

CABINET

19 April 2016

Title: Establishment of the Local London Joint Committee	
Report of the Leader of the Council	
Open Report	
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: Yes
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Accountable Divisional Director: Tom Hook, Strategy and Programmes Director	
Accountable Director: Fiona Taylor, Head of Legal and Democratic Services	
Summary: <p>Barking and Dagenham has been working with seven other London Boroughs to develop a north-east London response to the devolution agenda. The partnership currently referred to as 'Local London' has been instrumental in ensuring the sub-region keeps on track in what is a fast moving devolution landscape. However, it is clear from discussions with government that for devolution to take place a pre-requisite for any devolution deal will be formal structures for the sub regions and strong governance arrangements. Therefore formally establishing Local London as a statutory joint committee in the manner outlined in this report allows the partnership to seek more meaningful devolution for the sub-region, and provides a basis upon which additional responsibilities could absorbed and programmes of work initiated.</p> <p>The grouping named 'Local London' includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• London Borough of Barking and Dagenham• London Borough of Bexley• London Borough of Enfield• London Borough (Royal Borough) of Greenwich• London Borough of Havering• London Borough of Newham• London Borough of Redbridge• London Borough of Waltham Forest <p>Local London provides a vehicle through which Barking and Dagenham can pursue significant and broad ambitions for the area and our borough, whilst ensuring resources are channelled appropriately.</p> <p>In order for the Government to be able to work with the grouping of boroughs and for devolution to take place, Local London requires a more formal arrangement. A joint committee arrangement is proposed, which will bring it in line with other sub regional partnerships in London and enable it to take full advantages of opportunities now and in the future. Decisions taken at the Joint Committee on behalf of Local London Boroughs will be binding and will not require further approvals from each borough.</p>	

At the Local London Leaders, Mayors and Chief Executives Strategy Group meeting on 15th March, members committed themselves to formally approving the Local London Inter Authority Agreement through their respective governance mechanisms.

This report sets out the proposed Inter-authority agreement and seeks Cabinet approval of the recommendations to enable the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to formally become a member of Local London.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Agree the creation of the Local London Joint Committee to discharge executive functions on behalf of Local London member councils;
- (ii) Agree that the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham enters into and signs up to the Local London Inter-Authority Agreement at Appendix A to the report (incorporating the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference) to facilitate the Council's membership of Local London;
- (iii) Delegate such executive powers and authority to the Local London Joint Committee as are necessary to facilitate and implement the Objectives and programmes of Local London in accordance with the provisions of the Inter-Authority Agreement and Terms of Reference;
- (iv) Agree the appointment of the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to the Local London Joint Committee;
- (v) Delegate authority to the Leader and Chief Executive and any substitutes appointed by them, to do all such things and enter such agreements as are required under the Inter Authority Agreement and as are agreed by the Joint Committee in furtherance of the Objectives of Local London; and
- (vi) Agree that the Council contributes £50,000 as an annual subscription to Local London.

Reason(s)

Joining Local London will contribute to the delivery of the Council's vision together with the Growth Commission and Ambition 2020 goals.

1. Background

- 1.1 Barking and Dagenham has a successful history of working across the sub-region, which has brought real benefits to local people. Working within Growth Boroughs and NELSA has enabled the borough to pursue its ambitions in a number of areas. However, there is now consensus amongst the sub-region that in order to move forward with devolution and growth agenda, one formal partnership is required for sub-region. It is only through a formal partnership arrangement that the boroughs

will be taken seriously and will be able to move forward with the devolution and public sector reform agenda.

- **Growth Boroughs** (formally known as host boroughs) is a partnership with other Olympic host boroughs.

Membership includes: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, LB Newham, LB Greenwich, LB Tower Hamlets, LB Hackney and LB of Waltham Forest.

The Growth Boroughs came together as the UK's strongest potential growth area, they work together to deliver a lasting legacy from the 2012 games. Its focus is mainly around employment and skills and transport in order to achieve convergence with the rest of London by 2030. The Growth Boroughs also manage the European Structural Fund (ESF) funding. It is proposed that the Growth Boroughs continue its role around ESF funding with a zero based budget having been agreed. This means that boroughs will not be expected to pay the membership fees.

- **North East London Strategic Alliance (NELSA)**

Membership includes: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, LB Enfield, LB Havering, LB Newham, LB Redbridge and LB Waltham Forest.

NELSA's objectives include:

- providing a sub-regional voice for north east London;
- raise its profile and make the strategic case for public and private and sector investment;
- work in partnership to implement the vision and to act as ambassadors for the area; and
- influencing key decision-makers, the development of policy in London and co-ordinating relationships between NE London, and regional and national government.

NELSA has now been disbanded with a view to move towards formalising the Local London Partnership.

- 1.2 London's devolution settlement is complex with a number of pan-London actors, most notably the Mayor, GLA, and London Councils. Whilst some issues are best addressed London-wide, many benefit from a sub-regional approach that allows for the distinct needs of the east London to be addressed. Most London Boroughs have agreed to join some form of sub-regional grouping. Some of these sub-regional groupings across London are comparable in population terms with areas such as Greater Manchester/Birmingham/Liverpool City area. A number of such groupings have already been developed in London such as the South London Partnership, the West London Alliance, and Central London Forward.
- 1.3 Local London came together to establish a case for a new settlement for local government in London and our sub-region, in order to deliver better outcomes for residents and meet the needs of the capital. The majority of the boroughs from Growth Boroughs and NELSA have now come together to create a new enhanced role for the sub-region.

- 1.4 The Local London eight boroughs are connected by shared geography and many of the challenges and opportunities traverse administrative boundaries requiring co-ordinated responses.
- 1.5 The borough needs to seek new opportunities through appropriate partnership groupings, use its resources well and ensure it has the most appropriate structures to achieve its ambitions. To this end the Council has engaged with Local London as the key delivery vehicle to some common ambitions and goals across the north east sub region. At the Leaders and Mayors and Chief Executive's meeting on the 16th February, the formal dissolution of NELSA was agreed.
- 1.6 The Local London boroughs have already made considerable progress working closely with London Councils to make the case for greater devolution. London Councils submitted 'The London Proposition' on behalf of all 33 London Councils setting out potential areas for devolution in September 2015. Since then the Government has provided some indication of areas for potential devolution. The three priority areas with greatest momentum are around employment, skills, and health.
- Employment: The proposal includes co-designing the health and work programme along with DWP. Getting those furthest away from the job market back into employment.
 - Skills: The discussions have centred around devolving the adult skills budget to sub-regions.
Linked to the skills agenda is the Area Reviews process. The reviews aim to deliver a clear skills vision for London based on robust analysis of future economic and demographic demand. A review of FE colleges and sixth form colleges with a view to move towards fewer, larger, more resilient and efficient providers, and more effective collaboration across institution types.
 - Health: Barking and Dagenham along with Redbridge and Havering are one of five health devolution pilots in London. The pilot is to develop an Accountable Care Organisation, where primary and secondary care is more closely integrated and patient pathways are redesigned with a focus of intervening early and managing the chronically ill.

2. Establishing Local London

- 2.1 In order for the Government to be able to work with the grouping of boroughs and for devolution to take place, the partnership requires a more formal arrangement. A joint committee arrangement is proposed for Local London. A Joint Committee is able to discharge executive functions on behalf of the Local London Members in so far as they relate to joint activities or areas of common concern in relation to the Local London.
- 2.2 The formalisation of the partnership will bring Local London into line with the other sub regional partnerships in London and will enable boroughs to take full advantage of the opportunities on offer now and in the future.

2.3 Inter-authority agreement

Key elements of the inter-authority agreement are set out below:

2.3.1 Role of Local London

- To develop and implement a coordinate programme which will both seek meaningful devolution deals with regional and national government and effectively deliver on any responsibilities transferred to the sub-region.
- Ensure they work together to deliver growth and identify opportunities for devolution to the sub-region which can result in sustainable long term benefits for local residents.

Specific Objectives are set out in Appendix A, paragraph 5.

2.3.2 Membership

Local London is made up of eight London boroughs: Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest.

Hackney and Tower Hamlets are not part of the partnership, as in previous arrangements. They remain supportive of devolution, but not this particular sub-regional grouping. Membership is open to other neighbouring boroughs joining Local London in future if they wish to do so.

2.3.3 Accountable Body

Redbridge will become the accountable body for Local London, including managing and discharging the Annual Budget. It will host the Local London partnership unit headed by a Director of Local London which will develop and manage the Local London programme of work together with provision of administration and clerking support.

2.3.4 Finance

A joint committee arrangement with an inter-authority agreement is proposed. Each authority will contribute £50k per year.

2.3.5 Programme of work

Local London Members shall establish a Local London Partnership Unit (LLPU) headed by the Director of Local London, the purpose of which shall be to develop and manage the Local London programme of work. The LLPU will be responsible for continuing and further developing the existing programme of work around employment, skills, and health devolution.

2.3.6 Meetings

The Chief Executives board will meet regularly, at least quarterly. Chief Executive's are entitled to send a nominee who should have the same delegated powers as the Chief Executive had they attended.

A Local London Leaders, Executive Mayors and Chief Executives Strategy group will be held monthly to agree the coming agenda and discuss progress.

2.3.7 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Terms of Reference

The MOU sets out the basis for operating the joint committee and associated activities between Local London members.

2.4 The full Local London inter-authority agreement and Memorandum of Understanding is available in Appendix A.

2.5 **Timescales**

2.5.1 The inter-authority agreement and procedure rules were discussed and agreed at the Local London meeting on March 2015. Heads of Legal in all Councils have viewed and commented on the agreement to ensure it is fit for purpose and agreeable across each borough.

2.5.2 Councils that are part of Local London are asked to seek agreement on the Inter-authority agreement paper and therefore agreeing their roles in Local London by the end of May 2016.

3. **Consultation**

3.1 The proposals have been widely consulted upon within the eight constituent Councils.

4. **Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Kathy Freeman, Divisional Director Finance

4.1 The annual subscription charge for the Local London Partnership will be met from existing budgets. The Council previously contributes £50,000 towards the Growth Boroughs Partnership and this funding can now be used to fund the annual membership charge for the Local London Partnership.

4.2 Each borough will be expected to contribute £50,000 by 30 April each year until the termination of this agreement. This will generate £400,000 per annum to fund the running costs of the Partnership to pay for the cost of a Director of Local London, staffing costs and other running expenses. The London Borough of Redbridge has been appointed as the Accountable Body who will be responsible for managing the budget of the Partnership. As per the Local London Inter Authority Agreement, any underspends from the annual budget will be carried forward, unless all Local London Members agree to be reimbursed.

5. **Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance

5.1 There are no specific legal comments on this report. Governance issues have been addressed within the inter authority agreement'.

6. **Other Implications**

6.1 **Risk Management** – The boroughs legal teams and key senior officers have been fully involved in setting up the Local London arrangements. The Council maintains a corporate risk register and any key risks in association with Local London and its associated 'projects' will be considered when the register is regularly updated.

- 6.2 **Contractual Issues** – Any contractual issues relating to delivering activities to meet borough priorities will be identified and dealt with in individual project plans.
- 6.3 **Staffing Issues** – There are no specific staffing implications for our borough.
- 6.4 **Customer Impact** – The Local London approach is to ensure that it reflects and respects the views of local people, giving them a real say in how their community is run: one that unleashed the true potential of the boroughs. The role and specific objectives for Local London give a clear and consistent message to residents and partners in Barking and Dagenham about the Council's role in Local London in place shaping and providing community leadership.
- 6.5 **Safeguarding Children** - Activities to safeguard children in the borough are delivered through the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and Children's Trust (CT). When initiatives/projects arise from Local London which may relate they will be referred to the LSCB and CT.
- 6.6 **Health Issues** - Activities to support the prevention and resolution of health issues in the borough are delivered through the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). When initiatives/project' arise from Local London which may relate they will be referred to the HWB
- 6.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues** - Activities to tackle crime and disorder issues are delivered through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). When initiatives/projects arise from Local London which may relate they will be referred to the CSP.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices:

- **Appendix A:** Inter-Authority agreement and MOU for Local London