

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 09:30 am**

**Cllr Peter John OBE was in the chair**

### **Present**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cllr Peter John OBE	Chair
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	
Cllr Julian Bell	
Cllr Darren Rodwell	
Cllr Georgia Gould	
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Cllr Muhammed Butt	
Cllr Ruth Dombey	
Cllr Clare Coghill	
Cllr Danny Thorpe	
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell	

London Councils officers were in attendance.

### **1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies**

Apologies were received from Catherine McGuinness.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Elizabeth Campbell and Cllr Danny Thorpe to their first Executive meeting, and also announced his resignation which would be effective from the end of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020. He thanked colleagues for their messages of appreciation.

## **2. Declaration of interest**

Cllr Bell declared that he was about take up an appointment to the Transport for London (TfL) Board.

## **3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

## **4. Chief Executive Update**

The Chief Executive introduced the report, informing members that the paper updated the Executive on a range of developments since their last meeting. In addition:

- Because of the approaching Purdah period, he would be sending a note to Executive members and to staff
- As mentioned previously, Cllr Bell's appointment to the TfL Board and the resignation of the Chair required a number of governance actions, which would be addressed
- Coronavirus – members were informed that the first meeting of the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) would be taking place later on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and on the previous evening the Mayor had called a meeting of his Advisory Group which was attended by a number of key public service partners as well as London local government officers and the Chair. A note would be sent out to Leaders summarising that meeting.

The Chair confirmed that briefings would be continue to be provided to London borough Chief Executives for the London resilience structures.

Members made the following points:

- Cllr Rodwell asked about the best way to re-assure the public, to avoid issues like panic buying
- Cllr Georgia Gould asked about the issue of people with no access to sick pay required to self-isolate and the potential link to local welfare funds
- Cllr Thorpe felt that messages from Public Health England (PHE) for schools should be more clearly communicated. Also he asked whether there was testing information available on a 'by borough' basis?

The following responses were made to the questions:

- The Chair reported that the Deputy Chief Medical Officer had informed the Advisory Group that PHE would have sufficient notice to communicate plans should the virus become an epidemic: the Chief Executive mentioned that it was likely that the SCG would be dealing with advice on food and liaison with supermarkets
- It was confirmed that PHE and the Deputy Chief Medical Officer were the lead agencies for communications and there was a protocol with the PHE regarding flows of communication: also that PHE in London were sending borough communications teams a daily update
- The sick pay issue would be raised, dependent on the outcome of further Government announcement, including the budget.
- The Chief Executive agreed to raise the issue of information on testing, and emphasised that PHE was in the lead on these communications

The Chief Executive raised two other points from the update report.

In terms of overall lobbying regarding resources, London partners had raised the prospect of a joint business/GLA/London Councils intervention before Purdah, on a cross party basis.

Members made the following points in support of the issue of lobbying:

- Cllr Georgia Gould recognised that while many parts of the overall funding formula had been agreed, the Government were interested other ideas, such as the Overnight Levy
- Cllr Teresa O'Neill felt that any lobbying should be done after the 11 March budget, in that the budget would feed directly into the Spending Review; it also allowed time before the commencement of Purdah
- Cllr Puddifoot felt that it should be made clear that the needs of London should not be seen as in competition with those of the rest of the country, while also recognising that London's success was important for the whole country also.
- Cllr Clare Coghill added that London's particular position in respect of, for example, the scale of its overspend on SEND, needed to be emphasised.

The Chief Executive had also included in his report a summary of the discussion at the recent Awayday regarding achieving a balance between the frequency of Leaders and Executive meetings. Members were reminded that there had been some interest at the Awayday in reducing the number of Leaders' Committee meetings and increasing the frequency of meetings of the Executive, and he had set out some advantages and disadvantages of the proposal in the report.

Members agreed to discuss this issue further at their party group meetings before Leaders Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

In the meantime the Chief Executive noted that the meetings schedule for 2020/21 would be scheduled in the normal way, with the proviso that the dates could be changed dependent on members' final view.

Members noted the remainder of the report.

## **5. Business Plan 2020/21**

The Chair introduced the Business Plan report, commenting that, historically, in preparing the Plan the Chair had met with individual portfolio holders to establish priorities. This year, Executive members and shadow portfolio holders had met with officers to develop the draft content appended to the report. The Executive had agreed they should then collectively look at the Plan at this meeting. The Chief Executive said that the draft content reflected the previously agreed Pledges to Londoners, but acknowledged that two of the Executive portfolio holders were new to their roles and that their sections - Crime and Public Protection and Children's Services, Schools and Families - would require further opportunities for briefing.

The Chief Executive said that the aim of the discussion was to try and achieve a consensus in terms of direction, prior to Leaders' Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> March, taking into account the outcomes of the General Election in December 2019 and the Mayoral 'Asks' document recently published. He was seeking guidance as to whether any of the priorities should be given more or less focus, or whether members wished to cease any of the elements of the Plan.

Members made the following comments in relation to the draft Business Plan.

The Chair asked about the work on County Lines. The Chief Executive reported that discussions with Cllrs Elizabeth Campbell and Thorpe on this issue supported that it being aligned with Crime and Public Protection.

Cllr Puddifoot asked whether, in the Crime and Public Protection section, there should be some mention of investment in police personnel and facilities. Under the Transport and Environment section, he also asked whether the issue of Heathrow should be included.

Cllr Bell reported that there was an existing position on Heathrow. It was very hard to see how widespread agreement on an alternative could be secured. He felt that, in terms of the Heathrow issue, it would be more effective for boroughs to take their own position on it. Cllr Bell also suggested that air quality should be given greater focus, and that in the Transport and Environment section, greater emphasis should be placed on transport alternatives such as walking and cycling.

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell felt that the issue of UASC should be included; she favoured a review of transfer arrangements and options for a regional solution. Cllr Campbell also felt that consideration should be given to the work that health partners were doing in this area.

Cllr Georgia Gould felt that she would like to see work focusing on the changing makeup of inner and outer London.

Cllr Thorpe recognised the potential for Metropolitan Police Estate to be used as accommodation for new police resources; Cllr Puddifoot agreed that while the recruitment of new police was welcomed, facilities remained an issue. Cllr Thorpe also raised the prospect of a London Challenge type approach the impact of poverty in the capital. He also made reference to the need to remove the term 'special schools' on Page 36 of the report.

Cllr Butt noted the need for discussions with the Government around UASC and welfare reforms.

Cllr Rodwell mentioned the disparity between the Census data and current population figures in respect of his borough, which had a financial impact. There

was a discussion about the most effective way to understand current trends in London's population, but it was pointed out that while ONS provided some projections there was often a time lag, and that it was difficult to obtain data on the shifts in population between boroughs. This related to the piece of work referenced previously by Cllr Gould.

Cllr O'Neill raised the issue of the word 'emergency' in relation to climate change, although acknowledging that a large number of boroughs were using that. She also questioned the inclusion of the references to European funding in the Plan. The Director of Transport and Mobility pointed out that some European funds could still be accessed by boroughs, and there would still be projects carried out in conjunction with other European cities.

Cllr Dombey wanted to emphasise the primacy of the Health and Wellbeing Board in emerging health work. She also felt that more emphasis on mental health issues would be welcome.

Cllr Coghill talked about the need to align member priorities with officer groupings. The Chief Executive outlined the process for this.

In conclusion it was pointed out that the draft Plan contained the core content but would be fleshed out with key themes and organisational inputs when finalised. The Chair felt that as the Pledges for Londoners had only recently been formally published, there was no need for the Business Plan to be launched in the same way.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and for identifying priorities and specific areas that needed to be highlighted.

Members agreed that officers should work with portfolio holders to produce a draft Business Plan for 24<sup>th</sup> March Leaders' Committee, with final changes and amendments being considered by the Executive on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

## **6. Month 9 Revenue Forecast 2019/20**

The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the report.

Cllr Puddifoot noted that while some balances were due to delayed expenditure, overall he felt that the report presented a good financial position.

Members noted the Revenue Forecast report.

## **7. Debtor's Update report**

The Director of Corporate Resources confirmed that all outstanding amounts from boroughs had been paid since the report had been issued. He thanked Borough Treasurers for actioning this and for resolving any queries promptly.

The Executive noted the report.

At the end of the meeting Cllr Bell expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Executive, to Cllr John for his work over the past two years, and for the highly efficient and effective way that he had guided the Executive through the issues and challenges it had faced..

The meeting closed at 10.40.



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## Action points

	Item	Action by	Progress
4.	<b>Chief Executive Update</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note to be sent to Executive and staff regarding Purdah</li></ul>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action required following Chair's resignation and appointment of Cllr Bell to TfL Board</li></ul>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note to be sent to Leaders on the recent Strategic Co-ordination Group meeting</li></ul>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Covid-19 issues to be raised with SCG</li></ul>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	Completed