

THE EXECUTIVE

27 SEPTEMBER 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND HEALTH

EAST LONDON HOUSING PARTNERSHIP (ELHP) REVISED PROTOCOL	FOR DECISION
<p>Summary: Following the decision by the East London Housing Partnership (ELHP) to put forward a revised protocol that sets out the responsibilities of its Board, it was agreed that the protocol would be adopted by the Board and then be submitted through the individual constituent Local Authority democratic processes as appropriate.</p> <p>Wards Affected: All Wards.</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Inclusion and Diversity: As this report does not concern a new or revised policy and only seeks to formalise an existing arrangement there are no specific adverse impacts insofar as this report is concerned.• Crime and Disorder: Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a responsibility on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of any proposals. In relation to this report there are no crime and disorder implications• Risk Management: The principal risk of not engaging with the ELHP Board would be that decisions on housing investment will be made without influence from Barking & Dagenham.• Financial: There are no financial implications in that the Board does not have any statutory or specific financial duties. However, the Board has clear responsibilities in relation to the way Housing Corporation funds new housing and the way the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister funds private sector renewal.• Legal: There are no legal implications.	
<p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>The Executive is recommended to agree that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The East London Housing Partnership protocol is adopted2. To note that Councillor Kallar as the Executive Lead Member with responsibility for Housing Strategy, is the Council's representative on the ELHP Board	

Reason(s)		
<p>The Board has clear responsibilities in relation to investment in new homes and the management of the nominations protocol. There is a need to be represented on the partnership Board to ensure that the views of the borough are presented on all business concerning the East London Housing Partnership.</p>		
Contact: Ken Jones	Title: Head of Housing Strategic Development	Contact Details: Telephone: 020 8227 5703 Fax: 020 8227 5799 Email: Ken.Jones@lbbd.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The ELHP which comprises the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Corporation of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest has been meeting on a regular basis for two years now and in the course of that period has approved a number of broad policy documents and actions arising from the sub-regional agenda.
- 1.2 The Board does not have any statutory or specific financial duties but has clear responsibilities in relation to the way Housing Corporation funds new housing, the way the ODPM funds private sector renewal and in relation to the management of the nominations protocol.
- 1.3 The decision to put forward a revised protocol was agreed at the Partnership Board meeting on 27th June 2005 following a meeting with the Greater London Authority (GLA) at which it was identified that there was the need for a more robust terms of reference. The following points were also agreed:
- That Local Authorities should take the protocol through their own Council processes and that it will be revisited in September to look at any issues that have been raised.
 - That a minimum of 4 boroughs would need to be represented in order for a decision to be reached.
 - That the process of making decisions should be included in the protocol
 - That the Board needs to be mindful of the types of decisions it can make and minutes will need to distinguish between decisions over which the Board has clear responsibility and where it can adopt a line and where the responsibility to agree and implement lies with individual Authorities.

2. TERMS OF THE PROTOCOL

- 2.1 The revised Protocol attempts to capture the main purpose and responsibilities of elected Members on the Board.

- 2.2 The Protocol covers issues relating to the role of nominated Lead Members and meeting arrangements and does not differ greatly from that previously agreed by the Partnership Board.
- 2.3 The protocol gives a set time for the election of the Chair and Vice Chair in June or July which flows on from Borough Executive appointments and does allow for deputy members to be appointed. The revised Protocol is attached as Appendix A.

3. CONSULTATION AND IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A copy of the revised protocol was circulated by the Thames Gateway Strategy Officer to Officers and members of the Partnership Board for comment.
- 3.2 The following have been consulted and are happy with the report and protocol as it stands

Councillor Sidney Kallar, Member for Housing Strategy
Paul Field, Principal Solicitor Legal Services

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Members are asked to agree the protocol and note Councillor Kallar's membership of the Partnership Board as the portfolio Lead member for Housing Strategy. Also members are asked to comment on whether the roles and responsibilities set out in the Protocol are the appropriate ones.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 Appendix A – East London Housing Partnership Revised protocol dated 27 June 2005.

East London Housing Partnership - Revised Protocol

Background

The East London Housing Partnership covers the London East sub-region and is an alliance of the following local authorities: Barking and Dagenham, Corporation of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. The ELHP brings together politicians and senior officers from these councils.

In 2002/3, the Housing Corporation concluded that the 'problems of high housing demand and limited supply cannot be resolved within Borough boundaries' and consequently agreed that the London housing region should be divided into five sub-regions. Funding decisions are now made in line with priorities identified by the Housing Corporation at a sub-regional level and 50% of lettings to properties funded by the Corporation will be made sub-regionally based on housing need in each borough as identified by the national housing needs index.

The ELHP's work includes broad strategic and operational issues with the aim of extending housing options across the sub-region for the benefit of the people of east London.

A Role of Local Authority nominated Lead Members

Members from each borough will represent their individual boroughs on the Board of the East London Housing Partnership with the objective of presenting the views of their boroughs on all business concerning the East London Housing Partnership including:

- The development and implementation of the overarching East London Housing Strategy to meet both housing need and provide appropriate housing options across all tenures in the sub-region.
- Approval of investment priorities presented to the Housing Corporation for new housing development in the sub-region in terms of location, unit mix and tenure.
- Meeting housing need and the development of the new housing opportunities provided in the sub-region which comply with the principles set out in the ELHP Vision for the Thames Gateway document.
- The implementation and review of the sub-regional nominations protocol
- The development of an ELHP perspective on pan-London issues such as lettings plans and nominations agreements on pan-London sites and the development of pan-London choice and mobility.
- Co-ordination on responses to both national and London consultations on both housing policy and operational issues.

- The development of joint initiatives aimed to both improve performance and efficiency across the sub-region.
- To appoint both Members and Officers to represent the Partnership in discussions with other national or London bodies or to sit on any such regional or sub-regional Boards as required.
- To seek the views of other Members at either a Council, Executive or Cabinet, or Group level on specific sub-regional housing issues and report back borough views to the ELHP as appropriate.

B Meeting arrangements

Host

- That ELHP meetings are held every six weeks and rotate around the eight Boroughs.

Chair and Deputy Chair

The elected Board Members will appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair through a simple vote every June or July depending on meeting cycle.

Attendance

- That there be one nominated Member from each borough
- That there be one nominated Lead Officer from each borough
- That each borough Officer has a nominated Deputy Officer to attend in their absence
- A representative from the Thames Gateway London Partnership.

Quorum

- The quorum for meetings will be attendance by a minimum of four Boroughs

Voting

- Where a vote is required on any decisions, a simple majority will be required for a decision to be carried. In the event of a tie, the Chair will have a casting vote.

Paperwork

- That papers are received one week prior to the meeting
- That minutes are circulated no later than two weeks after the meeting.

That all reports are presented in the set ELHP report template and supporting documents are attached.