

CABINET

21 March 2023

Title: Local London - New Inter-Authority Agreement	
Report of the Leader of the Council	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Directors: Alex Powell, Director of Strategy	
Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Fiona Taylor, Acting Chief Executive	
Summary: The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham was one of the founding Boroughs of 'Local London' which brought together, on its inception in 2016, eight London Boroughs to develop a north-east London response to the devolution agenda. The London Borough of Bromley has recently joined Local London and, therefore, a new Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) is being formally submitted for approval by the executive bodies of each Local London Member. Membership of Local London is now made up by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• London Borough of Barking and Dagenham• London Borough of Bexley• London Borough of Bromley• London Borough of Enfield• London (Royal) Borough of Greenwich• London Borough of Havering• London Borough of Newham• London Borough of Redbridge• London Borough of Waltham Forest Local London Members work together to deliver growth and identify opportunities with regional and national government that can result in sustainable long-term benefits for local residents. 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. This report sets out the proposed new Inter-Authority Agreement.	

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Agree that the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham enters into a new Local London Inter-Authority Agreement (incorporating the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference) agreed to by the Local London Partnership Members, as set out at Appendix A to the report;
- (ii) Agree the continued discharge of functions jointly through the creation of a new Local London Joint Committee as outlined in Schedule 2 to the Local London Inter-Authority Agreement at Appendix A to the report;
- (iii) Agree that the Council continues to contribute £50,000 as an annual membership fee for the duration of its membership of Local London; and
- (iv) Agree the following appointments to the Local London Joint Committee for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 municipal years:
 - Member: Councillor D Rodwell, Leader of the Council;
 - Substitute Member: A Cabinet Member nominated by the Leader, as required.

Reason(s)

Membership of Local London will contribute to the continued delivery of the Council's vision and corporate priorities.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Local London Partnership was established in February 2016 as the successor to the North East London Strategic Alliance (NELSA). Membership is currently made up of eight London Boroughs; Barking & Dagenham, Bexley, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest and has recently expanded to include Bromley. Members of Local London work in partnership with the aim of delivering growth and to identify opportunities for devolution to the sub-London region.
- 1.2 Local London Partnership Members work with the Greater London Authority and National government to seek investment which will result in benefits for both local economies and residents. Currently, Local London manages about £85million of externally funded programmes on behalf of its members.
- 1.3 At a meeting of the Joint Committee of 13 September 2022, Local London Partnership Members agreed they would like to admit the London Borough of Bromley into the Partnership. Accordingly, the Cabinet is asked to approve the arrangements set out in the new Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) at Appendix A in order to establish joint arrangements with the Local London Partnership Members including the formation of a Joint Committee with revised membership. The IAA is being formally submitted for approval by the executive bodies of each Local London Member.

- 1.4 There are no fundamental changes to the original IAA and it is therefore proposed that Redbridge will continue to act as the Accountable Body for Local London, i.e. assuming responsibility for the administration of the Local London Partnership, as further described below at section 4 and within the IAA.

2. Proposal and Issues

2.1 Local London Inter Authority Agreement

- 2.1.1 The proposed Local London Inter Authority Agreement, which the Cabinet is asked to approve, is attached at Appendix A to this report.

2.2 Joint Committee

- 2.2.1 The Local London Joint Committee will discharge executive functions, as outlined in terms of reference in Schedule 2 to the IAA, on the collective behalf of all Local London Members in so far as they relate to joint activities or areas of common concern in relation to the delivery of the partnership. The Joint Committee is free to agree that one or more but less than all Local London members participate in a particular project or programme of work.

- 2.2.2 Each Local London Member will nominate one representative to the Joint Committee and each representative will have one vote. A nominated substitute may attend in the absence of the Local London Member. By agreeing to the proposals Cabinet will approve the Joint Committee exercising executive functions on its behalf.

2.3. Accountable Body

- 2.3.1 The detailed responsibilities for Redbridge as the Accountable Body for Local London are set out at Section 7 of Appendix A to this report and include:

- Budget hosting. This includes the annual financial contribution of £50k by each Local London Member;
- The employment and hosting of staff. This relates to the Director of Local London and any subsequent staff they may appoint;
- Ensuring that the annual budget is set and monitored in an open and transparent way;
- Ensuring revenue is spent appropriately and promotes the agenda of Local London and its members.

- 2.3.2 Local London Members have previously agreed to Redbridge's role as the Accountable Body for Local London and the decision will need formal approval by each member's executive body.

2.4 Director of Local London

- 2.4.1 Local London Members have previously agreed to the appointment of a Director of Local London, who oversees Local London's programme of devolved work by managing the Local London Partnership Unit. The Director provides strategic leadership to the Local London sub-region in developing joint programmes of work

and identifying opportunities and developing a case for greater devolution to Local London. The Director works closely with London's other sub-regional partnerships to negotiate effective and meaningful devolution deals with Central Government to transfer further powers and responsibilities.

2.4.2 The Leaders, Mayors and Chief Executives of Local London Members have been directly involved in appointing the Director through the application and interview processes.

2.5 **Next Steps**

2.5.1 Moving forward it is important to formalise the new structure of Local London which now includes the London Borough of Bromley. Cabinet approval of the recommendations contained in this report will enable Local London Members to achieve the agreed goal of Local London being fully constituted and operational by April 2023.

2.5.2 Local London Members will continue to work on the devolved areas as set out in the Local London three-year plan which is due to be finalised at the March Joint Committee (skills, employment support, digital and transport).

2.5.3 The approval of the Local London Inter Authority Agreement will formalise the expanded Local London Partnership and ensure that the Partnership is in a position to be able to manage and deliver additional devolved responsibilities from Central and London Government.

3. **Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Katherine Heffernan, Head of Service Finance

3.1 The annual subscription charge for the Local London Partnership will be met from existing budgets.

3.2 Each borough member is expected to contribute £50,000 by 30 April each year. This generates £450,000 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.

4. **Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Dr Paul Feild, Senior Standards & Governance Lawyer

4.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012, a Joint Committee may only be established, and have functions delegated to it, by the Leader, Cabinet, a Cabinet member or a Cabinet Committee.

4.2 This Agreement is made pursuant to Sections 101(5), and 113(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000, Section 1(1) (b) of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 and Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (and all the other enabling powers).

4.3 Legal Services have been involved in reviewing the Agreement and are satisfied with the provisions of the 2023 updated agreement following discussions with the authorised external legal providers. .

5. Other Implications

5.1 **Risk Management** – The boroughs legal teams and key senior officers have been fully involved in updating the 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.

5.2 **Contractual Issues** – Any contractual issues relating to delivering activities to meet borough priorities will be identified and dealt with in individual project plans.

5.3 **Staffing Issues** – There are no specific staffing implications for our borough.

5.4 **Corporate Policy, Customer and Equality 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.

5.5 **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.

5.6 **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.

5.7 **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:

- “Establishment of the Local London Joint Committee” Cabinet report, 19 April 2016 <https://modgov.lbbd.gov.uk/Internet/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=180&MId=8153&Ver=4>

List of appendices:

- **Appendix A:** Draft Inter-Authority Agreement for the Local London Partnership Programme 2023