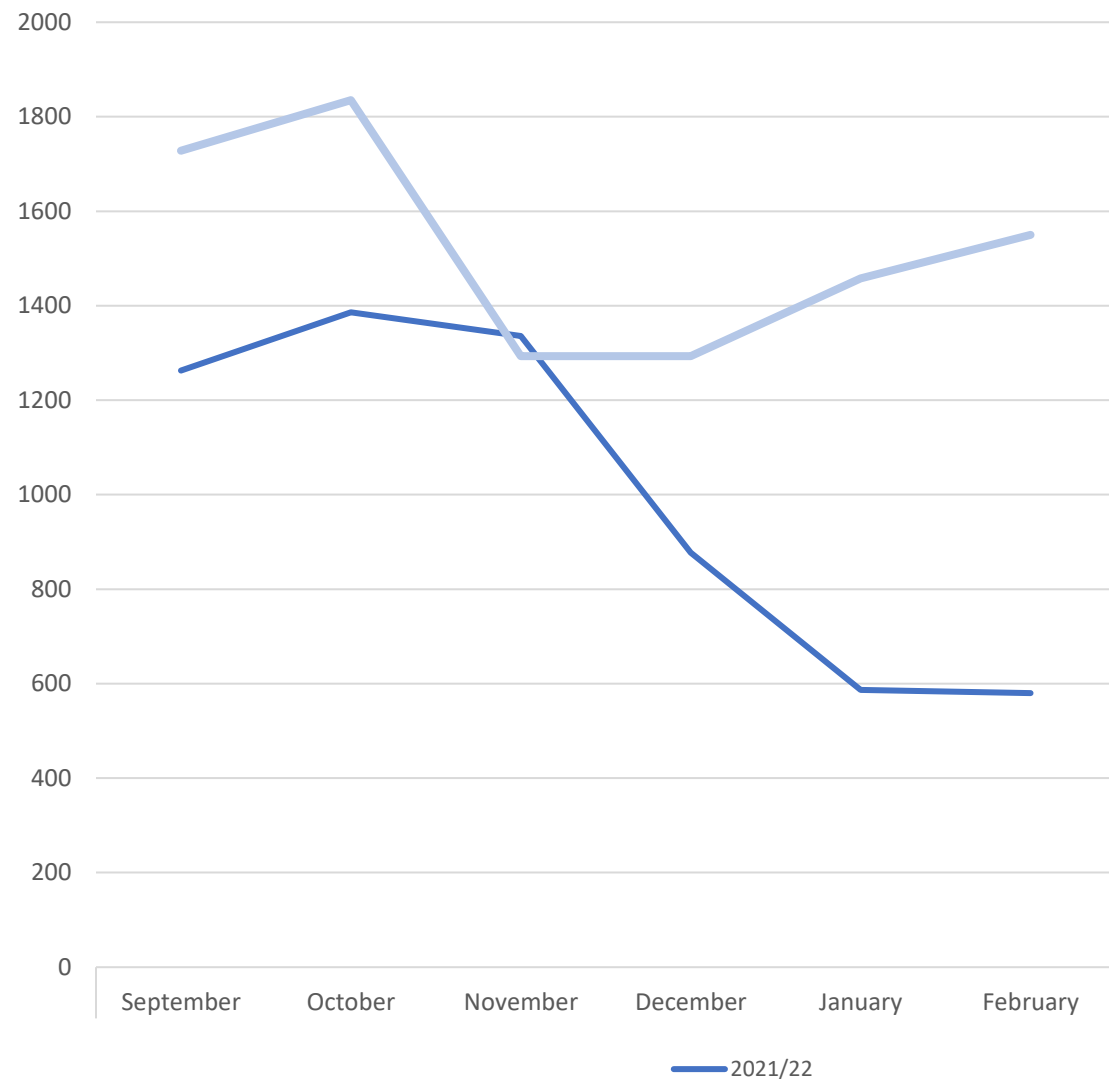




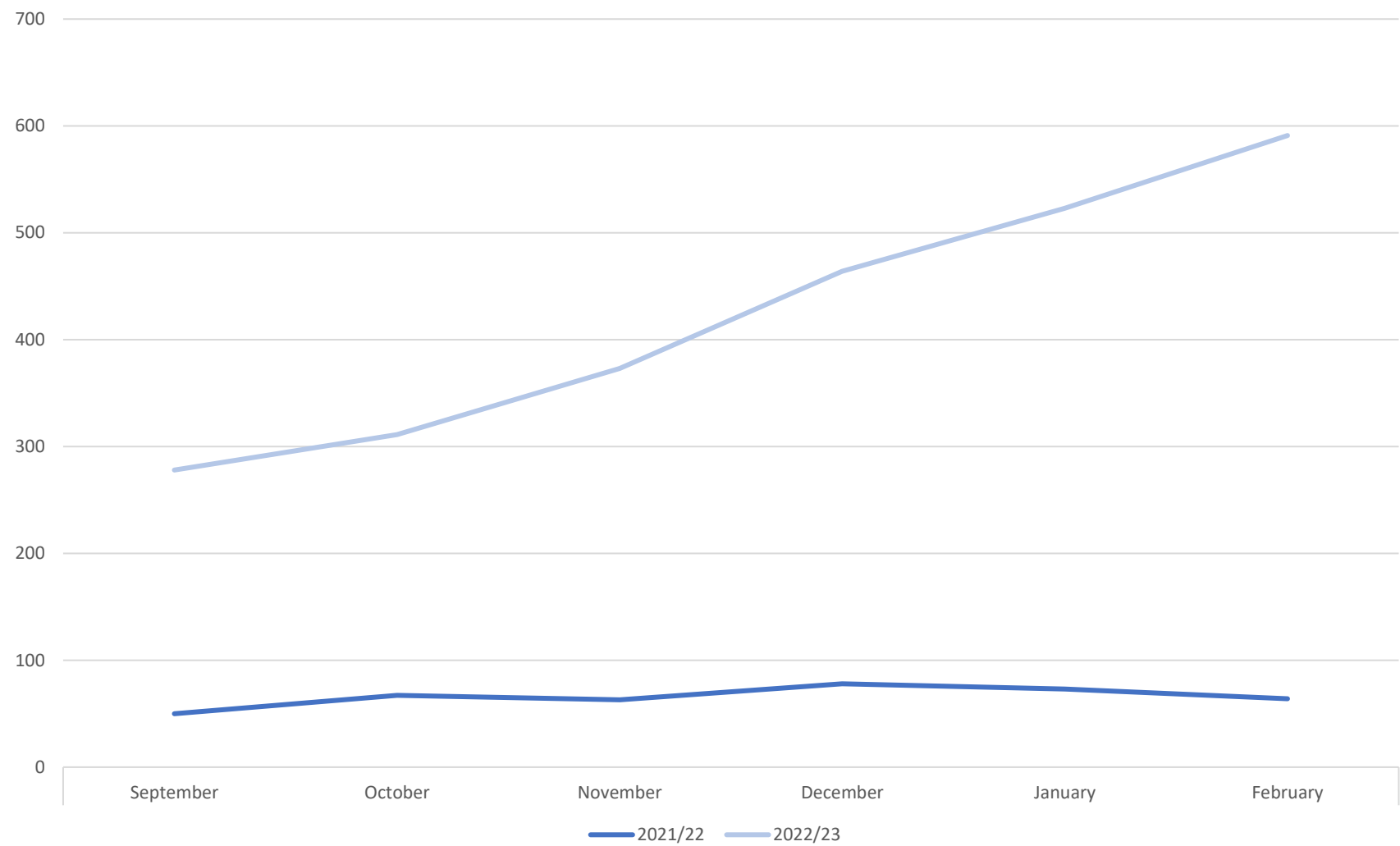
**Housholds in TA (25 Boroughs)**



**Families in B&B (24 Boroughs)**



Families in B&B beyond 6-Week Limit (23 Boroughs)



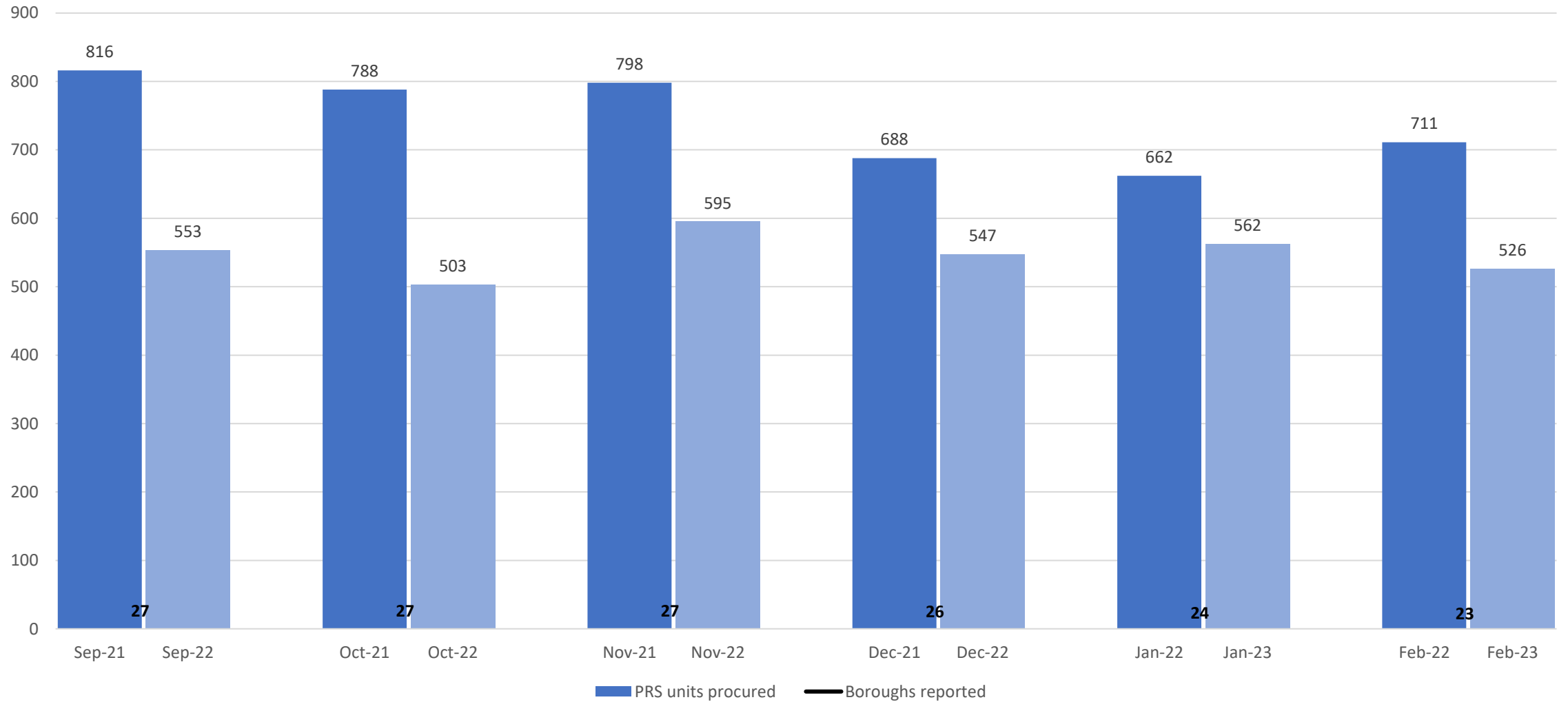
# TA procurement and supply

	January 2022	January 2023		Number of responses
Total number of TA units being used by councils	45,518	47,499	+4.4% +1,981	24
- Of which, how many are B&B (including shared annexes and commercial hotels)	5,209	7,146	+37.2% +1,937	26
- Of which, how many are PRS accommodation	27,123	26,302	-3.0% -821	26
Total number of PRS units procured during the month for ending prevention or relief duty	662	562	-15.1% -100	24
Number of TA units for which authorities have received a notice to quit	232	566	+144% +334	19

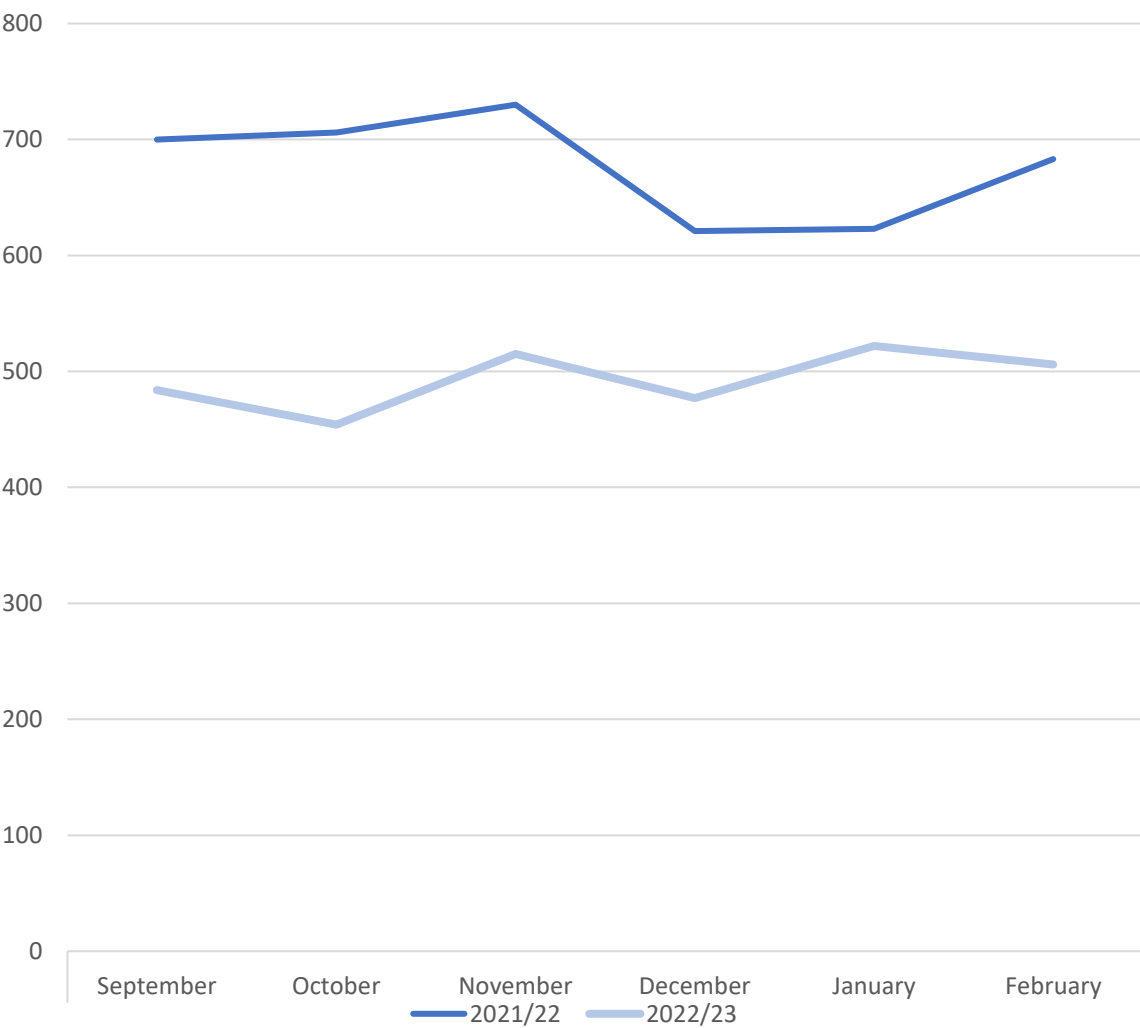
# TA procurement and supply

	February 2022	February 2023		Number of responses
Total number of TA units being used by councils	45,438	47,653	+4.9% +2,215	24
- Of which, how many are B&B (including shared annexes and commercial hotels)	5,133	7,144	+39.2% +2,011	25
- Of which, how many are PRS accommodation	26,325	25,722	-2.3% -603	25
Total number of PRS units procured during the month for ending prevention or relief duty	711	526	-26.0% -185	23
Number of TA units for which authorities have received a notice to quit	246	615	+150% +369	18

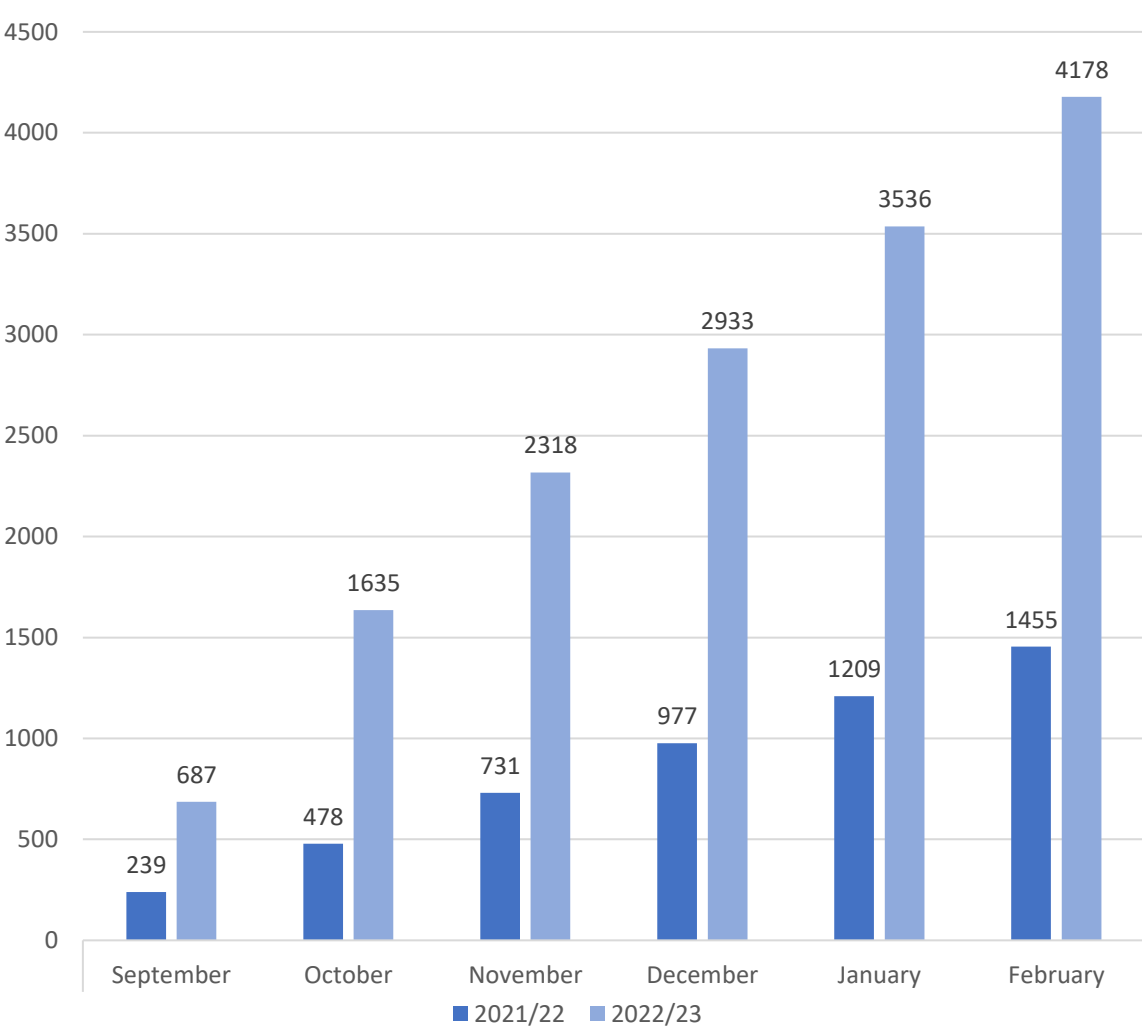
**Total number of PRS units procured during the month for ending of prevention or relief duty (including Capital Letters properties and those procured directly)**



PRS Units Procured (22 Boroughs)



NTQs Received for TA (Cumulative)



# Budgetary pressures

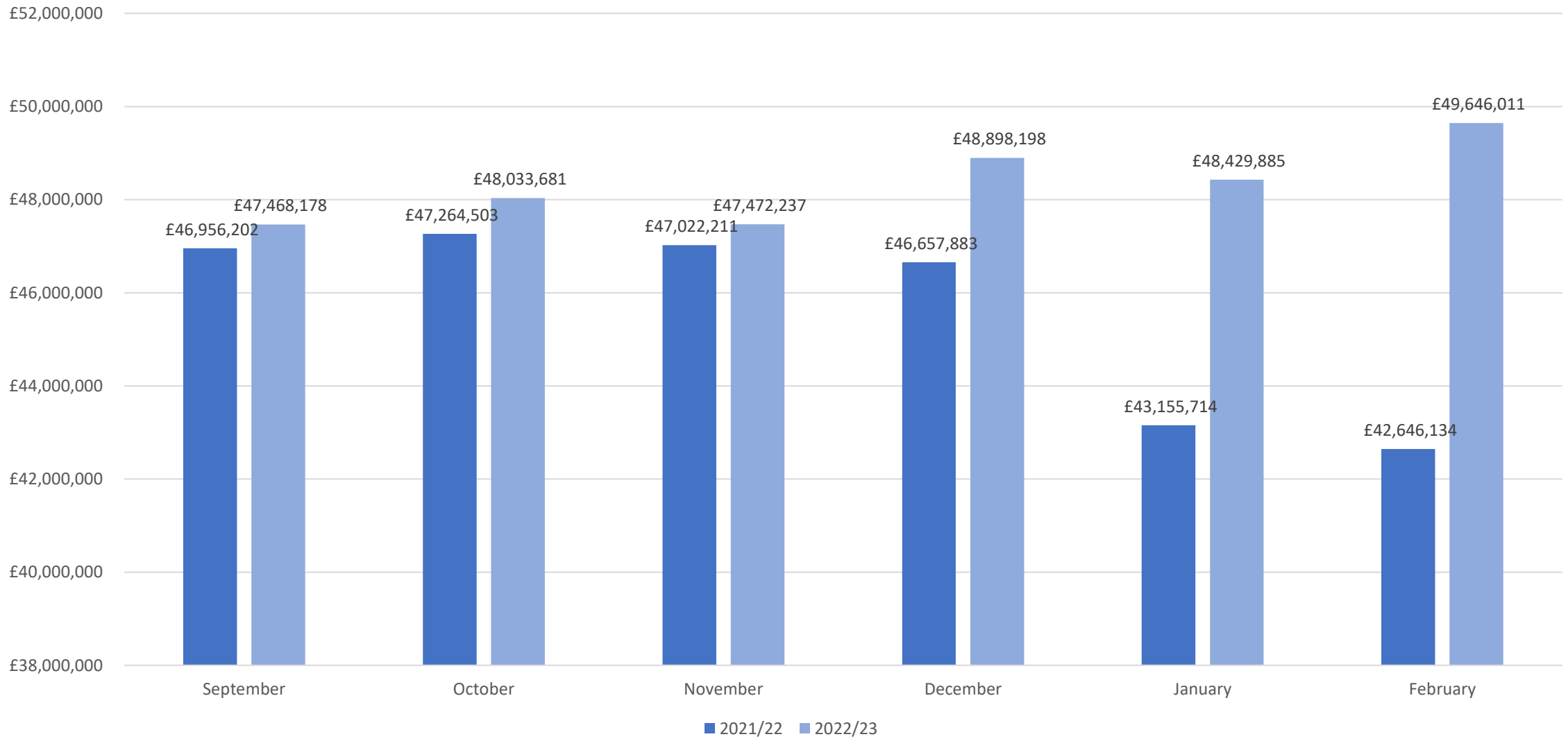
	January 2022	January 2023	Number of responses
Median weekly rate paid across all TA types (average of averages)	£293.77	£298.98 <div>+1.8% +£5.21</div>	23
Median incentive paid for all TA types (average of averages)	£1,406.16	£1,510.65 <div>+7.4% +£104.49</div>	21
Gross total monthly TA spend on all accommodation types	£45.31m	£50.55m <div>+11.6% +£5.24m</div>	22
	Actual: 2021/22	Projected: 2022/23 (As of January 2023) * Projected change on year previous	Number of responses
Total homelessness service net deficit for the financial year	£82.59m	£106.78m <div>+29.3% +£24.19m</div>	19

# Budgetary pressures

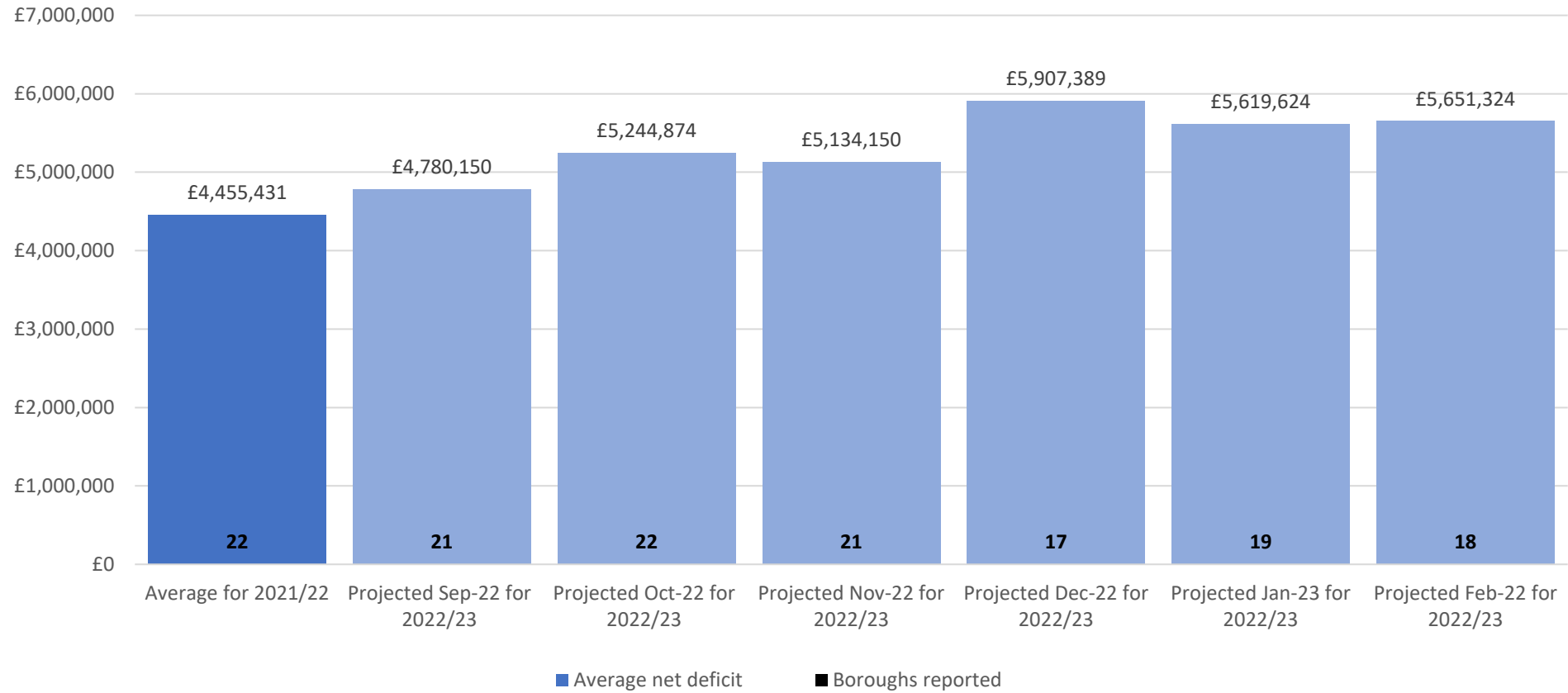
	February 2022	February 2023		Number of responses
Median weekly rate paid across all TA types (average of averages)	£294.73	£305.96	+3.8% +£11.23	22
Median incentive paid for all TA types (average of averages)	£1,328.94	£1,512.17	+13.8% +£183.23	19
Gross total monthly TA spend on all accommodation types	£44.66m	£51.67m	+15.7% +£7.01m	22
	Actual: 2021/22	Projected: 2022/23 (As of February 2023) * Projected change on year previous		Number of responses
Total homelessness service net deficit for the financial year	£79.80m	£101.72m	+27.5% +£21.92m	18



### Gross TA Spend (21 Boroughs)



### Average homelessness service net deficit for the financial year per borough



# Leaders' Committee

## Local Government Finance Update

Item 7

**Report by:** Paul Honeyben      **Job title:** Strategy Director: Local Government Finance & Improvement

**Date:** 11 July 2023

**Contact Officer:** Paul Honeyben

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**Summary**      This report provides a progress update on the work of London Councils' Fiscal Devolution Task and Finish Group since it first met in January 2023. It sets out what the group has covered to date and its agreed recommendations on short-term policy priorities to deliver greater financial autonomy for London boroughs, before identifying the core issues to be resolved and proposed next steps for the work of the group between now and its conclusion in the autumn.

**Recommendations**      Leaders' Committee is asked to:

- agree the short-term policy proposals outlined in the report to deliver greater financial autonomy for London boroughs; and
- comment on the proposed next steps.

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# Local Government Finance Update

## Introduction

1. London Councils has long called for greater fiscal devolution to local government; however, progress in recent years has been limited. The need for new ideas around funding local services has, arguably, never been greater with the 2023-24 Local Government Finance Settlement demonstrating the continuation of a top-down, short-term approach to funding.
2. As part of London Councils' Shared Ambitions, one of the key priorities under the theme of "London's Voice" is to develop a vision for greater financial autonomy for London local government. In December 2022, Leaders' Committee, therefore, agreed to establish a task and finish group to support the development of a renewed set of policy ambitions in this area.
3. The group, consisting of five borough leaders and one cabinet member for finance, three borough chief executives, three borough finance directors and London Councils' officers has met five times since January 2023. Since then, the salience of fiscal devolution has grown further with several different organisations publishing reports and making recommendations on the subject<sup>1</sup>.
4. This report provides an update on the work of the Fiscal Devolution Task & Finish Group. It sets out what the group has covered to date; its agreed recommendations on short-term priorities; identifies the core issues to be resolved; and proposed next steps between now and the conclusion of the work in the autumn.

## Progress to date

5. At the first meeting, in January, the group considered some of the key issues with local government funding which provide part of the context for the need for reform (see **Appendix A**). It also agreed the terms of reference (see **Appendix B**) and the broad scope of the work, including that it should:

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<sup>1</sup> For example:

<https://www.northernpowerhousepartnership.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Northern-Powerhouse-Partnership-Fiscal-DevoNation-FINAL-WEB.pdf>

<https://www.newlocal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Fiscal-devolution-why-we-need-it-and-how-to-make-it-work.pdf>

<https://www.centreforcities.org/publication/capital-losses-the-role-of-london-in-the-uks-productivity-puzzle/>

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-05/devolution-and-regional-growth-england.pdf>

- **be ambitious in its approach** and put forth bold proposals to Government;
- **determine short-, medium- and long-term priorities** (i.e., the next 18-24 months ahead of the general election and to the period to 2030 and beyond);
- **start by considering service devolution** and what London Government should look like by 2030;
- consider options for **devolution of existing central government taxes and potential new taxes or revenue streams**;
- explore **how the current finance system could be reformed** to provide greater autonomy;
- consider the emerging recommendations on **devolution of infrastructure financing from the Pan-London Infrastructure Framework**;
- **consider international comparators** and examples of how local services are funded within large cities like London, outside of the UK where relevant;
- **identify key partners** regarding fiscal devolution to align campaigning; and
- set aside time to consider governance implications of any new policy proposals as part of its work.

6. The group also agreed an overarching set of values and principles to underpin the development of policy priorities within local government finance. These included:

- **Autonomy** – the view that decisions - over raising and allocation of resources - should be taken as close as practicable to local electorates.
- **Certainty** – funding streams should be predictable and deliver funding certainty.
- **Transparency** – the way funding streams are determined should be open and transparent with any underlying calculations publicly available.
- **Simplicity** – funding mechanisms should aim to be as simple as possible (within reason) and avoid overcomplexity.
- **Fairness** – both in how revenues are raised (e.g. tax incidence) and how they are distributed so they reflect local needs and inequalities.
- **London specificity** - London's specific context must be taken into account and be a priority in any reforms.

7. The second meeting in February was a workshop to consider priorities for a long-term vision for London local government by 2030, with an emphasis on what services could be better delivered at the local level. The following areas were identified as potential areas for greater service devolution: skills; community health and care (e.g. pharmacies); welfare e.g. some budgets that sit with DWP; housing delivery; and policing.

8. The third meeting, in March, focused on the broad range of options for devolution of existing taxes and new taxes to London local government that have been commonly proposed in recent reports on the subject, with the aim of ruling out those that may not be suitable and identifying those which merit further consideration. It set out a spectrum from full devolution over setting and distribution of a tax, to partial devolution (where councils have some control over setting and or distribution), to shared taxes (where local authorities have the ability to vary tax rates) and assigned taxes (where local authorities receive a share of the revenue but no power to alter the rates, the taxbase, or reliefs).
9. It also considered the following four broad rationales in the recent literature for greater local control over taxes:
- **Resolving issues with the current LG funding system** – particularly, broadening the funding base, leaving councils more resilient and less exposed to the flaws of two taxes (council tax and business rates).
  - **Strengthening democratic accountability** - as decisions are taken closer to local communities and taxpayers (businesses and residents).
  - **Driving economic growth** – Tax devolution incentivises local authorities to grow their tax bases, use available economic resources more efficiently, and there is some evidence it can reduce regional imbalances.
  - **Supporting the delivery of policy objectives** – broadening councils’ levers to influence a particular policy issue by changing behaviours or using the proceeds of a tax measure to mitigate negative consequences. For example, the proceeds of environmental or transport taxes can be used to support the delivery of net zero.
10. The group also considered the progress of the “trailblazer” devolution deals in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands announced at the Spring Budget (which included 100% business rates retention for 10 years; the ability to create 25-year Enterprise Zones; and single departmental style settlements covering transport, housing, skills, decarbonisation and local growth).
11. The fourth meeting, in April, considered potential reforms of the current finance system as well as an initial overview of infrastructure funding mechanisms and the recommendations emerging from the Pan London Infrastructure Framework. Relatively detailed proposals for reform of business rates, council tax and grant funding were considered. Given the

complexity and wide scope of the topic, **it was agreed at this point to extend the deadline for the work of the group to the autumn.**

12. The fifth meeting, in June, sought to identify what has been agreed so far and consider key issues to be resolved for the remainder of the work programme.

### **What has been agreed so far?**

13. The table at **Appendix C** is split into short-, medium- and long-term priorities to begin mapping a direction of travel across each of the topic areas within scope (reform of the current system, devolution of existing taxes, new taxes, and infrastructure financing). All the priorities agreed so far fall within the short-term. Further work is required to develop specific priorities for the medium-term (i.e. up to 2030) and long-term (beyond 2030). As such, the orange-coloured boxes in the table do not represent London Councils' policy or recommended policy, as have only been briefly discussed or haven't yet been considered fully by the group.
14. The purpose of including medium- to long- term options in the table is to begin to map the overall direction of travel for fiscal devolution priorities in one place as a framework for further iteration. This approach has helped the group to identify where further work is needed (see next section).

15. The short-term priorities agreed so far (i.e. the green-coloured boxes) are as follows:

#### Business rates

16. To support economic growth, demonstrate that London Government can manage and distribute the proceeds of a tax, and as a stepping-stone towards further fiscal devolution, it is proposed that:
  - **London Councils works with the GLA to seek 100% retention of business rates for London and the ability to determine Enterprise Zones for 25 years (i.e. parity with the devolution "Trailblazers")** as this is the only fiscal freedom currently on offer from the government. Given the economic interdependencies of London boroughs, building on the rationale for the previous pan-London 100% and 75% retention pilots, it is proposed to explore options for a 100% pool.
17. To address some of the existing weaknesses of the retention scheme and improve the growth incentive it is also proposed to:
  - **Seek technical reforms to the current Business Rates Retention scheme.**

### Council tax

18. To provide councils with more autonomy over council tax it is proposed to call for:

- **The council tax referendum threshold to be removed, but only if this were accompanied by greater certainty and guaranteed funding for key statutory service pressures (particularly adult social care, children's social care and homelessness).**
- **An end to the Social Care Precept** – as the ability to raise council tax does not reflect social care need, with an appropriate and sufficient mechanism for funding social care implemented instead.
- **An end to mandatory council tax discounts and exemptions** – to provide more local discretion levers in different policy areas e.g. second homes.
- **The removal of central prescriptions over Local Council Tax Support** – to enable councils to design schemes that better reflect local democratic priorities.
- **Councils to be permitted to add new council tax bands** at the top of the scale before any full-scale revaluation to help make the tax more progressive.

### Grant funding

19. To provide boroughs with greater control over the allocation of resources that better reflect local democratic priorities, it is proposed to call for:

- **Revenue grants to be un-ringfenced by default, with ringfencing only in exceptional circumstances.**

20. To ensure boroughs can plan the allocation of resources more strategically and reduce the high levels of uncertainty experienced in recent years, it is proposed to seek:

- **Medium-term (3-4 year) certainty over grant funding.**

21. To support economic growth, demonstrate that London Government can manage and distribute funding, and as a stepping-stone towards further fiscal devolution, it is proposed that:

- **London Councils works with the GLA to seek a single departmental style settlement over transport, local growth, housing, skills and decarbonisation (i.e. parity with the devolution "Trailblazers").** This provides an opportunity to negotiate a default distribution arrangement between the GLA and boroughs, which may enhance the prospects of further devolution in future. A share of a single pot would be an improvement to the current situation with multiple bidding pots and central government ringfences.



### Devolution of existing taxes

22. With almost all Vehicle Excise Duty raised in London being spent on roads outside the capital (despite 90% of Londoners' journeys taking place entirely on London's roads), it is proposed to seek:

- **Devolution of Vehicle Excise Duty to London Government** (worth around £600m in 2023-24), to be spent on funding the road maintenance backlog.

23. The current rules and restrictions over the Apprenticeship Levy mean it is not being used as effectively as it could be. It is proposed to seek:

- **Devolution of the Apprenticeship Levy to London Government** to fund wider skills & employment activity.

### New taxes

24. To alleviate the costs arising from being a tourist destination (such as street cleaning or transport infrastructure) and to promote and support tourism activities, it is proposed to seek:

- **A new Tourism levy/Hotel tax, devolved to London Government**, worth between £100m and 400m (GLA estimates) subject to the chosen mechanism.

### Infrastructure funding

25. The Pan London Infrastructure Framework has established a clear need for new and innovative ways of funding London's priority infrastructure projects. Currently central Government has tight control over when and where Tax Increment Financing (TIF) schemes operate, and revenues are limited to business rates. It is proposed to seek:

- **Greater flexibilities around/use of existing Land Value Capture mechanisms** e.g. CIL; S106; Infrastructure Levy. There may be elements of the existing CIL/S106 regime that don't work well for London, and influencing the new IL reforms is an immediate priority. This would also include allowing greater local discretion over Tax Increment Financing and potentially broadening tax revenues beyond business rates.

### **Key issues to resolve**

26. In considering potential medium- and long- term priorities, the group has identified several key issues to be resolved for it to reach firm conclusions and a coherent package of reforms. In summary these are:

- **How bold to be with the long-term proposals?** For example, others have recently proposed making local government fully fiscally autonomous by removing central government from local government funding completely. This would go beyond the recommendations of the London Finance Commission.

- **Should funding be dictated by central government decisions or tied to the local and national UK economy?** Rather than be at the whim of central government decisions at each Spending Review with local government grants being funded through general taxation, local government could be funded by a mix of assigned shares of national taxes and devolved local taxes to allow local authorities to budget over the long term in line with economic forecasts. All levels of government would be incentivised to promote economic growth and work together to do so. It may also include greater exposure to economic risks.
- **The full package of taxes to be devolved.** While a helpful first discussion ruled out certain taxes, more work is required to establish a suite of taxes with a clear rationale and order of preference for the long term.
- **Replacing Business Rates with a Land Value Tax.** The group has begun to consider the relative merits of a Land Value Tax and has provided a steer to consider whether this could eventually replace business rates, although further work is required to decide whether this should be the long-term goal.
- **London equalisation/funding formula.** In every meeting, the issue of how to distribute funding fairly between boroughs (and between boroughs and the GLA) has come up. The group has agreed to dedicate the September meeting to consider existing precedents and advise on a set of principles and a process for agreeing such distribution methods that would be necessary in future.
- **A coherent narrative combining fiscal and service devolution.** The group identified the need to align service and fiscal devolution arguments at the outset. While some services have been suggested as potential areas, further work is required to establish a coherent narrative that marries the two.
- **Key partners and approach to campaigning.** Once a clearer view on the above issues has been established, the group has agreed to return to the mapping of key partners and stakeholders (begun in the March meeting) that could potentially form a broader coalition which would have a more powerful voice in taking forward any lobbying and campaigning.

## Next steps

27. Following the recent changes at London Councils' AGM there will be some changes in membership of the Group, which will be Chaired by Cllr Holland from July in place of Cllr Gould, with Cllr Campbell taking the place of Baroness O'Neill of Bexley.

28. Table 2 below sets out a timeline for the remainder of the work of the group. The next meeting, on 27 July, will seek to refine the long-term package of taxes that London Councils would wish to prioritise for devolution, primarily to support economic growth and deliver a broader and more sustainable funding base for London boroughs in the long term. David Phillips (Associate Director leading on devolution and Local Government finance at the Institute for Fiscal Studies) has been invited to provide impartial advice. Some high-level financial modelling will also be shared to provide a sense of scale to some of the proposals.
29. Further meetings are planned for September and October. It is proposed that draft recommendations should be discussed by the Executive in November and then final recommendations taken to Leaders' Committee in December. London Councils' submission to HMT ahead of the Autumn Statement will provide an opportunity to include any policy positions that have been agreed already.

**Table 2 - Timeline for remainder of the T&F Group**

Date	Event
July 27	<b>Meeting 6</b> – Refining package of taxes for devolution (Including David Philips - IFS); high level modelling
September (TBC)	<b>Meeting 7</b> – Distribution principles/process; capital funding priorities
September	Autumn Statement submission to include priorities agreed so far
October (TBC)	<b>Meeting 8</b> - Finalising overall priorities and lobbying strategy
November 7	Draft recommendations/update to LC Executive
December 12	Final report to Leaders' Committee

## Recommendations

30. Leaders' Committee is asked to:

- agree the short-term policy proposals outlined in the report to deliver greater financial autonomy for London boroughs; and
- comment on the proposed next steps.

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## Financial Implications for London Councils

None

## Legal Implications for London Councils

None

**Equalities Implications for London Councils**

None

## Appendix A – Issues with the current funding system

The main issues with how local government is currently funded, which are commonly cited by London Councils and others, include:

- **Sufficiency** – Funding levels remain almost a fifth lower than in 2010 while demand for services has increased hugely since then. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) previously estimated a funding gap of between £5bn and £10bn by 2023-24, subject to the impact of Covid-19. Prior to Autumn Statement 2022, the LGA forecast funding gaps of £3-5bn in the next two years to provide services at 2019-20 levels, while London Councils' analysis suggested a funding gap of £700m next year and £2.4bn over four years in London.
- **Uncertainty** – The latest settlement is the fifth single-year agreement in a row, with the promised funding reforms - originally planned for 2019-20 - again postponed. Annual one-off grants and last-minute funding announcements, which often arrive late in the year, mean resources cannot be allocated in the most strategic way, and inhibits preventative investment. It can also result in reserves increasing.
- **Complexity** – Local government funding is incredibly (overly) complex. The previous formula grant regime was itself very complex and opaque with 14 different relative needs formulae. Rather than replaced, this was subsumed into core funding (Settlement Funding Assessment) as part of the even more complex business rates retention reforms in 2013-14. This makes local government funding extremely difficult to explain to the lay person and perpetuates a lack of transparency, which erodes trust between local and central government.
- **Mismatch between funding and need** – There is a growing mismatch between the funding authorities receive and their local needs, as it has been a decade since the main funding formulae were updated, with many indicators dating back to the early 2000s. The recent IFS report “Does funding follow need” highlighted the detrimental impact this has on public services<sup>2</sup>.
- **Overreliance on two sources of funding** - Council tax and retained business rates will account for around three quarters of funding in 2023-24 and arguably neither is fit for purpose. Both taxes are overly centralised, outdated, unnecessarily complicated, and the latter places a large national reliance on London for funding.
- **Adult social care ringfencing** – Of the £57bn planned to be spent on local services in England in 2022-23, £20bn (a third) was planned to go on ASC. The IFS estimate, without broader reform of council funding, this could increase to over 50% by the mid-2030s with an inevitable squeeze on all other services.
- **Central control** – This is arguably the biggest issue. Central government sets the national business rates multiplier and 95% of reliefs awarded each year; council tax is, effectively, capped via the referendum principle and a growing proportion is now hypothecated for social care; and ringfenced grants comprise nearly a fifth of local government funding and often come with significant strings attached. Central government effectively determines each council's spending power. Councils are reliant on the government's timetable for allocating resources and have few levers to raise revenue on their own to close funding gaps.

If councils had a greater say in how they are funded, with access to a broader range of revenue streams, they would arguably be able to resolve many of the above issues.

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<sup>2</sup> [Does funding follow need?](#) – IFS, October 2022

## **Appendix B – Fiscal devolution T&F Group - Terms of Reference**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 Leaders' Committee considered a report in July 2022 which established London Councils' broad ambitions regarding local government finance through to the end of 2023. These fell into two broad areas: (1) ensuring fair levels of funding for all parts of London reflecting its unique needs and inequalities, and (2) establishing an updated vision for greater financial autonomy for London local government. Regarding the latter, one of the key milestones was for Leaders' Committee to agree to a priority suite of taxes and flexibilities on which to focus in order to develop a lobbying campaign through 2023, aligning with other cities where possible.
- 1.2 On 8 November 2022, London Councils Executive discussed the overall approach to renewing policy in this area and agreed to convene a Task and Finish Group that would present recommendations to Leaders' Committee by July 2023.

### **2 Role of the Fiscal Devolution Task & Finish Group**

- 2.1 *Aim:* To renew London Councils' overall policy positions and key priorities with the aim of enabling greater fiscal devolution to London local government.
- 2.2 *Scope:* the scope of the work of the Group will include:
  - 2.2.1. Brief consideration of London Councils' previous policy positions with regard to local government finance and fiscal devolution
  - 2.2.2. Agreeing a set of key principles to underpin the development of policy positions
  - 2.2.3. Consideration of priorities for both the short-term (i.e. the next 18 months, prior to the next General Election) and for the medium- to long-term (i.e. to 2030).
  - 2.2.4. Options for greater control over local income streams within the current finance system
  - 2.2.5. Options for devolution of current central government taxes and new taxes
  - 2.2.6. Ensuring alignment of fiscal and functional devolution arguments
  - 2.2.7. Implications for the governance of London, including interaction between the boroughs, the GLA and London Councils.

### **3 Accountabilities**

- 3.1 The group is commissioned by London Councils Executive on behalf of Leaders' Committee. It will report to Leaders' Committee in July 2023 and provide progress updates to the Executive as necessary on progress being made to deliver its agreed objectives.
- 3.2 The Task and Finish Group is empowered to advise and make recommendations to Leaders' Committee. The group is not a decision-making body and does not have a delegated budget. Its role is to provide a senior forum for discussion and for political direction to the development of proposals.

### **4 Membership of the Group**

- 4.1 The membership of the group will comprise:
  - 4.1.1. Nominations:
    - Chair - Cllr Georgia Gould (LB Camden), Labour

- Cllr Kieron Williams, (Leader, LB Southwark), Labour
- Cllr Shantanu Rajawat (Leader, LB Hounslow), Labour
- Baroness O'Neill of Bexley, (Leader, LB Bexley), Conservative
- Cllr Colin Smith (Leader LB Bromley), Conservative
- Cllr Robin Brown (RB Richmond upon Thames), Liberal Democrat

#### 4.1.2. Chief Executives:

- Debbie Warren (LB Greenwich, CELC joint lead for Finance)
- John Hooton (LB Barnet, CELC joint lead for Finance)
- Andy Donald (LB Haringey, CELC Chair)

#### 4.1.3. Treasurers:

- Caroline Al-Beyerty (City of London, Chamberlain)
- Clive Palfreyman (LB Hounslow, Director of Resources)
- Jon Rowney (LB Camden, Director of Resources)

#### 4.1.4. London Councils officers:

- Alison Griffin, Chief Executive
- Paul Honeyben, Strategy Director, Local Government Finance & Improvement
- Piali Das Gupta, Strategy Director, London's Future & Places
- Paarthiban Sriranjani, Head of Local Government Finance
- Michael McVicker, Local Government Finance Policy Manager
- Jack Graves, Senior Media & Public Affairs Officer

- 4.2 The Chair of the group may co-opt additional expert members to attend all or any part of any meeting or sequence of meetings as appropriate to support the delivery of its agreed objectives.

## **5 Key Responsibilities of Group Members**

- 5.1 Provide guidance, advice and information germane to their areas of expertise and/or in a representative capacity as nominated members of representative bodies.
- 5.2 Prepare for each meeting by reviewing pre-meeting materials, reading recommended articles or reports, and arriving at the meeting with ideas and suggestions.
- 5.3 Commit to attending each monthly meeting or where attendance is not possible, deputising a suitable replacement.

## **6 Frequency of Meetings and Secretariat Function**

- 6.1 The Group will meet virtually, once a month for five months with the first meeting to take place in January 2023.
- 6.2 Each meeting is expected to be 90 minutes.
- 6.3 The secretariat function for the group will be provided by the Strategy Director, Local Government Finance & Improvement within the resources agreed by London Councils Leaders' Committee.

## Appendix C - Emerging priorities for fiscal devolution/financial autonomy over the short, medium and long term

As with Table 1 in the main report, the **Green highlighted text** represents areas of agreement; the **orange highlighted text** represents proposals for further discussion and consideration.

		Short term priorities (next 18-24 months)	Medium term (to 2030)	Long Term (beyond 2030)
Current funding system	Business rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parity with devo "Trailblazers" - i.e. 100% retention for London, and ability to determine Enterprise Zones for 25yrs</li> <li>Technical reforms to the current BRR scheme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to vary multipliers within London (by a set % up or down)</li> <li>Introduce an Online Sales Tax to reduce the burden of business rates on bricks and mortar businesses (see below)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full devolution over setting and distributing business rates to London Govt (as per LFC)</li> </ul>
	Council tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove referendum threshold <u>but</u> only alongside more certainty of funding for statutory service pressures</li> <li>End the Social Care Precept</li> <li>Remove mandatory discounts and exemptions</li> <li>Remove central prescriptions over LCTS</li> <li>Ability for councils to add new bands (before any full-scale revaluation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full revaluation of Council Tax to include the addition of new bands at the bottom and top end of the scale</li> <li>Transition to new bills to be damped over 5yrs</li> <li>A new means-tested council tax benefit scheme to replace CTS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reset council tax rates to a standardised national level, set at a lower level (alongside introduction of other taxes to fill the void – see below)</li> <li>Ability for councils to determine new bands and the ratios between bands in between wider national revaluations which occur at regular intervals (e.g. every 10 years)</li> </ul>
	Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revenue grants should be un-ringfenced by default, with ringfencing only in exceptional circumstances</li> <li>Medium-term (3-4 year) certainty over grant funding</li> <li>Parity with devo "Trailblazers" – i.e. single departmental style settlement over at least the following: transport, local growth, housing, skills, decarbonisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All grants from HMG to local govt should be un-ringfenced and awarded over full Spending Review periods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of grant funding entirely to be replaced by balanced suite of taxes (see below) - with appropriate redistribution/equalisation for relative needs</li> </ul>
Existing Central Govt taxes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devolve Vehicle Excise Duty to London Government</li> <li>Devolve Apprenticeship Levy to London boroughs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devolution of specific taxes in support of policy goals e.g. Landfill Tax, Extended Producer Responsibilities Tax, Air Passenger Duty to support net zero goals; or Soft Drinks Industry Levy to support health outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devolution of a wider suite of taxes to provide a better balance of funding and support economic growth. TBD – but may include shares of Income Tax; VAT; Stamp Duty</li> </ul>
New taxes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a new Tourism levy/Hotel tax, devolved to London Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an Online Sales Tax (unsuitable for local devolution but could replace some of the burden of NNDR)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create/devolve other new taxes to provide better balance of funding and support economic growth. TBD – but may include: Land Value Tax as long-term replacement for CT/NNDR; Local sales tax; Payroll tax</li> </ul>
Infrastructure funding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek greater flexibilities around/use of existing Land Value Capture mechanisms e.g. CIL; S106; Infrastructure Levy; Tax Increment Financing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of any 100% Business rates pool income to support infrastructure projects</li> <li>Seek/pilot new LVC mechanisms e.g. Developer rights auction models</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBD</li> </ul>



## Leaders Executive

# London HIV Prevention Programme      Item no: 8 Review

<b>Report by:</b>	Valerie Solomon	<b>Job title:</b>	Policy and Projects Manager
<b>Date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2023		
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### Summary

In February 2022 London Councils' Leaders' Committee received a report containing proposals to support a time-limited extension of the London HIV Prevention Programme (LHPP). The request was made in order to allow for a detailed review of the London HIV Prevention Programme (LHPP) to be undertaken. As well as agreeing to the programme extension, Members also agreed to receive an update following completion of the review.

This report provides a summary of the review findings and outcomes with a view to secure funding to support the long-term sustainability of the programme.

### Recommendations

Leaders Committee is invited to:

1. Comment on the LHPP review and findings summarised in this report.
2. Comment on the proposed programme extension.
3. Leaders' Committee is asked to endorse the LHPP for a further three years from April 2024 to March 2027 ensuring that London continues to be a world Leader in the fight to reduce HIV.

# London HIV Prevention Programme Review

## Background

1. The London HIV Prevention Programme (LHPP) was established to provide a city-wide approach to HIV prevention following the transfer of public health responsibilities to local government in 2013. The programme began in 2014 and has the aim to reduce new HIV infections, increase earlier diagnosis of HIV, increasing the uptake of HIV testing, promoting condom use and advocating for safer sexual behaviours. There is also an emphasis on raising awareness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), an effective NHS treatment which reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99%, and the undetectable = untransmissible (U=U) messaging.
2. The uniqueness of the programme is that it is pan-London, recognising the mobility of London's target population and the value in cross-borough collaboration in public health messaging and outreach. Annually, through the LHPP, boroughs spend £1.080 million, this has been frozen for several years. The financial contribution per borough varies across London (between £2,000 and £113,000) and is based on HIV diagnoses per borough in 2017.
3. The programme is managed by the London Borough of Lambeth, acting as the lead commissioner on behalf of boroughs, and has two main components. The 'Do It London' public awareness programme element, which uses multi-media communication channels (including social media, and tailored messaging for targeted groups), and the sexual health promotion outreach service, which provides advice, support and access to HIV treatments and the distribution of free condoms and lubricant supplies to gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM).

## HIV in London

4. In 2021 according to UKSHA data, there are 36,767 people living with diagnosed HIV, equating to one in four people living with HIV in England. England. The UKSHA HIV in the UK, 2022 Report, indicated that the number of new HIV diagnoses in London has fallen by 47% from 1,673 in 2019 to 888 in 2021, although half of those diagnosed late live in London.
5. The groups at greatest risk of HIV infection are Gay, Bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and black African communities. However,

new infections among black African men have not fallen at the same rate as the overall rate of decline. It is understood that for black African communities are also more likely to have a late diagnosis.

6. In December 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published Towards Zero: The HIV Action Plan for England 2022-2025. The contains action to be undertaken to achieve a long-term commitment to reaching zero new HV transmissions by 2030.
7. There is an interim measure to meet national targets by 2025 which includes reducing the number of people first diagnosed from 2,860 in 2019, to under 600 in 2025; reduce the number of people diagnosed with AIDS within three months of a HIV diagnosis from 219 to under 110; and to reduce deaths from HIV in England from 230 in 2019 to under 115.
8. In January 2018 London's partners (the Mayor of London, Public Health England, NHS and London Councils) signed up to the UNAIDS Fast Track Cities initiative. This commits partners to three global targets. Those are to meet the 95-95-95 UNAIDS target by 2030. The current data shows that London has achieved 96% of people living with HIV know they have it; 98% of those diagnosed getting HIV treatment and 99% of those treated have HIV vial loads so low the HIV is undetectable and therefore untransmissible.  
<https://www.unaids.org/en/cities>

## **A Review of governance arrangements**

9. In March 2022, the LHPP commissioned a comprehensive review of the governance arrangements in order to strengthen membership, improve communication with stakeholders, clarify risk management and better define the decision-making structure.
10. In July 2022, in response to the review proposals, the LHPP Board has increased overall membership to reflect geographic representation across London from public health and borough sexual health commissioners and has continued to involve providers and partners in the development of the revised arrangements. There is now greater clarity about the decision-making process achieving meaningful strategic oversight of the work and clarity of purpose. There are also plans to improve communications with stakeholders and with other joint pan-London programmes, including Fast Track Cities.

## **A Review of the Sexual Health Promotion service**

11. The LHPP Board commissioned a bespoke piece of work to steer the future approach concerning the provision of sexual health promotion service.

Findings from this component of the review included -

- **Maintain value for money and benefit from economies of scale –**  
Local authority cost pressures associated with public health budgets and existing financial pressures arising from Covid, means there is a greater challenge to ensure the programme continues to achieve value for money (when there is a nil increase in the existing budget), providing increased demands on the programme overall to deliver greater effectiveness within the budget allocation.
- **Delivery of a wider focussed outreach service –** The programme will need to achieve a wider reach across London and be able to align with local borough activity; supporting where sexual health promotion activity already exists, including meeting the expectation from outer London boroughs. There is also a question about how to respond to the intersectionality of HIV within GBMSM cohorts and explore how the programme is responsive to interests of heterosexual Black men and women and other marginalised groups.
- **Delivery of an outreach service that is responsive and flexible –** The LHPP will have to build in capability to be flexible. This will facilitate a wider response that is outside of HIV, but compliments current sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and any future unforeseen outbreaks. This was demonstrated effectively with the Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) outbreak response throughout Summer and Autumn in 2022.

12. Based on the findings from the review, the following is proposed as the basis for a reformed LHPP to take account of stakeholder feedback and the evolving needs of Londoners –

- Overall, the current service model of a centrally commissioned programme will remain in place with plans to respond and develop the existing approach to meet new demands of the service.

- The outreach promotion work will align more closely with the media campaign ensuring the U=U and PrEP messaging have equal emphasis, including maintaining all efforts to increase HIV testing and promote condom use – the four proven methods of HIV prevention.
- The sexual health promotion service will be evidence and data driven, using data from UKHSA, the recently released ONS data on sexuality (as it gives an indication of the GBMSM population). As well as data derived from our partners, such as the Fast Track Cities initiative, Sexual Health London programme and the HIV commission. Data from these sources confirm that GBMSM, especially intersectional cohorts, such as black and Asian heritage communities should remain a primary focus for outreach work.
- There will be a renewed effort to increase the number of people who fail to remain in treatment and to provide a focus to support the re-engagement in care for specific populations.
- The community prevention support will include a local targeted activity for maximising opportunities for using the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) approach.

### **Evaluation of the latest ‘Do it London’ Campaign**

13. Since 2019, the campaign messaging has focussed on the “combination prevention” approach to prevention. This promotes messaging to encourage the take-up and use of PrEP as an effective medical intervention, as well as advocating the Undetectable (U=U) messaging, alongside promoting HIV testing and condom use.
14. The most recent campaign ran from October to December 2022 and was entitled as ‘Be Sure Know the Four’ building on previous campaign messaging.
15. Evaluation from the campaign indicated that 86% of people said they would practice safer sex with all groups increasing awareness of the four methods of prevention. 77% of the audience said they would continue to use condoms, up 10% from 2021. 69% noted they would find out more about PrEP, though 15% of our respondents were still unsure of that is was. It is estimated that 15 million people saw the ‘Do It London’ campaign, Online and websites

continued to be the highest driver for awareness for all audiences. A summary of the headline statistics as an Appendix to this report.

### **A Future Communications Plan**

16. Going forward, the media and communications associated with LHPP will be adapted to improve impact and achieve a greater reach. A constant presence throughout the year will be adopted, with an always-on or evergreen approach.
17. There are proposals to implement a move towards generic to tailored messaging highlighting measures to promote behaviour change. There will be stronger products to promote education alongside continued engagement with Heads of Communications and stakeholders to improve greater awareness and implementation of this new communications plan.

### **Next Steps**

18. Although London is making impressive and significant progress, long term investment certainty is key to continued progress. The programme has recognised that greater effort is needed to tackle the more complex cases and identify and treat the 1,300 estimated London residents who are unaware they have HIV.
19. As a signal to continue the London's progress and in advance of the results of the review findings, the LHPP secured a commitment in December 2022 from all London Directors of Public Health to fund the LHPP from April 2023 to March 2024. This funding commitment provides a positive assurance that the implementation of the review proposals will make a positive impact.

### **Recommendations**

20. Leaders' Committee is invited to comment on the LHPP review and findings summarised in this report.
21. Leaders' committee is invited to comment on the proposed programme extension.
22. Leaders' Committee is asked to endorse the LHPP for a further three years from April 2024 to March 2027 ensuring that London continues to be a world Leader in the fight to reduce HIV.

**Financial implications for London Councils**

The cost of the London HIV Prevention Programme is £1,080 million per year. The is based on proportion of HIV infected residents per local authority, based on HIV data in 2017. There are currently no plans to increase the existing budget.

**Legal implications for London Councils**

None

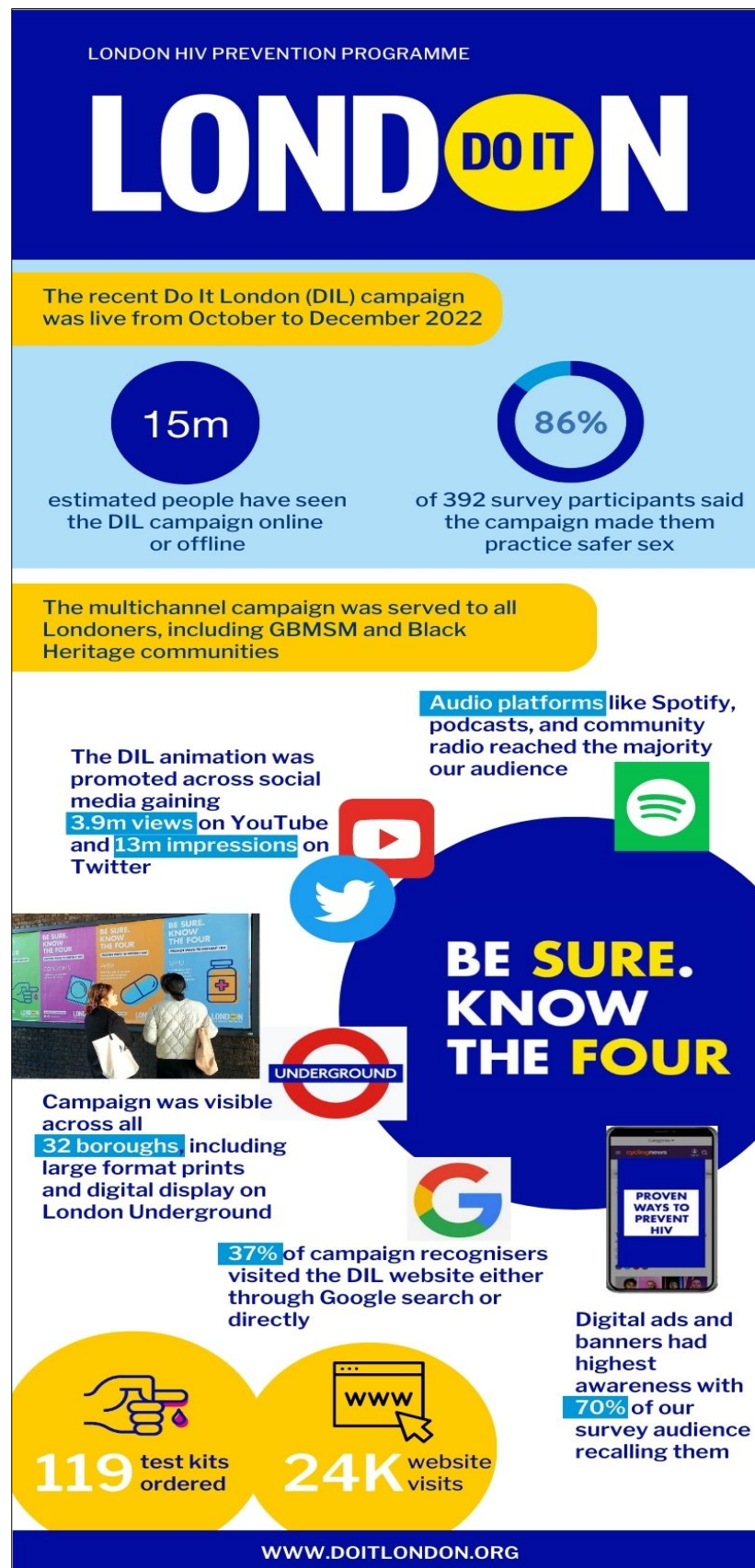
**Equalities implications for London Councils**

The groups at greatest risk of HIV infection are Gay, Bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and black African communities and south Asian men. Reducing HIV among these groups will reduce health inequalities.

## Be Sure Know the Four - Campaign Analytics

## Appendix 1

(Do It London - Autumn 2022)





# Leaders' Committee

## Minutes and Summaries

Item no: 9

**Report by:** Lisa Dominic    **Job title:** Senior Governance Support Officer  
**Date:** 11 July 2023  
**Contact Officer:** Lisa Dominic  
**Telephone:** 020 7934 9843    **Email:** [Lisa.dominic@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.dominic@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

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**Summary**                      Summaries of the minutes of London Councils

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

- Grants Committee – 16 March 2023
- Audit Committee – 23 March 2023
- TEC – 24 March 2023

**INFORMAL LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE**  
**11am, 15 March 2023, via Microsoft Teams**

Minutes of the informal meeting of the Grants Committee held on 15 March 2023

**London Borough & Royal Borough:**

**Representative:**

Barnet	Cllr Sara Conway
Bexley	Cllr David Leaf
Brent	Cllr Mili Patel
Bromley	Cllr Kate Lymer (Dep)
Camden	Cllr Nadia Shah
City of London	Paul Martinelli
Croydon	Cllr Ola Kolade
Hammersmith and Fulham	Cllr Rebecca Harvey
Harrow	Cllr Jean Lammiman
Havering	Cllr Ray Morgon
Hillingdon	Cllr Martin Goddard
Hounslow	Cllr Shivaj Grewal
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Andreas Kirsch
Lambeth	Cllr Donatus Anyanwu
Lewisham	Mayor Damien Egan (Chair)
Merton	Cllr Eleanor Stringer
Newham	Cllr Charlene McLean
Richmond upon Thames	Cllr Nancy Baldwin
Sutton	Cllr Marian James
Wandsworth	Cllr Simon Hogg

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 Kate Lymer deputising), Cllr Adel Khaireh (LB Greenwich), Cllr Sof McVeigh (RB Kensington and Chelsea) and Cllr Nesil Caliskan (LB Enfield).

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 30 November 2022**

3.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee held on 30 November 2022 were informally agreed (subject to being formally agreed by the London Councils' Urgency procedure).

**4. Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 20 January 2023 (for noting)**

4.1 The Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 20 January 2023 were noted.

## 5. Performance of Grants Programme 2022-2026: April 2022 to December 2022

5.1 Mayor Damien Egan, Chair of the Grants Committee, informed members that the Grants Committee Executive had agreed to increase the budget to support the Grants team to cover 3.1 FTE posts in order to increase capacity in the team. The existing provision is 2.7 FTE posts.

5.2 Ferial Henry, Priority Manager, provided an update for the first three quarters of the 2022-26 Grants programme, and made the following points:

- The London Refuges Data Collection project led by Women's Aid Federation was now in grant agreement, and up to date delivery for this commission was included in the report.
- Both priorities: Priority 1 - Combatting Homelessness, and Priority 2 - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence, have improved their performance significantly in the last quarter. In Quarter 3, three projects were rated Amber and eleven were rated Green.
- For Priority 1, over the first three quarters of the programme, performance was seven per cent below profile. Outcome targets have been surpassed in one out of the four service areas to Quarter 3. For the three service areas that have performed below target, two service areas (1.1 and 1.4) were outside of the 15 per cent performance tolerance.
- Shelter and St Mungo, the commissions operating in Service area 1.1: Prevention and Targeted Intervention, have both reported difficulties in supporting eviction prevention partly due to increased demand and support for crisis accommodation. Partners planned to improve this area through the introduction of new outcome capture processes for onward referrals to solicitors, partnership working with probation to make more urgent referrals for support, and intensive staff training where required.
- The Plus Project, led by Homeless Link, which was the sole commission in Service area 1.4: Support Services to Homelessness Sector, was continuing to improve its performance primarily through the adoption of new methods to successfully capture outcome achievement. The organisation had experienced delayed recruitment to the Systems Practice Lead post, which has also contributed to continued under-delivery, as has previous historic underperformance. London Councils officers recently held an outcomes progress meeting with Homeless Link, to establish how the delivery shortfall would be addressed.
- Service Area 1.2, led by St Mungo's and StreetLink London, was RAG rated green and progressing well after a slow start. However, they have advised that a change of funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was going to affect their sister organisation which provided advice to London Advice Line, as DLUHC was now planning to hold a tender process for a digital service which did not include a telephone line. However, the GLA were still keen for the London service to have a telephone line.
- For Priority 2, overall performance also improved significantly and now stood at -4 percent. All service areas were now within the 15 per cent tolerance levels, and only one commission in Priority 2, Against Violence and Abuse (AVA), was RAG rated amber. AVA has been delivering healthy relationship work in schools, however, there had been issues with regularising this service.
- Service area 2.4, emergency refuge accommodation, was continues to perform above profile.

5.3 In response to a question about why there was still a significant problem with domestic violence in London, the Grants Manager said that it was likely to be a combination of several factors: higher reporting rates post-lockdown, which had left survivors trapped with their abusers, the Cost of Living crisis, as survivors often could not afford to leave abusive relationships, and an increase of people reporting traumatic events from their childhood. In addition, there was the emerging 'Andrew Tate phenomenon' and the 'Everyone's Invited' initiative which allowed people to speak out about their experience of being abused in schools.

5.4 In response to a question about policy changes, the Grants Manager said that information is obtained by the partners and the policy team at London Councils and included in the report. Information and data provided through the programme has been used by the policy team at London Councils, and by other stakeholders, to inform the strategic response to these priority areas.

5.5 In response to a question about the impact of inflation, the Grants Manager said that this was covered in depth in the July 2022 report, and that the actual expenditure from the groups would be obtained in the next monitoring report. Anecdotal evidence showed that some groups were more affected than others depending on the nature of the service provided, e.g. the cost of refuges was expected to rise.

5.6 In response to a question about the suggestion that refugees would be placed in detention centres and military facilities due to the shortage of suitable accommodation, the Grants Manager said that London Councils would speak to its partner New Horizon about ensuring that any buildings used were fit for purpose .

5.7 In response to a comment that some boroughs have been using 'socio-economic status' and 'experience in the care system' as a protected characteristic, and the request by LB Sutton and LB Richmond that all organisations operating in their boroughs include this information in their monitoring reports, the Grants Manager said that they would raise this with the relevant partners and within London Councils.

5.8 In response to a member's comment that some boroughs were experiencing a sharp rise in homelessness levels, the Grants Manager said that was partners were reporting increased competition for hostel places, finding suitable accommodation for larger families, and this was driving up the homelessness rates.

5.9 Members added that:

- LB Brent had been running sessions in schools by local youth organisations with Mopac funding.
- Members would like to see the list of schools where the Healthy London, Healthy Relationships project, operated by AVA, was operating.

Action: London Councils officers to provide the list of schools where the AVA project operated.

5.10 Grants Committee Members noted the report.

## **6. Identifying barriers to accessing Local Authority Housing Services**

6.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, London's Communities, introduced this report, which informed Members about the discussions which took place at the roundtable event held on 14 February 2023 and some of the barriers faced by those accessing local authority services, particularly housing.

6.2 The Strategy Director said that:

- Concerns around access to services in local authorities, particularly housing services, have been reported by partners. Issues with housing services were becoming increasingly complex, in part due to a lack of suitable housing and issues with recruiting staff.
- To address this, a roundtable discussion was organised by London Councils, where partners met to share experience of good practice.
- The discussion also offered a range of suggestions for the London Triage Project, including emphasising the need for Housing and Social Services working together effectively such as referring cases to the appropriate triage.
- All partners were eager to work together to address these issues, and the roundtable event represented the start of grants partners and the boroughs working together to develop and deliver consistent Pan-London good practice.

6.3 Members noted the report and agreed to call for a further report on the roll out of the good practice work.

6.4 Cllr James said she would welcome feedback relating to any issues which had been identified in relation to accessing her own authority's (LB Sutton) services.

Action: London Councils officers to make the appropriate arrangements.

## **7. Refuge Provision – Update**

7.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report, which provided an update on the commissioning of emergency specialist refuge provision for the 2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme and set out the decision made by the Grants Committee Executive for the award of grant.

7.2 She added that:

- The Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme had been extended by the Grants Committee for a further year to 31 March 2023, to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the GLA, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act.
- Following two market warming events, a call for proposals for emergency specialist refuge provision was made and one proposal was received, from Ashiana Network. The network worked across a network of specialist organisations across London.
- The applicant met the eligibility requirements for the programme and received a score of 71% of the total available score.
- At their meeting on 20 January 2023, Grants Executive Members agreed the recommendation to award a grant to Ashiana Network for three years (2023/24 to 2025/26) for £2,520,000.

7.3 Grants Committee members noted the decision of Grants Committee Executive to award a grant to Ashiana Network for emergency specialist refuge provision for three years (2023/24 to 2025/26) for £2,520,000.

## **8. Month 9 Revenue Forecast 2022-23**

8.1 David Sanni, Director, Corporate Resources, introduced this item, which outlined actual income and expenditure against the approved income and expenditure in the budget to the end of December 2022 for the Grants Committee, and provided a forecast of the outturn position for 2022/23 for both actual and committed expenditure on commissions, along with the administration of all these commissions.

He added that:

- At this stage, a deficit of £26,000 is forecast over the approved budget.
- Projected reserves were healthy at approximately £665,000.

8.2 In response to members' questions about whether the level of reserves was still appropriate, the Director of Corporate Resources replied that:

- The level of reserves were being reviewed on a periodic basis.
- London Councils as an organisation was embarking on a review of its operating model and areas where savings and efficiencies could be made would be identified.
- The cost of administering the Grants Committee were being continuously monitored.
- Reserves have been constant for the past ten years, as has the Committee Budget.
- A new auditor, Pannell Kerr Forster, had recently been appointed, and they would be asked to look at the level of reserves for the Grants Committee, to ensure that they were consistent with best practice benchmarks.

8.3 Grants Committee Members noted the projected deficit of £26,000 for the year and the projected level of Grants Committee reserves.

## **9. AOB**

9.1 Members thanked Joanne Watson, was retiring at the end of the month, for all her hard work on the Grants programme over the past 20 years.

**The meeting finished at 12:00**

## **Short Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 16 March 2023**

Short minutes of an informal, virtual London Councils' Audit Committee held on 16 March 2023.

### **Members Present:**

Cllr Peray Ahmet (LB Haringey, Chair)  
Cllr David Gardner (RB Greenwich)  
Cllr Stephen Alambritis MBE (LB Merton)  
Cllr Jonathan Cook (LB Wandsworth)  
Cllr Robin Brown (LB Richmond)

### **In Attendance:**

Matt Lock	Head of Audit & Risk Management, City of London Corporation
Martha Franco Murillo	Senior Auditor, City of London Corporation
Alastair Duke	Audit Partner, PKF Littlejohn

London Councils' officers were in attendance.

Introductions were made.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 2 February 2023**

The minutes of the informal, virtual Audit Committee meeting held on 2 February 2023 were noted to be an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes would be formally approved via the London Councils' Urgency Procedure following the meeting.

#### **4. Introduction to the new External Auditor PKF Littlejohn**

The Audit Committee received a report that informed Members of the outcome of the procurement exercise for a new external auditor and recommended that the Leaders' Committee appoint PKF Littlejohn LLP for a four-year period, commencing with the audit of the 2022/23 accounts and ending with the completion of the audit of the 2025/26 accounts.

Richard Merrington, Chief Accountant, London Councils, introduced the report. He said that Leaders' Committee had agreed to appoint PKF Littlejohn as London Councils' new external auditors at its meeting on 13 December 2022. The accounts for the financial year 2021/22 had now been signed-off.

Alastair Duke, Audit Partner, PKF Littlejohn, introduced himself to the Audit Committee. He said that PKF Littlejohn had experience of auditing membership bodies in the non-profit sector and its clients included the Local Government Association (LGA). Alastair Duke said that he had met with David Sanni and Richard Merrington to agree on the audit timetable. He said that the intention was to have the London Councils' external audit completed by September. Alastair Duke said that he

was looking forward to working with the Audit Committee and Management and was happy to take any questions that Members might have.

The Audit Committee welcomed Alastair Duke and PKF Littlejohn to the meeting.

## **5. Internal Audit Plan 2023/24**

The Audit Committee received a report that informed Members of the draft internal audit plan for 2023/24, as proposed by the City of London's Internal Audit section under the terms of the service level agreement for financial and payroll services. The report also provided details of the proposed rolling five-year programme covering the period up to 2027/28.

David Sanni, Director of Corporate Services, London Councils, introduced the report. He explained that the development of the plan involved reviewing the five-year programme approved last year, the corporate and directorate risk registers and planned work of the external auditors to ensure that any duplication was avoided. He said that London Councils' Corporate Governance Group and Corporate Management Team had been consulted on the proposals. David Sanni said that the five areas of work were set out on page 8 of the report. Matt Lock, Head of Audit & Risk Management, City of London Corporation, said that in addition to the reviews set out in the plan, he would be happy to look into any matters of concern raised by the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee agreed that the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 and the rolling five-year programme, as proposed by the City of London and detailed in Appendix A of this report, would be approved under London Councils' Urgency Procedure.

## **6. Internal Audit Update**

The Audit Committee received a report that provided Members with an update in relation to the work of Internal Audit since the last update report made to the September 2022 meeting. The report provided an overall status update on progress against the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan and a summary of the findings from the completed review of Financial Management (Green Assurance opinion).

Matt Lock introduced the report which gave an outline of the planned audits for the current year and details of the work completed since the last Internal Audit update. He confirmed that there was nothing of any concern to draw the Committee's attention to. Matt Lock said that there were three pieces of work that were currently in progress: (i) procurement of goods and services, (ii) information governance and data security and (iii) the ICT strategy (this would be a separate piece of work and would be reported at the next update). The follow-up exercise on outstanding audit recommendations had been completed with the outcomes included in the report and appendix.

Matt Lock said that the recommendations raised in relation to the parking and traffic appeals had been outstanding for a while and could be closed as the arrangements will be reviewed during the next round of audits.

The Audit Committee noted the Internal Audit update report and the appendix.

## **7. Treasury Management Update**

The Audit Committee received a report that provided Members with an update on London Councils' treasury management strategy. London Councils' cash balances are held by the City of London under the service level agreement for the provision of financial support services.

It was agreed at the meeting of the Audit Committee in September 2009, that the Committee would receive annual reports on the City of London's treasury management activities. The City of London's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24 was presented to their Financial Investment Board for approval on 17 February 2023 and would be submitted to the Court of Common Council for formal adoption.



David Sanni introduced the treasury management update which presented the City of London's strategy for the next financial year. The City continues to indemnify London Councils against any capital losses for a premium of two basis points (0.02%) on average cash balances. David Sanni said that the changes to the strategy were highlighted in yellow in the report. The report referred to recent changes to the Treasury management and Prudential codes which included an explicit ban on local authorities borrowing to invest primarily for financial return. David Sanni said the City Fund cash balances as at the end of December 2022 amounted to £1.3 billion but would reduce once major projects got underway. David Sanni said that there had been no changes to the City's credit worthiness policy with regards to depositing funds with third parties.

The Audit Committee: **(i)** noted the City of London's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24 which can be found at Appendix A; **(ii)** noted the City of London provide London Councils with an indemnity against potential future losses of cash balances; and **(iii)** agreed that additional information on London Councils' cash balances and investment returns will be included in future reports.

#### **8. Items considered under the London Councils' Urgency Procedure.**

The Audit Committee received a report that detailed the items that were sent to London Councils' Elected Officers under the Urgency Procedure following the Audit Committee meeting that took place on 2 February 2023. The Urgency Procedure containing the items sent to Elected Officers for approval was attached at Appendix 1 in the report.

David Sanni informed Members that the report provided the Committee with an update on the items that were sent to Elected Officers under the Urgency Procedure. He said that a similar report would be presented to the next meeting of the Audit Committee in June 2023 and would include the minutes and Internal Audit Plan 2023/24 that would require approval via the Urgency Procedure following this meeting.

The Audit Committee noted the Urgency Procedure at Appendix 1 that was sent to Elected Officers for approval after the meeting held on 2 February 2023.

**The meeting finished at 11.13am**

# Leaders' Committee

## Report from the Transport & Environment Committee – 23 March 2023

Item no:

**Report by:** Alan Edwards      **Job title:** Governance Manager  
**Date:** 11 July 2023  
**Contact Officer:** Alan Edwards  
**Telephone:** 020 7934 9911      **Email:** Alan.e@londoncouncils.gov.uk

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**Summary:** Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee held on 23 March 2023.

**Recommendations:** For information.

**Attendance:** Cllr Syed Ghani (LB Barking & Dagenham), Cllr Geof Cooke (LB Barnet), Cllr Peter Craske (LB Bexley - Virtual), Cllr Krupa Sheth (LB Brent), Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley), Cllr Adam Harrison (LB Camden), Cllr Scott Roche (LB Croydon – Virtual), Cllr Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing), Cllr Averil Lekau (RB Greenwich), Mayor Philip Glanville (LB Hackney, Chair), Cllr Sharon Holder (LB Hammersmith & Fulham), Cllr Mike Hakata (LB Haringey), Cllr Anjana Patel (LB Harrow), Cllr Barry Mugglestone (LB Havering), Cllr Jonathan Bianco (LB Hillingdon), Cllr Katherine Dunne (LB Hounslow), Cllr Cem Kemahli (RB Kensington & Chelsea), Cllr Peter Herlinger (RB Kingston - Deputy), Cllr Louise Krupski (LB Lewisham), Cllr Natasha Irons (LB Merton), Cllr James Asser (LB Newham), Cllr Jo Blackman (LB Redbridge), Cllr Julia Neden-Watts (LB Richmond - Deputy), Cllr Catherine Rose (LB Southwark), Cllr Barry Lewis (LB Sutton - Virtual), Cllr Clyde Loakes (LB Waltham Forest), Cllr Judi Gasser (LB Wandsworth), Cllr Paul Dimoldenberg (City of Westminster), and Heather Preen (Transport for London - Deputy).

The Chair opened the TEC meeting, which could be accessed by the public online via a livestream. He reminded Members that TEC meetings were now taking place “in person” and Members would need to be present in the room in order to vote.

### 1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Scott Roche (LB Croydon), Cllr Rick Jewell (LB Enfield), Cllr Rowena Champion (LB Islington), Cllr Ian Manders (RB Kingston), Cllr Rezina Choudhury (LB Lambeth), Cllr Alex Ehmann (LB Richmond), Cllr Kabir Hussain (LB Tower Hamlets), Alex Williams (Transport for London), and Shravan Joshi (City of London Corporation).

### 2. Declarations of Interest (in addition to those supplied on the sheet)

#### Freedom Pas, 60+ Oyster Card & Blue Badge

Cllr Anjana Patel (LB Harrow) and Cllr Peter Herlinger (RB Kingston).

#### East London Waste Authority

Cllr Barry Mugglestone (LB Havering)

West London Waste Authority  
Cllr Katherine Dunne (LB Hounslow)

Western Riverside Waste Authority

Thames Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (Thames RFCC)  
Cllr Barry Mugglestone (LB Havering) and Cllr Julia Neden-Watts (LB Richmond)

Labour Cycles  
Cllr Katherine Dunne (LB Hounslow)

London Road Safety Council (LRSC)  
Cllr Barry Mugglestone (LB Havering)

### **3. Vision Zero Update by Lili Matson, Transport for London**

Lili Matson, Chief Safety Health & Environment Officer, Transport for London, introduced the item and made the following comments:

- The presentation on Vision Zero was to update TEC Members on where TfL was and the progress that was being made on Vision Zero. There was a great deal of joint working with the London boroughs to help reduce deaths, and research was being undertaken on this.
- Vision Zero in 2018 was based on a “safe system” approach which included safe speeds, streets, vehicles and behaviours. TfL’s actions were based on this. Vision Zero also looked at attitudes and “fear of travel”. Safety was at the heart of what needed doing in London.
- London had delivered safer streets quicker than anywhere else in the UK, resulting in a 44% reduction (up to 2021) in the number of people killed or seriously injured since the baseline was set in 2005/06. The target in the Mayor’s Transport Strategy (MTS) was to reduce deaths and injuries by 65%. This would not be achieved although fatal injuries had been reduced by 53% against the 2005/06 baseline. This was achieved by taking a safer system approach.
- Speeding vehicles were the main cause of deaths and injuries and the work around Direct Vision Standards (DVS) had been very important in reducing this. 80% of people killed or seriously injured had been walking, cycling or on motorcycles (vulnerable road users).
- Discussions were taking place with the motorcycle industry to find ways to help reduce these figures. There were five key actions that London boroughs could consider in order to help reduce road danger and help achieve Vision Zero including lower speed limits, reducing motor traffic on roads and producing safer street designs. Work was also being undertaken to help promote Active Travel (walking, cycling, bus usage etc) and to committing vehicle work fleets to be as safe as possible.
- TfL had data and information to help boroughs and had a “collision dashboard” and an “enforcement dashboard” to help boroughs. The “enforcement dashboard” would be available later in the summer.

A “Q and A” session took place.

It was noted that areas of lower car ownership did not equate to less risk/injuries. TfL was talking to the police about the risks that motorcyclists were taking. Noted that behaviour change and speeding was also being looked at.

Lili Matson said that TfL produced an “annual fact sheet” that mainly looked at speeding rather than criminality. Data from 2022 showed an uplift in people being killed in vehicles, especially overnight by speeding and joyriding.

Lili Matson said that density was relative to proportion size. There were two separate streams of analysis – those people that lived in the Greater London area and where these people had originated from. She said that TfL would ensure that this was made clear when the report went out. Information on this could be shared now with the boroughs, although the Mayor would need to be consulted with first (boroughs could speak to Alex Tallon at TfL in the first instance). Lili Matson said that there were too many unsafe junctions at present. Boroughs should continue to raise these issues about unsafe junctions.

The Chair thanked Lili Matson for the update from TfL on Vision Zero.

#### **4. Chair's Report**

The Committee received a report that updated Members on transport and environment policy activity since the last TEC meeting held on 8 December 2022.

The Chair informed TEC that Anthony Chan had now been appointed as the new Chief Adjudicator at London Tribunals. He said that the Transport Funding sub group had continued to meet. The reduction in Active Travel funding was disappointing and the fact that London had not been included in the "pothole" fund.

The Chair said that he was keen for officers to prepare a paper on PCN rates for TEC. Stephen Boon said that a draft paper on PCN rates would be presented to the TEC AGM on 8 June 2023, although any changes would require a formal consultation before being decided on by Members.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the Chair's Report; **(ii)** noted that the MOU template for e-bikes would be sent to boroughs; and **(iii)** noted that a draft report on PCN rates would be presented to TEC at the AGM on 8 June 2023.

#### **5. Climate Advocacy Update**

The Committee received a report that provided an update on the climate advocacy strategy being pursued by London Councils, and recent activities undertaken to support its aims.

Zak Bond, Principal Policy Officer, Climate Change, introduced the report which was now looking at a delivery plan in order to get the changes that were required along with planning further policy development work. He informed Members that the Net Zero Forum and Green Day event (30 March 2023) would be looking at updating the Net Zero Strategy, along with responses to the Climate Change Committee. The Chair said that he was the Chair of the Net Zero Forum for the LGA along with Councillor Holland from the Borough of Lambeth. He said that officers had done a great job on Net Zero for COP26.

The Committee approved TfL's request to consult on the PSS in February 2023 and to report back to this Committee in summer 2023 with the outcomes of that consultation and details of the proposed Permit Scheme's Progressive Safe System (PSS).

#### **6. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordination Update**

The Committee received a report on London Councils continued role in coordinating and supporting boroughs in delivering electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This paper also provided TEC with an update on the funding situation in London.

Femi Biyibi, Principal Policy & Projects Officer, London Councils, introduced the report. He said that London continued to lead the way on Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure although more work was now required in order to meet the Mayor's targets. Femi Biyibi said that the report provided an overview of London Councils' work to support boroughs with EV infrastructure. Since 2016, 9,000 charge points had been installed through the Go Ultra Low City Scheme (GULCS). Boroughs could now access local EV infrastructure schemes going forward.

Femi Biyibi, Principal Policy & Projects Officer, London Councils, introduced the report. He said that London continued to lead the way on Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure although more work was now required in order to meet the Mayor's targets. Femi Biyibi said that the report provided an overview of London Councils' work to support boroughs with EV infrastructure. Since 2016, 9,000 charge points had been installed through the Go Ultra Low City Scheme (GULCS). Boroughs could now access local EV infrastructure schemes going forward. Femi Biyibi said that London Councils was working with the GLA, TfL and LEDNet to use the £540k funding that was made available to deliver a support function carried out from London Councils (although the £540k funding was less than was hoped for). The Committee noted the EV Infrastructure report.

## **7. Concessionary Fares 2023/24 Settlement & Apportionment Revision**

The Committee received a report that informed members of a revised settlement for the Freedom Pass scheme in 2023/24 following lower than inflation rail fare increases announced in January 2023.

Stephen Boon introduced the report which superseded the previous Concessionary Fares report that was sent to Members. He said that the rail fare increases were lower now than when the settlement with TfL was carried out and had reduced the costs of the Freedom Pass scheme. Stephen Boon said that TEC was now being asked to approve the revised TfL and Rail Delivery Group (RDG) figures.

The Committee: **(i)** agreed the TfL settlement of £207.770 million 2023/24; and **(ii)** agreed the Rail Delivery Group (RDG) settlement of £16.256 million for 2023/24

## **8. Mobility Services Update**

The Committee received a report that provided members with an update on development of the new customer website (Project Elevate) for Taxicard and Freedom Pass applicants.

Andy Rollock, Mobility Services Manager, London Councils, introduced the report which gave an update on the new online services available for the Freedom Pass and Taxicard. He said that there had been initial “go live” problems and development work was still going on. The Taxicard back-office went live in January 2023 and the process had now been improved and the backlog was starting to be cleared. Andy Rollock said that users would now have access to a Taxicard online portal service. Applicants could apply online and provide supporting documentation. However, it was recognised that not all applicants would have the knowledge or support to apply for their Freedom passes or Taxicards online, so paper versions would continue to be made available.

The Committee noted the Mobility Services Update report.

## **9. London Borough of Tower Hamlets Byelaws – Setting Penalty Levels**

The Committee received a report that provided Members with the results of the Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for byelaws consultation, which was undertaken on behalf of TEC from 19 December 2022 to 31 January 2023.

Andy Luck, Transport Manager, London Councils, introduced the report. He said that 466 people had responded to the public consultation on the setting of PCNs for byelaw offences (instead of prosecution). Support for FPNs was for existing TEC approved levels (£80). Members were now being asked to support the recommendations.

The Committee: **(i)** agreed to set a fixed penalty level of £80 for breaches to the Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws; and **(ii)** 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.

## **10. London Borough of Redbridge – Additional Parking Charges**

The Committee received a report that detailed the proposal by the London Borough of Redbridge to amend the penalty charge banding from Band B to Band A across the borough.

Councillor Blackman informed members that the Borough of Redbridge consistently suffered from non-compliance of parking regulations. She said that she welcomed the recommended banding changes as highlighted in this report and hoped that it would be supported.

The Committee: **(i)** approved the proposal to change the penalty banding in LB Redbridge (from Band B to Band A), subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State; and **(ii)** noted the proposed implementation date for the change was 1 August 2023

## **11. Proposed TEC and TEC Executive Sub Committee Dates for 2023/24**

The Committee received a report that notified members of the proposed TEC and TEC Executive Sub Committee dates for the committee cycle year 2023/24.

The Committee agreed the proposed dates for TEC and TEC Executive Sub Committee meetings for the committee cycle year 2023/24, including the start time change of the TEC Executive Sub Committee from 10:00am to 14:30pm.

**12. Minutes of the TEC Executive Sub Committee held on 9 February 2023 (for noting)**

The Committee noted the minutes of the TEC Executive Sub Committee meeting held on 9 February 2023

**13. Minutes of the TEC Main Meeting held on 8 December 2022 (for agreeing)**

The Minutes of the TEC Main Meeting held on 8 December 2022 were agreed as being an accurate record.

**The meeting finished at 16:20pm**

# Leaders' Committee

## Urgency Report

Item no: 10

**Report by:** Lisa Dominic    **Job title:** Governance Support Officer  
**Date:** 11 July 2023  
**Contact Officer:** Reuben Segal  
**Telephone:** 020 7934 9803    **Email:** [Reuben.segal@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Reuben.segal@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

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### Summary

London Councils' urgency procedure was used to approve:

- Retrofit London - Waltham Forest - Service Level Agreement withdrawal

### Recommendations

Leaders' Committee is asked to note the decision taken under the urgency procedure.

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## **1.0 Summary and Reason for Urgency**

The PDT was primarily a commissioning and coordination team, requiring additional institutional support and resource to deliver, it also delivered pan-London (non-capital) projects and supported lobbying by London Councils. It required coordination and joint decision making with a range of stakeholders from Enfield, Waltham Forest, London Councils (including across its staffing team, Leaders Committee and Chief Executives London Committee), the London Housing Directors' Group (LHDG) as the funding organisation and in areas of the Greater London Authority.

London Councils and Waltham Forest Councils' preferred delivery model is to host the PDT directly at London Councils - employing, line managing and providing administrative support (e.g., pay roll and procurement).

The new arrangement (hosting the PDT at London Councils) would revert the programme back to the approach during the programme development phase, which was a successful and award-winning partnership. The proposed approach would not undermine the role of Waltham Forest Council as a lead borough (along with Enfield Council) outside of the SLA, which the programme will seek to enhance.

## **1.2 Next Steps**

- The change in hosting arrangement to be reported as an update to London Councils' Executive on 23 May or Leaders Committee this summer.
- All parties would be reimbursed for costs incurred to date.
- The Programme Director post would transfer to London Councils and a full support team employed.

## **2.0 The urgency was approved by Elected Members on 27 April 2023**