

Councillor D Rodwell, Chair of Cabinet  
Councillor G Paddle, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Barking Town Hall  
1 Town Square  
Barking  
IG11 7LU

Date: 9 October 2023

Dear Councillors

## **Urgent Action under Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Constitution – Participation in a Business Rates Retention Pool with Thurrock and Havering Councils**

I am writing to you in your respective capacities to advise that I have taken urgent action under the provisions of Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Constitution in order to approve proposals relating to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Thurrock and Havering Councils for the establishment of a three-borough Business Rates retention pool, which must be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by 10 October 2023.

As the attached report explains, Thurrock Council commissioned LG Futures, who are also Barking & Dagenham's financial advisors, to review the potential for establishing a Business Rates retention pooling arrangement. Arising from that study, Barking and Dagenham was recently approached to join Thurrock and Havering Councils in a three-borough pooling arrangement.

There are clear benefits of joining the pooling arrangement, with projections estimating that Barking and Dagenham would benefit by circa £1m in 2024/25. In order to be considered, it is necessary for a joint application to be submitted to DLUHC by 10 October and both Thurrock and Havering Councils are pursuing their own internal approvals to meet that deadline. In order for Barking and Dagenham to be party to the pooling application, I have agreed that it is in the Council's best interests to deal with the matter under the Urgent Action provisions.

This letter also acknowledges your agreement to the implementation of the Special Urgency provisions under Part 2, Chapter 17, paragraph 15 of the Constitution as the matter, which

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qualifies as a 'key decision', had not been publicised in advance on the Council's Forward Plan in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

In line with procedures, details of this urgent action will be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet on 17 October 2023.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Taylor', written in a cursive style.

**Fiona Taylor**  
**Chief Executive**

cc: Cllr D Twomey, Jo Moore, Nish Popat, Deirdre Collins, Paul Feild

Enc: