

ASSEMBLY

8 December 2010

JOINT REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES

Title: Proposed London Local Authorities Bill	For Information
<p>Summary:</p> <p>On 15 September 2010 Assembly passed a resolution supporting the promotion of a Bill through Parliament to make the necessary amendments to the Greater London Authority Act 1999. This amendment was to allow greater flexibility in the eligibility times for freedom passes run by Transport for London on behalf of the London borough councils and to also introduce a provision for arbitration in the event that Transport for London and London Councils on behalf of the London boroughs could not agree on the costs of the freedom pass at any given time. (Under current arrangements Transport for London has reserve power to impose costs levels if agreement cannot be reached although such power has never had to be used).</p> <p>This resolution was passed at the request of London Councils who had similarly asked all London Borough Councils to pass the same resolution within a stated time scale.</p> <p>Subsequent to the resolution of Assembly on 15 September 2010 London Councils have communicated to all London Boroughs to inform them that they had received notification of Transport for London's withdrawal of support for the Bill. In these circumstances London Councils no longer feel able to progress the Bill and have asked London Borough Councils to cease any further activity on the proposed Bill. London Councils apologised for inconvenience caused to London Borough Councils.</p>	
<p>Implications</p> <p>Financial: The report of 15 September 2010 noted that the proposed amendment to the Bill would provide safeguards to Councils in London to resist certain cost increases. This potential is no longer available but since the result of not progressing with the Bill is that the status quo remains unchanged there are no additional financial implications envisaged.</p> <p>Legal: In the event that London Councils and Transport for London choose again to promote any resolution the Council can then consider whether to pass a further resolution in the light of a relevant case submitted at the time.</p> <p>Risk Management: No comment</p> <p>Social Inclusion and Diversity: No comment</p>	

Crime and Disorder:

None associated with this scheme.

Options Appraisal:

Since the sponsors of the Bill have now withdrawn support there is no option save to cease work on the proposals unless and until further is heard from London Councils.

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