



Meeting of Members of Leaders' Committee

Agenda - 13 December 2022: 11:30

At London Councils offices, Conference Suite,
59½ Southwark St., London SE1 0AL

Refreshments will be provided. London Councils offices are wheelchair accessible

Labour Group:	Room 1	10:00
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Political Adviser: 07970) 008191)

Conservative Group:	Room 5	10:00
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(Political Adviser: 07591 389100)

Liberal Democrat Group:	Room 4	10:00
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(Political Adviser: 07858 924941)

Contact Officer:	David Dent
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All items for discussion and noting:

Agenda item

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest*

3. Minutes of the Leaders' Committee held on 27 July 2022

4. Andy Lord, Commissioner Transport for London – presentation to follow

5. Survey of Londoners

6. Cost of Living

7. The Tackling Racial Inequality Programme

8. Developing a pan-London infrastructure framework

9. Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2023/24

10. London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2023/24

11. London Councils' Shared Ambition Progress Report

12. Appointment of External Auditor

13. Minutes of informal meetings for noting:-

- TEC AGM – 9 June 2022
 - Audit Committee – 16 June 2022
 - Grants Committee AGM – 13 July 2022
 - TEC Executive – 14 July 2022
 - GLEF – 19 July 2022
 - Audit Committee 15 September 2022
 - TEC – 14 October 2022
 - YPES – 20 October 2022
 - Executive 8 November 2022
 - Grants Executive – 14 November 2022
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***Declarations of Interests**

If you are present at a meeting of London Councils' or any of its associated joint committees or their sub-committees and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest* relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

It is a matter for each member to decide whether they should leave the room while an item that they have an interest in is being discussed. In arriving at a decision as to whether to leave the room they may wish to have regard to their home authority's code of conduct and/or the Seven (Nolan) Principles of Public Life.

*as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

The Chair to move the removal of the press and public since the following items would be exempt from the Access to Information Regulations. Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12(a) (as amended) Section 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Agenda item

E1	Exempt minute of Audit Committee on 15 September
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London Councils

Notes of the informal Meeting of the London Councils Leaders' Committee held on 27 July 2022

Present:

BARKING & DAGENHAM
BARNET
BEXLEY
BRENT
CAMDEN
CROYDON
ENFIELD
GREENWICH
HACKNEY
HARINGEY
HARROW
HAVERING
HILLINGDON
HOUNSLOW
ISLINGTON
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA
KINGSTON
LAMBETH
LEWISHAM
NEWHAM
REDBRIDGE
RICHMOND UPON THAMES
SOUTHWARK
SUTTON
WALTHAM FOREST
WANDSWORTH
WESTMINSTER
CITY OF LONDON

Cllr Saima Ashraf (Deputy)
Cllr Barry Rawlings
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
Cllr Mili Patel (Deputy)
Cllr Georgia Gould (Chair)
Mayor Jason Perry
Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Cllr Anthony Okereke
Mayor Philip Glanville
Cllr Peray Ahmet
Cllr Paul Osborn
Ray Morgon
Cllr Ian Edwards
Cllr Shantanu Rajawat
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell
Cllr Alison Holt (Deputy)
Cllr Claire Holland
Mayor Damien Egan
Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz
Cllr Kam Rai
Cllr Gareth Roberts
Cllr Kieron Williams
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE
Cllr Grace Williams
Cllr Simon Hogg
Cllr Adam Hug
Christopher Hayward

Apologies:

BARKING & DAGENHAM
BRENT
BROMLEY
KINGSTON
REDBRIDGE
TOWER HAMLETS

Cllr Darren Rodwell
Cllr Muhammed Butt
Cllr Colin Smith
Cllr Andreas Kirsch
Cllr Jas Athwal
Lutfur Rahman

Officers of London Councils were in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence and notification of deputies

Apologies were as listed above.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Leaders Committee on 7 June 2022 (AGM and business)

Members noted the Leaders Committee minutes of 7 June 2022 (AGM and business)

4. Shared Ambitions Roadmap for Delivery

The Chair congratulated Leaders across London and London Councils staff for the huge effort in drawing the roadmap together. The Chief Executive introduced the paper, informing members that the roadmap drew on the shared political vision of boroughs to direct London Councils policy and lobbying work over the next two years, which would see London Councils as a trusted partner with a range of partners. Members were also informed that:

- The six themes within the roadmap had been updated to reflect conversations at the recent Executive meeting in areas such as cost of living and the rebalancing of health and wellbeing priorities
- The roadmap recognised the changing context of operation; the roadmap and milestones could therefore be adapted should there be a political need to do this
- The strategic framework allowed London Councils staff to use borough resources effectively, while being realistic about where the greatest differences could be made

Members made the following points:

- Having a shared narrative was important because of the need to lobby Government with one voice, as evidenced by the work during the pandemic, and to make the case for the complexity of London. It was also important for boroughs to learn from each other in a changing environment
- Boroughs were clearly different to each other, but it was important to recognise the need for boroughs to be London focused in its lobbying asks, and to emphasise the fact that they delivered in terms of direct services like Taxicard but also in areas such as HIV prevention, climate issues etc.

Members noted and approved the Shared Ambitions milestones.

5. Local Government Finance Update

The Chair recognised the financial pressures facing boroughs and its residents and the potential negative impact on its ambitions. The Chief Executive introduced the report, providing background for the benefit of newer Leaders. Members were informed that:

- The original financial settlement for 2022/23 saw an uplift in funding; however, this did not take account of financial losses sustained through the pandemic, assumed a level of inflation of around 5%, and did not factor in the £3-400 million borough savings that needed to be delivered
- Although a fundamental review of local government funding was originally planned, the resultant one year settlement had resulted in uncertainty for boroughs; it was now unlikely that the proposed Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Reset would go ahead; there was a suggestion that there might be some redistribution of the New Homes Bonus and, in particular the £800 million Services Grant
- Inflation had significantly risen since the point of the agreement, which had created a further loss of £100 million from the uplift. The inflationary pressures included uplifts in pay and running costs which are estimated could create a gap of around £400 million in 2022-23. Extensive lobbying had taken place to highlight these issues, both in the public domain and with the Government
- Nationally a pay offer had been made which would increase the costs for boroughs and would be above what had been planned for in boroughs' budgets. London Councils were analysing this to look at the cumulative impact for London and would share the information in the next two weeks
- There were additional financial pressures in terms of: the High Needs block of the DSG, where many boroughs were carrying deficits (a DLUHC survey was being carried out and London Councils would work with boroughs on the returns); Adult Social Care funding reforms, which had been delayed following lobbying, and where concerns existed that existing funding was insufficient for the reforms required; the impact of the 2021 census, which showed London's population on census day was around 300,000 lower than the previous ONS estimate, which could impact on funding; and the current Homeless Prevention Grant consultation, which included changes that would reduce funding for London.
- In terms of the medium to long term position, London Councils was looking at opportunities for sustainable, longer term simplified funding for local government, including greater financial autonomy for London and how it worked with other core cities and London partners.

Members made the following points:

- In terms of lobbying, it was important to make clear the deep impact of the financial position on communities and areas such as homelessness, housing and social care. It was also important to seek cross party agreement on the key asks in relation to the cost of living crisis

- The costs to boroughs associated with work related to climate change should also be taken into account
- It was important to maintain political lobbying channels despite the current and forthcoming changes in Government

The Chief Executive responded noting:

- The positive suggestion that the paper be turned into a lobbying document not just for DLUHC (a suggestion was made that the paper could be sent to Paul Scully, DLUHC Minister, as well as the DFE and DHSC). A meeting was also being held with HM Treasury's Local Government team in August
- The requirement for the paper to address the funding issues in terms of real impact on people and communities was noted
- A private Leaders and CE session was to be held to investigate learning from each other and to find out what boroughs were doing in terms of the current financial position
- The position on the pay offer would be confirmed but it was felt that the impact was contained within the £400 million gap.

Leaders' Committee noted the contents of the report.

6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund

This paper would now be discussed in the private session after the meeting.

7. TfL Funding – verbal update

The Director of Transport and Mobility provided an update to members on the present funding situation, informing them that:

- TfL had agreed a number of short-term funding deals. The deal hoped for with TfL on 24 June had not happened, although an extension to 13 July with £40 K borough funding had been agreed, followed by a further funding extension
- On 22 July DfT had written to TfL with an offer. TfL were asking for a further financial extension while they considered the offer
- Specific borough funding for transport had reduced over the past 4 years by 75%, which had impacted on investment, staffing and commencement of projects. These issues had been highlighted in cross party lobbying, as well as making the argument for a long term funding deal

- It was recognised that this was a priority both for TfL and the DfT. It was noted that £9.4 m had been made available in March and the July allocations of £40 K presented a further opportunity for negotiation

Members noted the update.

8. Minutes and Summaries of Informal Meetings

Members noted the minutes and summaries of the following meetings:

- TEC – 24 March 2022
- Executive – 21 June 2022
- YPES – 23 June 2022

9. Urgency

Members noted the urgency on relation to decisions taken following the meeting of London Councils Executive on 21 June 2022

The meeting ended at 12:25.

Leaders' Committee

Survey of Londoners

Item no: 5

Report by: Lewis Hill **Job title:** Research Director, Ipsos
Date: 13 December 2022
Contact Officer: Gemma Kappala-Ramsamy
Telephone: 020 7934 9842 **Email:** gemma.kappala-ramsamy@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary	London Councils has commissioned polling of London residents for the past 10 years. Headline findings and analysis from this year's Survey of Londoners will be presented for information, comment and discussion.
Recommendations	Leaders' Committee is asked to note and discuss the headlines from the survey.

1.0 Background

For the last 10 years, London Councils has regularly commissioned polling of Londoners to learn about their views. This year, London Councils

commissioned independent researchers Ipsos (formerly known as Ipsos MORI) to undertake polling of Londoners for the next three years on priorities that feature in London Councils' Shared Ambitions.

2.0 This year's survey

Ipsos conducted an online survey of 1,000 residents aged 18-75 living in Greater London using Ipsos's Online Access Panel, a panel of pre-recruited individuals who have agreed to take part in research. Fieldwork took place between 27 October and 9 November 2022 inclusive.

The survey explores Londoners' perceptions of the most important issues facing the capital, financial resilience, views of the local area and council, housing, transport, devolution, health, asylum seekers and refugees and crime.

Quotas were set by age, gender, work status and inner/outer London, with final data also weighted to these profiles along with housing tenure and ethnicity to match the profile of the wider London population. Due to the survey sample size, it is not possible to break down the findings by borough – only by inner and outer London residency.

3.0 Recommendation

Leaders' Committee is asked to note and discuss the survey headlines.

Financial Implications for London Councils

There are no financial implications for London Councils.

Legal Implications for London Councils

There are no legal implications for London Councils

Equalities Implications for London Councils

There are no equalities implications for London Councils

Leaders' Committee

Cost of Living

Item no: 6

Report by: Sam Ashton **Job title:** Principal Policy & Projects Officer
Date: 13 December 2022
Contact Officer: Sam Ashton
Telephone: 020 7934 9525 **Email:** Sam.Ashton@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary	This report provides a summary update of progress on London Councils' ongoing work on the Cost of Living, including the proposed Cost of Living Dashboard and Pan-London Pension Credit Campaign.
Recommendations	Leaders' Committee is asked to note and discuss the contents of the report.

Cost of Living Impact in London

1.1 The increasing Cost of Living continues to be an issue of significant concern for Londoners and London boroughs alike. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose

by 10.1% in the 12 months to September 2022, up from 9.9% in August and returning to July's recent high.

1.2 The latest analysis by the Greater London Authority shows that Londoners are experiencing higher inflation for local goods and services than the average across the UK. London rental prices are a major factor. Rents for new rentals in London are growing faster than anywhere else in the UK at over 17 per cent.

1.3 The 2022 Survey of Londoners found four in five (77%) Londoners believe cost of living to be an important issue facing the capital, the highest level of concern for any issue ever recorded on this question in any previous survey of Londoners, and an increase of 15% points since last year.

1.4 In the November London Cost of Living YouGov survey, 19 per cent of Londoners reported that they were financially struggling, rising to 31 per cent for those earning less than £20,000 pa. Almost 50 per cent of Londoners reported falling behind or struggling with bills and 48 per cent were struggling with their rent or mortgage payments.

1.5 Rising local food costs is one of the key pressures pushing the capital's underlying inflation above the national average. This will affect Londoners on the lowest incomes as they spend a larger proportion of their income on food.

2. London Councils' Working Group

2.1 London's Leaders and Chief Executives met on 22 September 2022 to discuss the impacts of rising inflationary pressures on residents, businesses, and local government. The Chair of London Councils recommended that a Member and Officer working group should be established to take forward work to share emerging practice and identify opportunities for collaborative action, and that this group should be chaired by the Executive member for Communities (Cllr Claire Holland - Lambeth).

2.2 The working group is being established with the aim of adding value to borough work in supporting residents and businesses with cost-of-living pressures through a co-ordinated approach to sharing practice and coordinating collaborative actions. Its core objectives are to:

- identify and raise awareness of emerging practice that supports residents and businesses with cost-of-living pressures (work through existing professional networks, e.g., Heads of Communications, to share emerging practice)

- identify opportunities for boroughs to collaborate on activity and campaigns, where a multi-borough or pan-London approach would add value
- assess the latest intelligence and data on the impacts of inflationary pressures and policy interventions.

2.3 At its first meeting it will agree a time-limited work plan, that identifies themes, resources, methods of communication/implementation, to deliver the groups objectives and determine the short, medium and long-term aims that the group's activity will support. The group will provide progress reports on the delivery of its work plan to London Councils' Executive.

2.4 Members include London Councils Executive members and Shadow Executive members for Communities, and for Skills and Employment, and the Shadow Executive Member Business, Economy and Culture. The CELC leads for Economy, and Welfare, the Co-Chair of the LRB Robust Safety Net Mission. Housing Directors Network and the London Community Engagement Network are also represented.

3. Cost of living dashboard

3.1 A paper setting out a proposal for a London Cost of Living dashboard was discussed by CELC in October where it was agreed this would be taken forward. London Councils and the London Office of Technology and Innovation held a workshop with 21 borough representatives on 18th November to consider in more detail the scope and practicalities of delivering the dashboard.

3.2 Having considered borough input and the workshop discussion London Councils have identified two main use cases for the dashboard to take forward:

- An aggregate of non-borough London data sets broken down at a borough level on Cost of Living as a resource for borough analysts to produce reports and insights.
- Collated borough data to understand the impact on borough finance and services to allow boroughs to benchmark, identify the potential for pan-London solutions to shared problems and support lobbying and communications work for additional resources.

3.3 London Councils and the London Office of Technology and Innovation are working with boroughs to identify data sets for inclusion in the first proposal with the aim of rapidly draw together a useable product in the short-term (December/January). Proposed data sets include a borough level break down of the Citizens Advice Cost of Living data, which is not currently available to boroughs.

3.4 A borough working group is being established to give oversight and input into developing the second proposal with an aim to deliver a minimum viable product by March.

4. Pan-London Pension Credit Campaign

4.1 This campaign is part of the London Recovery Board's Robust Safety Net Mission. The campaign is funded by the GLA and delivered in partnership with London Councils. It intends to use council administrative data to identify households entitled to Pension Credit who are not yet claiming it.

4.2 Households will be written to too encourage them to apply and targeted with follow up phone calls and support. Age UK have agreed to support the campaign. All boroughs were invited to participate in the campaign and 20 boroughs have applied to do so. The campaign is due to commence in January and could deliver up to an estimated £10m in financial benefits for low-income pensioners. If the campaign proves successful the same model could be used to drive take up for additional financial benefits

5. Key Milestones

5.1 Key deliverables in the coming month include:

- December 2022: First meeting of the London Councils Cost of Living Working Group.
- December 2022: Initial iteration of London Cost of Living Dashboard (subject to the availability of necessary data).
- January 2022: Pension Credit take up campaign commences with first letters issued.

Financial Implications for London Councils

While most of the work on the data dashboard is being undertaken in-house using data that is already accessible (with assistance from the GLA), there may be a need to pay for some data sets that are not otherwise available to boroughs and engage consultancy services to help design a product that is easy to use and maintain. Data sets would only be purchased where there is a demonstrable utility to boroughs and clear economies of scale from meeting the cost at a pan-London level. In that case, a proposal for funding would be submitted to the Shared Ambitions Impact Fund.

Legal Implications for London Councils

There are no legal implications for London Councils

Equalities Implications for London Councils

There are no equalities implications for London Councils

Leaders' Committee

The Tackling Racial Inequality Programme

Item no: 7

Report by	Nancy Hunt	Job title	Policy Officer
Date	13 December 2022		
Contact Officer	Nancy Hunt		
Telephone	020 7934 9672	Email	nancy.hunt@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary This report summarises the aims and objectives of the London local government Tackling Racial Inequality programme in which London boroughs, with coordination from London Councils, collaborate to add value to borough work, through regional, pan-London activity. The programme brings local authorities together to develop new and innovative products which embed race equality and anti-racist culture into government agendas.

The Tackling Racial Inequality Programme presented two products at the Leaders' Briefing on 24 October 2022. This briefing provided information on, and an opportunity to discuss and steer, the two pieces of work developed by the Demonstrating Leadership working group – the London Local Government Anti-Racist Statement (Annex 1) and the Chief Executives London Committee's Tackling Racial Inequality Standard (Annex 2). This working group encourages boroughs to demonstrate visible leadership on the race equality agenda, both within authorities, but also across partnerships and our 'places'.

Leaders are invited to endorse these products so that Chief Executives and local government organisations can choose to implement them where these products add value.

Recommendations Leaders' Committee is asked to:

1. Endorse the London Local Government Anti-Racist Statement (Annex 1) and the Chief Executives London Committee's Tackling Racial Inequality Standard (Annex 2).
2. Where these products add value to existing borough work, coordinate with Chief Executives to implement the statement and standard.

The Tackling Racial Inequality Programme – Background

1. The London Tackling Racial Inequality Programme was established in 2020 as a London local government response to historical and persistent racial disparities, particularly following a series of events: the murder of George Floyd, the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement and the disproportionate impact of Covid-19.
2. The programme creation and subsequent development are driven by the Chief Executive's London Committee (CELC) Tackling Racial Inequality group, chaired by Stuart Love, CE Westminster, and Kim Wright, CE Lewisham.
3. Whilst there were many excellent examples across the capital of work and initiatives to support ethnically diverse communities, there was space for greater regional action and collaboration. The Tackling Racial Inequality programme was established to fill that gap and to ensure racial equality is central to all we do and deliver as local authorities. To achieve this, the programme is set up to deliver two overarching priorities:
 - a. Support the work that individual boroughs are undertaking that responds to the needs within their communities and organisations
 - b. Work beyond our statutory duties to develop regional activity and action, where appropriate.
4. Three themes were established to deliver these priorities and help drive regional activity that adds the most value to boroughs:
 - a. Demonstrating leadership
 - b. Our role as large employers
 - c. Challenging and improving practice across services.

The London Local Government Anti-Racist Statement and the Chief Executives London Committee's Tackling Racial Inequality Standard

5. Working with boroughs and London Councils, the Tackling Racial Inequality programme has developed these two products through the Demonstrating

Leadership working group. The programme aims to support boroughs to embed race equality in all we do as a sector, ensuring London is fairer for everyone and delivers the best possible outcomes for our colleagues and communities through inclusive, culturally aware workforces; the programme also aims to support us as 'leaders of place', and to learn from each other's good practice.

6. The programme will initially focus on supporting boroughs that choose to implement the two products but will then move beyond this. Through coordination and facilitation of initiatives that contribute to the Statement and Standard over time, local authorities will build cultures that address and challenge wider inequalities in the medium to longer term. Working together as a whole system across London to influence other public bodies and civil society to adopt a common commitment and approach to tackling racial inequality.
7. Local authorities have always worked with diverse communities to address inequalities and build cohesive and resilient communities, and already fulfil some of the objectives outlined in the products, which naturally will play a central role in mobilisation. Therefore, the programme has been designed to align with existing and emerging work in local government. These examples of good practice exemplify how equality, diversity and inclusion networks across local authorities and the 200 volunteers from across London's local authorities on the Tackling Racial Inequality working groups are already championing the values outlined in the products, for example:
8. [London Borough of Barnet: Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Dashboard](#). The London borough of Barnet's comprehensive Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity dashboard aims to provide a three-dimensional picture of the organisation that can be used to benchmark against other authorities and provide insights into areas in need of improvement and measure the success of actions to address these.
9. [London Borough of Harrow: A Ground-breaking Approach to Organisational Change](#). The London borough of Harrow commissioned an Independent Race Review by Patrick Vernon OBE, to survey 700 staff members. The findings from this informed the Race Equality Action Plan, focussing on the creation of safe

spaces, changing the organisation's culture and behaviour through leadership, training and development, and recruitment and retention.

10. [London Borough of Newham: Time to Talk](#). The London borough of Newham hosted three community 'Time to Talk' events, to identify where residents, borough staff, and partner agency members experienced racism, disproportionality and racial inequality, and to identify ways of reducing or preventing them.
11. [London Borough of Sutton: A New Approach to Anti-Racism in Children's Safeguarding](#). The London borough of Sutton Children's Services has appointed an Anti-Racist Practice Lead, to deliver a strategic response targeting children's social care and safeguarding.

Programme Objectives

The Aims of the Anti-Racist Statement

12. The Tackling Racial Inequality Programme leads consider that local authorities would benefit from adopting an anti-racist approach because the most damaging aspects of inequality and racism are embedded in society. The statement is founded on the belief that it is everyone's responsibility to proactively and continuously:
 - a. Unpack and reset beliefs, assumptions, and values.
 - b. Take action when we observe racism in beliefs, assumptions and values and the decision and actions that follow, however subtle.
 - c. Be humble and educate ourselves on what we don't know about racial inequalities rather than putting the onus on others to educate us.
13. Through adopting the Statement, local authorities are encouraged to:
 - a. Build a picture of key inequalities in their area and look at what is driving these.
 - b. Shape solutions by listening to residents, communities and frontline staff.
 - c. Set expectations for leaders to take personal responsibility for what they can do now to bring about change.
14. Our collective commitment to achieve racial equality focuses on what London's local authorities can do together to have a positive impact on life outcomes at all stages.

Through the public adoption of the Statement, local authorities can begin taking a consistent approach to driving change.

The Aims of the Chief Executives London Committee's (CELC) Tackling Racial Inequality Standard

15. The Anti-Racist Statement is underpinned by the CELC Tackling Racial Inequality Standard. The CELC Tackling Racial Inequality Standard has been designed as a self-assessment and benchmarking tool for London local authorities. It contains a descriptor of the level of practice required of local authorities to meet a minimum for exemplary standards on racial equality. It is informed by and celebrates local initiatives building a model that assesses the impact and cultivates pan-London shared learning and good practice.
16. The standards enable local authorities to reflect on and improve their practice across seven categories: Strategic Leadership and Management, Employee Lifecycle, Data Governance, Policies and Processes, Strategies and Action Plans, Staff Networks and Community Engagement.
17. The aim is to nurture, support and learn from innovative initiatives and effective approaches that can be used as a model for tackling inequalities in the medium and longer-term extending the reach and impact of the programme. Consistently engaging communities across London will shape programme priorities and deliverables, ensuring it responds to what matters most and adds value to London.

How the Programme will work

18. Whilst the London Local Government Anti-Racist Statement and the Chief Executives London Committee's Tackling Racial Inequality Standard are two distinct products, the CELC Tackling Racial Inequality Standard is integral for the assurance and accountability of the Anti-Racist Commitment statement. If boroughs choose to adopt the Anti-Racist Commitment statement, the programme offers routes – a pilot scheme, feedback groups and borough pairing schemes - to also adopt the CELC Tackling Racial Inequality Standard to monitor, learn and develop in a meaningful way on our journey to achieving an anti-racist culture.

19. The CELC Tackling Racial Inequality Standard pilot scheme has been designed to support the assurance and accountability of these products, as well as create a pan-London sharing of practice and monitoring of the products and effectiveness. The pilot scheme will be coordinated by London Councils.

20. The programme will –

- Support and enable local race equity priorities and deliverables through sharing of practice, and insight and evidence of initiatives.
- Work with local authorities through feedback groups, borough pairing schemes, London Councils and other professional networks, as necessary.
- London Councils will maintain the overall oversight of the pilot scheme launching in January 2023 and report to CELC (it is anticipated that the pilot scheme will operate for six months and will be kept under review).
- Be supported by an evaluation framework.

Recommendations

Leaders' Committee is asked to:

1. Endorse the London Local Government Anti-Racist Statement (Annex 1) and the Chief Executives London Committee's Tackling Racial Inequality Standard (Annex 2).
2. Where these products add value to existing borough work, coordinate with Chief Executives to implement the statement and standard.

Financial Implications for London Councils

London Councils provides dedicated support to the Tackling Racial Inequalities Programme through its People and Inclusion Manager. The Chief Executives London Committee, which established the dedicated Tackling Racial Inequality Working Group, is supported by approximately 200 volunteers from across London's local authorities. The resources required to support the programme will be reviewed during the pilot phase as boroughs implement the Local Government Anti-Racist Statement and the Chief Executives London Committee's Tackling Racial Inequality Standard.

Legal Implications for London Councils

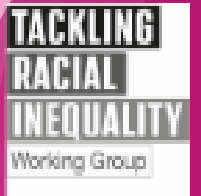
There are no legal implications for London Councils.

Equalities Implications for London Councils

London Councils is required to have due regard to its obligations under the Equalities Act 2010, particularly the Public Sector Equalities Duty.

The Tackling Racial Inequalities Programme aims to support the work that individual boroughs are undertaking to respond to needs within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and groups that are particularly underrepresented or more affected by the issues impacting London.

London Local Government Anti-Racism Statement



Purpose of statement, how it was developed, what next?

- To ensure there is a consistent approach across London, adopted by all local authorities, that is further underpinned by the CELC Tackling Racial Inequality Standards.
- The primary audience is the public and stakeholders who can hold local government to account.
- The statement has been developed by a working group of officers convened by CELC. We started by generating ideas about the key features we would want to see in a statement. This enabled some very open discussion about what to include and why. The statement was then refined over the course of two sessions.
- It has been reviewed by all other working groups on the Tackling Racial Inequality programme.
- The Anti-Racist Statement and CELC Standard was tabled at CELC on 21 October 2022 and we gained with regards to authorities adopting the statement and further.
- The Anti-Racist Statement and CELC Standard was briefed to Leader's on 24 October 2022 with the aiming of achieving sign-off by 13 Dec 2022 Leaders' Committee.

Why it matters that we take an anti racist approach

All local authorities should be committed to taking an anti racist approach because the most damaging aspects of inequality and racism are embedded in society. It is not enough to “not be racist” or to focus on tackling conscious hatred, like racial abuse. It is everyone’s responsibility to proactively and continuously:

- Unpack and reset beliefs, assumptions and values;
- Take action when we observe racism come into play, in beliefs, assumptions and values and the decision and actions that follow, however subtle;
- Be humble and educate ourselves in what we don’t know about racial inequalities and racism that exists, rather than putting the onus on others to educate us.

The commitment

Our collective commitment to achieve racial equality focuses on what London councils can do together to have a positive impact on life outcomes at all stages, including in relation to health and wellbeing, employment and education. This is about social justice and promoting equality because all Londoners should be able to reach their potential in all spheres.

To be proactive in meeting this commitment, we expect all local authorities to:

1. Build a picture of what the key inequalities are in their area and look at what is driving these.
2. Shape solutions by listening to residents, communities and frontline staff and by responsibly drawing on their lived experience to understand what the issues are and what works, without putting the burden on them to educate us.
3. Set expectations of leaders to make the connection between achieving positive outcomes, their own leadership style and diversity, and to take personal responsibility for what they can do now to bring about change. This acknowledges that residents have worked hard to achieve social justice and rightly expect to see leadership that reflects their position, to see action, and to be part of solution.

The common approach

This commitment to achieve racial equality should be publicly adopted by all local authorities using a consistent approach driving change. Everyone should:

1. Work together as a whole system across London and influence other public bodies and civil society to adopt a common commitment and approach to tackling racial inequality.
2. Build on strengths in communities and be ready to devise solutions with them.
3. Focus on changing our institutional leadership and organisational cultures.
4. Understand and acknowledge that racism is a form of trauma, which impacts on individuals and communities, and can also be intergenerational and that the answer is not just about support for individuals but undoing the systems and processes within our organisations which continue to do harm.
5. Use the disaggregated data intelligently to inform policy and planning. We need to look at where there are patterns of discrimination experienced by ethnically diverse groups, but also move beyond the 'broad brush' data about communities from Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic backgrounds. This means understanding specific needs, impacts and experiences of distinct groups and taking an intersectional approach to identifying and tackling issues by recognising that there is diversity within all groups: socio-economic background; gender; sexuality; faith and other identities that can exacerbate and compound racial inequalities. A central component and initial step is for all local authority to openly publish ethnicity pay data.

Version 14

London local government: Chief Executives London Committee's Tackling Racial Inequality Standard

Strategic Context

The Coronavirus Pandemic has affected us all, however, the ways in which we have experienced the pandemic have not been the same. Across London, Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic communities¹ have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, which has highlighted and exacerbated structural inequalities. The impact of these inequalities spans key areas of everyday life, including housing, education, health, the criminal justice system and employment².

Alongside this, the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement has reminded us that efforts to tackle racial inequalities have not advanced far or fast enough, and significant challenges remain for Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic communities across London. Feelings of enormous frustration and anger about the ongoing scale of racial injustice that confronts London are at the forefront of our collective consciousness.

In response to these long-standing challenges, the London local government [Tackling Racial Inequality Programme](#), which drives collaborative action and activity across the sector, has reflected on the role of local authorities in addressing racial injustice. The CELC Tackling Racial Inequality Standard has been developed to benchmark objectives on race equality allowing London local authorities to self-assess their work programmes, initiatives and practices to measure success.

Our Duty

Local authorities strongly believe in their moral duty to tackle social injustice, building boroughs in which all Londoners can thrive. Additionally, evidence finds that greater diversity and inclusion, and being proactive in addressing challenges in these areas, improve business outcomes and productivity³.

The Public Sector Duty: The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to have due regard for **eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between different people when carrying out their activities**. This includes specific duties for engagement by public authorities. Currently, the London local government perspective is that the duty does not go far enough to guide and encourage effective implementation. London is the most ethnically diverse city in the UK - it has the smallest proportion of White residents and the largest proportion of Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic residents compared to other regions (see Census 2011). To reflect this, London boroughs believe we must be more deliberate and proactive in our duty to tackle racial inequality and injustice.

London local government: CELC Tackling Racial Inequality Standard

The CELC Tackling Racial Inequality standard is a self-assessment tool designed for London local authorities. Local authorities can benchmark their current work programmes, initiatives and practices on race equality against each category in the Standard. Crucially, the Standard describes the level of practice required of local authorities to meet the minimum to exemplary standards on racial equality. We encourage authorities to use the criteria to improve their current standards embracing continued improvement with the aim of 'leading practice' in all categories.

The Standard is informed by and celebrates local initiatives and builds a model to assess the impact of these initiatives to cultivate pan-London [shared learning and good practice](#). This product seeks to support and encourage organisations to transition from compliance-based models on race equality to values-based structures⁴ where there is a clear commitment to improvement, and every employee recognises the value of change and delivers on

¹ The London local government Tackling Racial Inequality programme recognises the importance of language and terminology. There is work currently underway across London to determine a common narrative and collective term(s) to collectively describe Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities, in the meantime this document adopts 'Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities/people/residents' as a recognised term that openly identifies those communities that are being referred to.

² See The London Recovery Board's report [Building a Fairer City](#) which outlines key issues, evidence and call for action around tackling structural inequalities including around race and beyond.

³ See range of sources, including from [CIPD](#) and [Business in the Community](#).

⁴ Compliance vs Value-Based organisation: See glossary for definition

expectations embedded within the workplace culture. The Standard emphasises integrity, dignity, respect, openness and transparency, and embraces continuous improvement.

There are three levels of practice set out in the Standard.

- **Developing practice** – Limited or no compliance with the Standard's category, however, there is evidence of some commitment (internal and/or public) to positive change and improvements. Lacking the values and behaviours of a diverse and inclusive organisation⁵ with no or little evidence of meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, but recognition and some evidence of progress around the race equality journey.
- **Established practice** - Partially compliant with the Standard's category with definitive commitments and plans within the organisation to change and improve. Demonstrating some values and behaviours of a diverse and inclusive organisation and meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.
- **Leading practice** – Fully compliant with the Standard's category with clear commitments and plans that are being delivered and evaluated. Demonstrating values and behaviours of a diverse and inclusive organisation and exceeding the requirements in the Equality Act 2010.

Desired Outcome

London local authorities will be able to demonstrate a strategic and coordinated approach to tackling racial inequality which is reinforced by values, behaviours and activities that support individual councils. This will help ensure our individual and collective action reflects the needs of London and that, as a city, we are leading by example on the issue of tackling racial inequality, injustice and disproportionality. The Standard enables local authorities to reflect on and improve their practice across seven categories:

1. **Strategic Leadership and Management:** Executive leaders use their influence on people, organisations and external stakeholders to push forward diversity and inclusion agendas. They create systems of clear accountability and evaluation of impact.
2. **Employee Lifecycle:** Racial equality is embedded in the systems, processes and practices to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the employee lifecycle and has established an anti-racist organisation and culture. This includes recruitment, induction, supervision, training and development, retention and reward, disciplinary and grievances, policies and procedures.
3. **Data Governance:** Data is collected consistently, completely and accurately to understand race-related challenges and inform solutions. Data is widely published, interpreted and analysed to support the organisation's mission to be open and transparent and embrace continuous improvement.
4. **Policies and Processes:** Internal policies and processes are clear and robust in fostering an anti-racist culture, supporting staff and ensuring dignity at work.
5. **Strategies and Action Plans:** There are clear, co-developed and resourced strategic ambitions and actions in place to deliver change and impact.
6. **Staff Networks:** There is a prevalent and well-supported staff network(s) in place to drive, recommend and deliver change within the organisation and for service delivery.
7. **Community engagement:** Community engagement is inclusive, transparent, and meaningful. It has been developed with careful planning, collaboration and co-design with a commitment to a sustainable participatory culture.

Scoring against the categories

To help support an organisation's race equality journey the Standard has been constructed to enable scoring against each category. Each category includes a score range that can be used to help understand and capture whether an organisation is at the developing, established or leading level.

Points per practice level:

⁵ Diverse and inclusive organisation: See glossary for definition

- None: 0 points
- Developing practice: 1 point
- Established practice: 2 points
- Leading practice: 3 points

The score ranges have been calculated using the following methodology:

- Developing practice – this ranges from 0 to the equivalent of scoring all available developing practice combined with reaching all available established practice in the remaining criteria, where the developing practice is not available. E.g., in Category 1 there are six established practice levels, two of which include developing practice levels – therefore the top score within developing practice is *2 points* (reaching the two developing practice levels) + *8 points* (reaching the four remaining establishing practice levels) = *10 points*.
- Established practice – this ranges from exceeding the top score in developing practice to meeting all available established practice combined with reaching all available leading practice in the remaining criteria, where established practice is not available.
- Leading practice – this ranges from exceeding the top score in established practice to meeting all the leading practices within the category.

An example of the scoring system working in practice can be found at the end of this document.

Category 1: Strategic Leadership and Management

Executive leaders use their influence on people, organisations and external stakeholders to push forward diversity and inclusion agendas. They create systems of clear accountability and evaluation of impact.

Score ranges:

- Developing: 0 – 10
- Established: 11 – 18
- Leading: 19 – 22

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
Senior leadership (executive and political) have publicly committed to reducing inequality, fostering good relations and challenging discrimination.	A senior 'race' champion is appointed who acts as an ambassador for race and is responsible for driving and delivering change and impact - this should be an existing senior officer and/or Member or Cabinet Member.	Senior leaders personally challenge race inequalities and drive an improvement agenda. Senior leaders can demonstrate their commitment to equality in decision-making and how this informs the way the organisation responds to challenges. This includes a commitment to personal development, such as EDI training for addressing bias and microaggressions.
Roles and responsibilities addressing racial inequalities are not clearly defined and there is a lack of understanding of the risk and impact of organisational decisions on diverse communities.	Roles and responsibilities addressing racial inequalities are clearly defined and there is an understanding of the risk of organisational decisions, but the impact of these decisions is not improving outcomes for diverse communities.	Roles and responsibilities addressing racial inequalities are clearly defined and the impact of organisational decisions has improved outcomes for diverse communities as evidenced by Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) ⁶ .
	A public organisational statement for tackling racial inequalities in the workforce, communities and services they deliver.	
	Addressing racial inequalities is explicit in the organisation's strategic objectives.	

⁶ An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA): see glossary for definition.

	The senior leadership team has performance objectives on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).	The senior leadership team has performance objectives on EDI with an explicit action plan and accountabilities for racial inequalities.
	People managers have performance objectives on EDI.	People managers have performance objectives on EDI, with an explicit action plan and accountabilities for racial inequalities.
		Dedicated leadership meetings focus on EDI, creating actions, identifying racial inequalities, tracking progress, and ensuring accountability.
		Senior leaders and managers can demonstrate instances of allyship around race practice and race-related issues.

Category 2: Employee Lifecycle

Racial equality is embedded in the systems, processes and practices to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the employee lifecycle and has established an anti-racist organisation and culture.

Score ranges (across A – E):

- Developing: 0 – 36
- Established: 37 – 59
- Leading: 60 - 75

Category 2a: Recruitment⁷

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
Data is collected but not analysed, nor used to support diversity initiatives or prioritise inclusion at any stage of recruitment, including longlisting, shortlisting, interview and appointment.	Collected data is analysed and used to support diversity initiatives that prevent discrimination and prioritise inclusion at each stage of recruitment, including the application process, job description, specification, and advertising space.	Collected data is analysed and used to support diversity initiatives that prevent discrimination and prioritise inclusion at each stage of recruitment, including the application and assessment process, job description, specification, and advertising space.
	Mandatory EDI recruitment training for all hiring managers, including combatting types of bias.	Mandatory EDI recruitment training for all hiring managers, including combatting types of bias and anti-racist hiring practice. Specialist EDI training and initiatives for the hiring process in SLT.
	There is an assessment of recruitment systems to evaluate how algorithms affect diverse and inclusive recruitment and there are efforts to address system shortcomings.	Recruitment systems are routinely evaluated to ensure they are as effective as possible in supporting diverse and inclusive recruitment. Updates to the system are made to help facilitate this/
	There is an EDI representative on every interview panel and an EDI question within the interview process, which prevents mobilisation bias and improves outcomes.	There is an EDI representative on every interview panel and an EDI question within the interview process, which prevents mobilisation bias from delivering exemplary outcomes.
	An annual review of appointments against organisational recruitment targets, including a	

⁷ At a regional level the latest [ONS data](#) (2019) estimates 43% of Londoner's are from White British backgrounds, this could act as an informal target for the London local government workforce, although borough's should also assess themselves against their local population.

	comparison of appointments' diversity make-up against the longlist of applicants.	
		Anonymisation of all recruitment practices and publishing of recruitment panels.
		Pre-application workshops and events for candidates from Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic backgrounds.
The workforce is not reflective of the local community at any level of the organisation	The workforce is reflective of the local community at some levels of the organisation.	The workforce is reflective of the local community at all levels of the organisation.
	Simplification of job adverts including a review of the relevance of requested qualifications and recognitions of the variety of global qualifications.	

Category 2b: Induction and Supervision

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
Collected documentation of organisational development processes, including probation reports and appraisals, are presented to senior leadership but are not successfully used to support EDI initiatives.	Collected documentation of organisational development processes, including probation reports appraisal, are presented to senior leadership and are used to support EDI initiatives with some impact.	Collected documentation of organisational development processes, including probation reports and appraisals, are presented to senior leadership and are used to support EDI initiatives with a positive impact on the whole organisation.
	EDI is part of the mandatory induction for all staff.	EDI is part of the mandatory induction for all staff. There is the monitoring of workforce attendance, evaluation of training results and staff feedback.

	The career induction provides information and advice on career pathways (principle 5 – Race at Work Charter ⁸).	
	Supervision meetings include EDI discussions to support Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic staff members and this information feeds into their annual appraisals.	Supervision meetings include EDI discussions to support Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic staff members and this information feed into their annual appraisals. There is robust evidence of learning and actions taken from this process.
	Line managers have EDI objectives that support Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic members of their teams (principle 5 – race at work charter).	Line managers have EDI objectives that support Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic members of their teams (principle 5 – race at work charter) with an explicit action plan and accountabilities for racial inequalities.
		Senior officers have EDI objectives that support initiatives, such as mentoring, being a mentee and development through sponsorship.
		A clear understanding of the business case and explicit commitment to a diverse and inclusive workforce. Annual reports are published to detail the organisational value of EDI.

Category 2c: Training and Development

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
Inclusive mentoring programmes are established with a matching scheme.		Inclusive mentoring and reverse mentoring programmes are established with a matching scheme that provides mentor support.
Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic staff and line managers have regular 1-2-1 meetings,		

⁸ [Business in the Community: Race at Work Charter](#)

which focus on career aspirations and development.		
There are dedicated resources available and accessible for supporting the development of Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic staff.		
	Facilitator-led workshops are mandatory for all staff focusing on anti-racism and EDI, including types of bias and micro-aggressions.	
	Data arising from annual staff surveys are used to design EDI training.	Data arising from annual staff surveys and facilitated safe spaces are used to design EDI training.
	Mandatory EDI recruitment training for all hiring managers, including combatting types of bias.	Mandatory EDI recruitment training for all hiring managers, including combatting types of bias and anti-racist hiring practice. Specialist EDI training and initiatives for the hiring process in Senior Leadership Teams.
		Leadership training is specifically designed for Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic staff to facilitate the progression of diverse staff and close the ethnicity pay gap.

Category 2d: Retention and Reward

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
Pay data demonstrates an ethnicity pay gap.	Measures have been introduced to close the ethnicity pay gap.	Pay data demonstrates that there is no ethnicity pay gap.
	Funded sponsorship (i.e., championing and supporting) of redeployment, secondment, acting up and other opportunities for Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic staff (principle 5 – race at work charter).	Funded sponsorship (i.e., championing and supporting) of redeployment, secondment, acting up and other opportunities for Black, Asian and Ethnic Multi-Ethnic staff (principle 5 – race at work charter) with defined ethnicity targets which are consistently reported on.

Category 2e: Disciplinary and Grievances

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
	There are clear and communicated procedures for addressing race-related disputes within the organisations.	There is an independent process established for reporting, investigating and resolving race-related disputes within a given time period.
Data is captured from areas of the employee lifecycle that disproportionally affect Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic groups but delivers little impact in this area.	Data is captured from the employee lifecycle and demonstrate there are no negative impacts on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic groups.	Data is captured from the employee lifecycle and demonstrates there is a positive impact on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic groups, as well as the whole organisation.
	There is a broad understanding of racial trauma within the organisation.	Open and safe spaces are provided for colleagues to address and heal from racial trauma. There is an appreciation and understanding of how different ethnic groups have unique identities and are impacted differently by traumas. The organisation adapts to meet individual needs and provides education on whiteness and white privilege.

Category 3: Data Governance

Data is collected consistently, completely and accurately to understand race-related challenges and inform solutions. Data is widely published to support the organisation's mission to be open and transparent and embrace continuous improvement.

Score ranges:

- Developing: 0 – 10
- Established: 11 – 12
- Leading: 13 – 18

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
There is a collection of workforce ethnicity data.	Detailed and expansive workforce ethnicity data is regularly published on the organisation's website and analysed. Actions are taken to address disproportionality/close any gaps.	Detailed and expansive workforce ethnicity data is regularly published on the organisation's website. The workforce ethnicity data is compared to other local government organisations, especially those with leading practices, and national targets. Comparative analysis is used for priority/ objective setting.
	The organisation can evidence how its data has been used to challenge practice and demonstrate actions undertaken to address existing issues and improve practice	The organisation consistently compares its data to other local authorities, using comparative analysis for objective setting, to facilitate further improvements. In cases where the organisation is exceeding the practice of partnership organisations, it exports its practice to aid the development of other local authorities. The organisation utilises membership bodies, such as London Councils, and networks to collaborate with other local authorities.
	The organisation takes positive action to encourage staff to disclose ethnicity – the percentage of 'unknown or non-disclosed' ethnicity is less than 10% of the organisation.	The organisation takes positive action to encourage staff to disclose ethnicity – the percentage of 'unknown or non-disclosed' ethnicity is less than 5% of the organisation.
	Ethnicity pay data is collected and stored.	Reports on ethnicity pay data are published annually. The report includes actions that local authorities take to narrow the ethnicity pay gap and progress made in absolute and comparative terms. It should also include details

		of partnership work with other public sector organisations to promote pay equity.
	Organisational data is robust enough to use for Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs).	Organisations are committed and able to collect accurate, complete and timely data to shape key decisions. Robust data is used to help ensure that local authorities better understand the full range of risks and negative impacts facing local communities and the policy options available to mitigate them
The organisation has processes and systems to capture data from the employee lifecycle.	The organisation has processes and systems to capture data from the employee lifecycle and publishes it on the organisation's website.	The organisation has processes and systems to capture data from the employee lifecycle and publishes annual reports analysing the findings. Reports include actions that will be taken to address areas of concern and an update on actions that were taken in the previous year.

Category 4: Policies and Processes

Internal policies and processes are clear and robust in fostering an anti-racist culture, supporting staff and ensuring dignity at work.

Score ranges:

- Developing: 0 – 2
- Established: 3 – 13
- Leading: 14 – 15

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
Policies and procedures that tackle race inequality in the workplace have been developed.	Race equality is embedded into processes and procedures, particularly Dignity at Work policy, and they are communicated to the workforce in all areas of the organisation – following the principle of a values-based organisation rather than compliance.	Race equality is embedded into processes and procedures, particularly Dignity at Work policy, and there is an explicit commitment to and evidence of building an anti-racist culture.
		The organisation can evidence change/improvement in habits, behaviours and ways of working via informal and formal mechanisms such as staff surveys, staff networks, and 360 feedback across all levels in the organisation.
Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) are completed but lack careful consideration, particularly on implications around race equality.	Robust guidance for completing Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) is available and consistently followed. There are demonstrable learnings from the Equality Impact Assessments.	Robust guidance for completing Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) is available and embedded into workplace practice. Learning from EQIAs is systematically used to inform organisational thinking, planning and action in terms of policy formulation, commissioning decisions, workforce planning and more.
		Wider commitment to anti-racist policies and processes by setting clear expectations and standards for partner organisations.

Exploratory work encompassing the voice of affected communities has established clear guidance on the appropriate language and terminology for referring to Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities in the workplace.

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Category 5: Strategies and Action Plans

There are clear, co-developed and resourced strategic ambitions and actions in place to deliver change and impact.

Score ranges:

- Developing: 0 – 5
- Established: 6 – 9
- Leading: 10 – 11

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
An approved race inequality strategy and action plan is informed by data.	Race equality strategies and action plans are co-developed, co-delivered and communicated with staff, residents and partners across the borough.	Race equality strategies and action plans are embedded across the organisation, evaluated and updated annually. There is evidence of active and reflective learning.
	Performance against the action plan is measured and published annually.	To demonstrate and evidence the positive impact of the implementation of the Action Plan.
	A formal mechanism for sharing best practices (approaches, programmes and lessons) with neighbouring authorities.	
		The Organisational Development (OD) workforce strategy drives cultural change by challenging organisational EDI targets and establishing clear mechanisms that demonstrate and measure behavioural change at all levels of the organisation.

Category 6: Staff Networks and Trade Unions

There is well support staff network(s) in place to drive, recommend and deliver change within the organisation and for service delivery.

Score ranges:

- Developing: 0 – 14
- Established: 15 – 23
- Leading: 24 – 27

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
A safe environment is fostered to allow staff open and honest conversations about race-related issues.		
Race equality staff network runs effectively with the organisation recognising and respecting the dedicated resource staff offer to the network.	Staff are actively signposted to the race equality staff network.	Staff networks are intersectional by nature and initiatives are co-designed. There is an ongoing process for consultation and collaboration and regular engagement sessions with staff.
	The race equality staff network is formally consulted on new council policies and strategies.	
	Staff networks have appointed a Senior Responsible Officer.	
	Staff networks have a working relationship with senior leadership to raise any concerns.	Staff networks maintain regular dialogue with senior leadership and support the development of initiatives, policies and processes providing opportunities for diverse voices to be part of senior leadership decision-making processes.
	Evidence that initiatives in the race equality staff network are being delivered through the staff participative approach.	
	Open forums and repositories for colleagues to share learning and best practice.	

		Staff networks work closely with HR to ensure the council includes the voice of employees in EDI work.
		Staff networks hold senior leadership accountable to the Chief Executive
The organisation via a trade union provides a safe space for staff to discuss race-related employment issues. Trade unions exercise their right to represent the interest of their members and to work for improved conditions of employment and work.	The organisation and trade unions agree on the pursuit of these shared race equality objectives between the employer and staff and it is contained in a recognised agreement which is facilitated by negotiation consultation and agreement.	The successful membership agreements between the unions and the employer benefit both parties and assist with fostering good employment relations and provides a continued opportunity for employees to raise issues around race equality matters.
Trade union membership provides collective and individual representation for staff and a single voice with a key mandate to reduce racial disparities in the workplace and protect the interests of its Black, Ethnic and Multi-Ethnic members.	Trade unions play a vital role in ensuring that employers develop and are committed to supporting race equality objectives, through strategies, data collection and policies that align with the Equality Duty and other statutory legislative measures.	The trade union ensures that managers can be made accountable for decisions related to race equality.

Category 7: Community Engagement

Community engagement is inclusive, transparent, and meaningful. It has been developed with careful planning, collaboration and co-design with a commitment to a sustainable participatory culture.

Score ranges:

- Developing: 0 – 9
- Established: 10 – 16
- Leading: 17 – 21

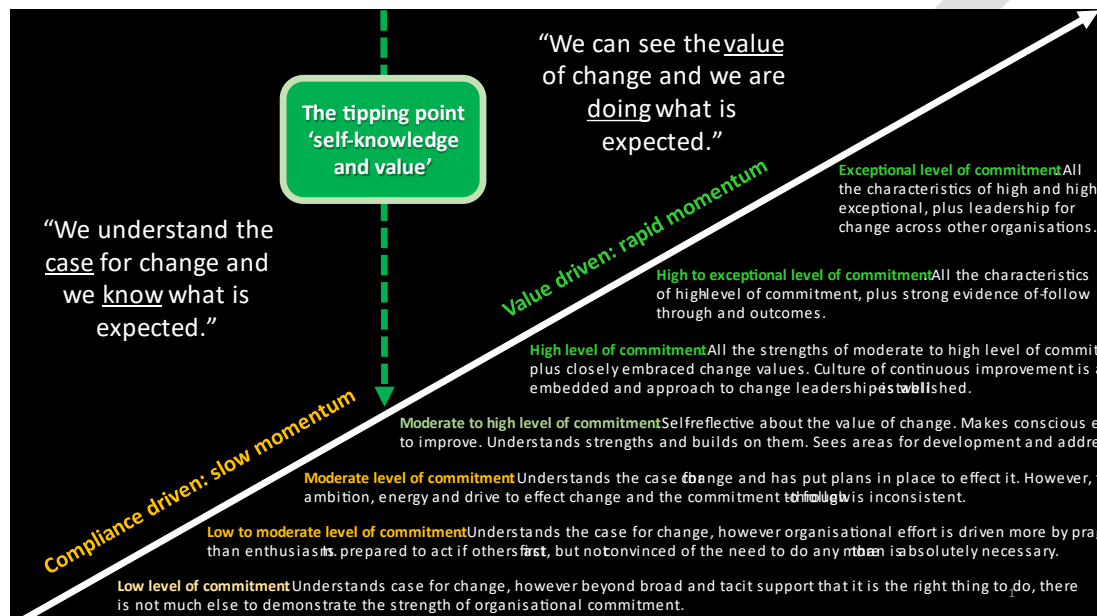
Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)
There is a constructive dialogue between staff and communities to identify issues related to racial inequality.	There is engagement with some parts of the community, including careful planning and preparation to tackle issues related to racial inequality.	There is engagement with all members of the community, including exemplary and inclusive planning and preparation to tackle issues related to racial inequality.
	There is clear guidance in place to support inclusion and demographic diversity, however, there are still barriers to this practice.	There is clear guidance in place to support inclusion and demographic diversity and the voices of Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic Communities, including their lived experiences, are heard and valued.
	Collaboration and shared purpose are concepts that are being developed into practice but are not yet consistent in all communities.	Collaboration and shared purpose are supported and encourage communities, and relevant stakeholders to collaborate and co-design.
	Openness and learning are encouraged in principles but may not always be realised in practice due to predetermined outcomes.	Openness and learning are achieved through a mechanism which allows all voices a platform so that new ideas are explored and unconstrained by predetermined outcomes. The organisation learns and applies the information in ways that generate new innovative options.
	Transparency and trust are concepts that are established but need to be implemented with all stakeholders and communities.	All stakeholders and communities are clear and open about the process and transparency and trust are established.
		Organisations ensure each participatory effort has real potential to form impact and action, and that participants are aware of their potential to make a difference.

Promote a culture of sustained engagement and participation within all areas of the organisation that supports ongoing equity in community engagement.

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Glossary

- **Anti-racist culture** - This document primarily draws upon [CIPD's definition](#) of anti-racist organisations. An anti-racist culture is defined by a zero-tolerance to racism with clear expectations and standards - it is about going beyond understanding and identifying racism, to proactively challenging it and calling it out. This includes a systemic approach to operational and people processes with a commitment to sustained action through leadership. Employees should have safe spaces to share, heal and learn.
- **Compliance vs Value-Based organisation model**



- **Diverse and inclusive organisation** – diverse organisations contain people with differences in race, ethnicity, and other characteristics. Inclusion is the practice of ensuring that these people feel a sense of belonging and support from the organisation.
“Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance”
- **An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)** - a tool to help you to anticipate the needs of diverse groups when approaching projects, policies or service delivery.

- **Racial trauma** - “The impact of racism which has the following consequences on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic people such as emotional, psychological and post-traumatic stress which ultimately has an impact on an individual’s self-esteem, mental well-being, physical health and cultural identity. This also has an impact on productivity and a contributory factor to a lack of psychological safety in the workplace.” Dr Patrick Vernon.

Scoring system – how it works in practice

In this example, the boxes that have been highlighted in green below indicate those criteria that have been ‘ticked off’ by this example organisation. The right-hand column shows the number of points scored on a given criteria (0 – 3 points), the overall points (15 points) and the level achieved (established).

Category 1: Strategic Leadership and Management

Executive leaders use their influence on people, organisations and external stakeholders to push forward diversity and inclusion agendas. They create systems of clear accountability and evaluation of impact.

Score ranges:

- Developing: 0 – 10
- Established: 11 – 18
- Leading: 19 – 22

Developing practice (1 point)	Established practice (2 points)	Leading practice (3 points)	Points scored
Senior leadership (executive and political) have publicly committed to reducing inequality, fostering good relations and challenging discrimination.	A senior ‘race’ champion is appointed who acts as an ambassador for race and is responsible for driving and delivering change and impact - this should be an existing senior officer and/or Member or Cabinet Member.	Senior leaders personally challenge race inequalities and drive an improvement agenda. Senior leaders can demonstrate their commitment to equality in decision-making and how this informs the way the organisation responds to challenges.	2
Roles and responsibilities addressing racial inequalities are not clearly defined and there is a lack of understanding of the risk and impact of organisational decisions on diverse communities.	Roles and responsibilities addressing racial inequalities are clearly defined and there is an understanding of the risk of organisational decisions, but the impact of these decisions is not improving outcomes for diverse communities.	Roles and responsibilities addressing racial inequalities are clearly defined and the impact of organisational decisions has improved outcomes for diverse communities as evidenced by Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) ⁹ .	1

⁹ An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA): see glossary for definition.

	A public organisational statement for tackling racial inequalities in the workforce, communities and services they deliver.		2
	Addressing racial inequalities is explicit in the organisation's strategic objectives.		2
	The senior leadership team has performance objectives on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).	The senior leadership team has performance objectives on EDI with an explicit action plan and accountabilities for racial inequalities.	2
	People managers have performance objectives on EDI.	People managers have performance objectives on EDI, with an explicit action plan and accountabilities for racial inequalities.	3
		Dedicated leadership meetings focus on EDI, creating actions, tracking progress, and ensuring accountability.	0
		Senior leaders and managers can demonstrate instances of allyship around race practice and race-related issues.	3
Overall score:			15
Level achieved:			Established

Leaders Committee

Developing a pan-London infrastructure framework

Item no: 8

Report by: Dianna Neal **Job title:** Strategic Lead: Enterprise, Economy and Skills
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Summary: This paper provides an update on developing a pan-London infrastructure framework, which is a key project within London Councils' Shared Ambitions and the London Economic Framework. It also outlines the next steps to complete the project.

Recommendations: Leaders Committee is asked to note and comment on this report.

Developing a pan-London infrastructure framework

Background and context

1. In January 2021 London Councils commissioned Metro Dynamics to develop a strategic approach to economic recovery across London. The resulting report included a recommendation to develop a London wide local infrastructure plan and a project prioritisation framework. Other cities across the UK have such a plan and it was considered important for attracting the necessary investment in London's infrastructure at a time when government support is likely to be limited.
2. This work informed the economic framework for London developed by London Councils and the GLA, which included a commitment to develop a pan-London infrastructure framework. London Councils Shared Ambitions also set out a commitment to 'Develop London's infrastructure proposition via an infrastructure plan... and Opportunity London'.
3. The intention is to have a clear set investment-ready propositions to be able to take to the market, including to key annual events like MIPIM. The framework will strengthen the London Councils' activities to promote investment opportunities across all parts of London, as part of Opportunity London. Opportunity London is a co-ordinated campaign to attract investment in infrastructure and housing to London and across all London boroughs.
4. London Councils has appointed Metro Dynamics¹ to lead the development of the framework, working closely with boroughs, sub-regional partnerships (SRPs), the GLA and Transport for London (TfL). The framework will also draw on the work of the Cities Commission for Climate Investment (3Ci).

Objectives of the framework

5. The framework will aim to:
 - Articulate a clear and shared view of infrastructure projects with strategic value for London
 - Develop a compelling narrative that sets out a clear vision for the role for infrastructure in building an inclusive and sustainable economy

¹ Metro Dynamics (MD) is a consultancy advising those who lead, invest or do business in local economies.

- Identify new partnership approaches and financing solutions to delivering major projects in a complex financial and political context
 - Build up stakeholder support and buy-in to the process and its outputs, including from GLA, SRPs, and individual boroughs to project a collective image that London is a positive place to do business.
6. The product should be a map of investment-ready and strategically important projects across London, alongside options for funding and financing projects. This is an ambitious project if we are to secure buy-in from boroughs, SRPs, the GLA and TfL.

Progress to date

7. Following discussions with key stakeholders, the project will use the National Infrastructure Commission definition of infrastructure: transport, energy and waste, digital and data and water and flood management. The framework will have greater emphasis on infrastructure needed to enable strategic housing development as well as employment sites.
8. The following broad principles have been set out to start to identify those projects to include in the framework:
- Embed sustainability, decarbonisation, and climate resilience in their approach, contributing in the medium to long-term to London's net zero journey
 - Have either a multi-borough footprint or a multi-borough impact (e.g. unlocking wider development or employment opportunities)
 - Unlock significant employment and/or housing sites
 - Enable the delivery of unutilised planning consents
 - Enhance the relationship between infrastructure delivery and strategic spatial planning
 - Be sufficiently developed as to indicate their deliverability, even if specific funding requirements are outstanding.
9. A call for projects went out to boroughs via the four Sub-Regional Partnerships (SRPs) during October and November. This was to ensure that the process of developing the framework builds on previous work that SRPs have carried out in identifying strategically significant infrastructure projects across their areas. The

project will also draw on schemes already submitted for the 3Ci work on net zero project pipelines. Boroughs have submitted 165 projects to date through the call out. Metro Dynamics are working through these projects, plus relevant projects received via the 3Ci pipeline work, to identify which to include in the framework, whether any further information on these is needed and looking at different infrastructure types and geographical spread.

Next steps

10. The main next steps for the project are:

- Project sifting to start to build the framework
- Developing the narrative for the framework, including the spatial narrative and mapping
- Invite all borough Leaders and Mayors to an in-person session on 17 January 2023 to discuss the proposed projects to include in framework, how they are categorised and presented and to test out the overall and spatial narrative. This would use part of the London Councils Executive meeting scheduled on this date.
- Investment, delivery, and funding thinking including expert input and investor engagement in mid-January 2023.

11. Throughout the project there will be continued iteration with key stakeholders, including Leaders/Mayors. The framework should be finalised by March 2023.

Recommendations

12. Leaders Committee is asked to note and comment on this report.

Financial implications for London Councils

None

Legal implications for London Councils

None

Equalities implications for London Councils

None

Leaders' Committee

Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2023/24 and Medium Term-Financial Strategy

Item no: 9

Report by: David Sanni **Job title:** Director, Corporate Resources
Date: 13 December 2022
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Summary

This report proposes the provisional consolidated revenue income and expenditure budget for 2023/24, together with indicative income and expenditure budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26. This report also proposes the level of boroughs subscriptions and charges to be levied in 2023/24. The report updates the Leaders' Committee on the level of London Councils reserves and proposed commitments and the timetable for the overall budget approval process.

These proposals were considered by London Councils Executive at its meeting on 8 November and were agreed for submission to this Committee for final consideration and approval.

Recommendations

The Leaders' Committee is asked to approve the following borough subscription and charges:

- The proposed Joint Committee subscription for boroughs of £161,958 per borough for 2023/24, no change from 2022/23 (paragraph 14);
- The proposed Joint Committee subscription for MOPAC of £15,410 for 2023/24, no change from 2022/23 (paragraph 14);
- The proposed borough contributions to the Grants scheme of £6.668 million to maintain the same level as 2022/23

(paragraphs 19).

The Leaders' Committee is also asked to note and endorse the following subscription, charges and use of reserves for 2023/24 as recommended by the TEC Executive Sub-Committee to the TEC main committee for approval:

- The Parking Core Administration Charge of £1,500 per borough and for TfL (2022/23 - £1,500) (paragraph 23);
- No charge to boroughs in respect of the Freedom Pass Administration Charge, which is covered by replacement Freedom Pass income (2022/23 – no charge) (paragraph 25);
- The net Taxicard Administration Charge to boroughs of £338,000 in total (2022/23 - £338,000); (paragraph 26);
- No charge to boroughs and TfL in respect of the Lorry Control Administration Charge, which is fully covered by estimated PCN income (2022/23 – no charge) (paragraph 27);
- The Parking Enforcement Service Charge of £0.2975 per PCN, which will be distributed to boroughs and TfL in accordance with the number of PCNs issued in 2021/22 (2022/23 - £0.3751 per PCN; paragraphs 30-31);
- The Parking and Traffic Appeals Charge of £29.75 per appeal or £25.57 per appeal where electronic evidence is provided by the enforcing authority (2022/23 - £29.36/£25.55 per appeal). For hearing Statutory Declarations, a charge of £23.49 for hard copy submissions and £22.65 for electronic submissions (2022/23 - £23.64/£22.88 per SD) (paragraphs 32-33);
- Congestion Charging Appeals including the ULEZ scheme – to be recovered on a full cost recovery basis, as for 2022/23, under the current contract arrangement with the GLA (paragraph 34);
- The TRACE (Electronic) Charge of £7.53 per transaction (2022/23 - £7.53) (paragraph 29);
- The TRACE (Fax/Email) Charge of £7.70 per transaction, which is levied in addition to the electronic charge of £7.53 per transaction, making a total of £15.23 (2022/23 - £15.23) (paragraph 29);
- The TEC Charge of £0.175 per transaction (2022/23 - £0.175) (paragraph 29); and

- The use of £721,000 of TEC reserves which consists of £258,000 of previously approved committed reserves to fund environmental initiatives, including climate change, from the TEC Special Projects Reserve. The residual amount of £463,000 will be funded from the £1.1 million forecast TEC surplus for 2022/23 and will not reduce the existing level of uncommitted reserves (paragraphs 22)

On the basis of the above proposed level of subscriptions and charges, the Leaders' Committee is asked to approve:

- The provisional consolidated revenue expenditure budget for 2023/24 for London Councils of £277.642 million, as per Appendix A of this report;
- The provisional consolidated revenue income budget for 2023/24 for London Councils of £276.466 million, also as per Appendix B;
- The establishment of a Premises Transition Earmarked Reserve of £850,000 to support the move to a smaller premises and use £437,000 of this reserve to part fund the current level of premises costs in 2023/24, as detailed in paragraph 12;
- An overall level of expenditure of £6.686 million for the Grants Scheme in 2023/24 (2022/23: £6.668 million); and
- The use of Grant Committee reserves of £18,000 in 2023/24 during the transition period until a move to a smaller premises, as detailed in paragraph 19;
- The closure of London Care Services due to insufficient subscriptions to cover costs, as detailed in paragraphs 50-56; and
- The facility for officers to draw down a maximum of £300,000 from reserves for the Shared Ambition Impact Fund, subject to the maintenance of a sustainable level of reserves, as detailed in paragraph at 15.

The Leaders' Committee is also asked to note:

- The position in respect of forecast uncommitted London Councils reserves as at 31 March 2023, as detailed at paragraphs 57-62;

- The indicative income and expenditure budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 detailed at Appendices C-F;
 - The positive statement on the adequacy of the residual London Councils reserves issued by the Director, Corporate Resources, as detailed in paragraph 61; and
 - The proposed review of London Councils operating model to identify potential savings and efficiencies to ensure its financial arrangements remain affordable and sustainable.
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Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2023/24

Introduction

1. This paper sets out the key features included in the budget proposals for 2023/24. It presents the level of boroughs subscriptions and charges to be levied along with the consolidated revenue income and expenditure budget for 2023/24. It also presents indicative income and expenditure budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26
2. This budget has been prepared with the aim of ensuring that the organisation has sufficient resources available to deliver the Shared Ambitions agreed with Leaders for London and for London Councils. The Shared Ambitions seek to transform London Councils into an organisation that:
 - provides political leadership based on shared values;
 - is a trusted partner for central government, the GLA, other cities, business and VCS;
 - focusses on pan-London efforts where they add real value;
 - champions innovation and leading practice; and
 - promotes collaboration and coalitions of the willing.
3. The Shared Ambitions were developed into a business plan and agreed by Leaders in July 2022 which comprised of milestones falling under six core themes:
 - London's future
 - Climate adaptation and net zero
 - Wellbeing and the borough role in prevention
 - London's voice
 - Value proposition for boroughs
 - Organisational development and design

4. Alongside ensuring the organisation can meet the Shared Ambitions strategic objectives, the following principles have been adopted in preparing the 2023/24 budget:
- the Joint Committee core subscription of £161,958 per borough frozen for the seventh year;
 - the total borough contributions to the S48 commissioned services and administration subscription of £6.668 million, an average of £202,000 per borough frozen for sixth year;
 - the TEC parking core administration charge of £1,500 per borough frozen for the twelfth year;
 - reduce reliance on the use of uncommitted reserves to balance the budget; and
 - address inflationary and pay award pressures.
5. The total accumulated benefit of the reduction and freezing of subscriptions and charges from 2010/11 to 2023/24 equates to £302 million (an average of £9.2 million per borough).

Budgetary pressures

6. This budget report is prepared against a backdrop of high inflation rates which have surged to a three decade high during 2022. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 11.1% in the 12 months to October 2022. There are a number of factors contributing to the high level of inflation such as the rise in energy prices, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, supply chain bottleneck in the post COVID-19 recovery period, strong labour market etc. Rising inflation has put additional financial pressure on budgets including employee costs, contractual commitments and general supplies and services. The current economic instability has led to rising interest rates which along with the high levels of inflation, contribute to the rising cost of living faced by London's residents and businesses.
7. The significant budgetary pressures that will have an impact on the 2023/24 revenue budget include, amongst other factors:

- An estimated amount of £120,000 for the element of the proposed pay award for 2022/23 above the budgeted provision which is built into the base budget for 2023/24;
 - An estimated amount of £300,000 due to a 4% pay award, subject to negotiations, for 2023/24;
 - An estimated amount of £145,000 in respect of staff and salary progression through the approved staff structure;
 - An amount of £193,000 for the proposed increase to the annual rent on the Southwark Street offices following the rent review of the full rack rent value at 26 March 2021. This amount is still subject to negotiation with the landlord, the City of London Corporation;
 - An amount of £106,000 for the reduction of recharge income from the London Care Placements service which is no longer financially viable and comes to an end on 31 March 2023, subject to member approval; and
 - Further inflationary increases on contract commitments for 2023/24.
8. The total financial impact of these budgetary pressures on operating expenditure and income budgets is approximately £955,000.
9. The financial benefits of adopting agile working arrangements at the Southwark Street offices has not been realised as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the commercial property sector has affected plans to attract new income paying tenants to occupy freed up space within the building. A review of London Councils' future premises requirement revealed that it needs significantly less office space than it currently occupies. A report presented to the Executive in November 2022 set out proposals to reduce premises costs over the medium-term by moving to smaller accommodation. The proposals included entering into discussions with the City of London, the Southwark Street landlord, on possible options for the termination of the Southwark Street lease and a potential new lease for a different property.

Savings, Efficiencies and Developments

10. To address the pressures detailed above and the steer received from Leaders to reduce the reliance on uncommitted reserves, the following measures have been taken:

- a line-by-line review of historic surpluses and underspends to identify areas where budgets can be increased/decreased, including:
 - a reduction of £96,000 in staffing budgets due to an increase in the vacancy allowance from 2% to 5% in areas which traditionally have a high level of staff turnover;
 - a reduction of £100,00 to the Commissioning and Research budget;
 - a reduction of £90,000 to general running cost budget; and
 - the removal of the £100,000 contribution to the Digital Enablement Fund;
 - an increase of £150,000 in income from lost/faulty freedom passes;
 - an increase of £200,000 in income from the London Lorry Control Scheme PCN income which has recovered to pre-pandemic levels; and
 - a reduction of £369,000 in employers' contribution to the Local Government Pension Scheme following the outcome of the 2022 triennial valuation of the scheme.
- initial work on reviewing London Councils operating model to identify costs that can be reduced in 2023/24 such as the removal of specific roles, including those within the London Care Placement service and the Director of Corporate Governance post; and
- a review of London Councils future office space requirements which is explored further in paragraph 12 below.

11. The combined impact of these measures has resulted in the identification of savings and efficiencies of £1.2 million.

12. There is an opportunity to make a considerable reduction to the amount of office space that London Councils occupies. Subject to negotiations with the City of London, this will generate significant savings in future years on the premises costs on London Councils main office, ranging from £603,000 and £867,000 per year. However, the move to a new building will take time and it is proposed to set up a Premises Transition Earmarked Reserve of £850,000 to fund the budget gap in 2023/24 and meet one off transition costs on an invest to save basis. Once the move is complete any unused funds will be released back to general reserves.

Joint Committee Budget and Core Subscriptions for 2023/24

13. The proposed joint committee budget for 2023/24 is summarised at Table 1 below. The budget incorporates the pressures, savings and efficiencies detailed above. The detailed budget for 2023/24 can be found at Appendices A and B.

Table 1 – Indicative Joint Committee budget

	2023/24 Proposed Budget	2022/23 Revised Budget
	£000	£000
Employee & Member Costs	5,114	5,468
Running Costs	3,535	3,620
Other Operating Expenditure	582	982
Central Recharges	9	123
Total Expenditure	9,240	10,193
Indicative Income	(6,120)	(6,601)
Central Recharges	(2,683)	(2,483)
Sub-total	(8,803)	(9,084)
General Reserve	-	(823)
Brought forward balances	-	(286)
Premises Transition Earmarked Reserve	(437)	-
Total Income	(9,240)	(10,193)

14. The proposed amount to be levied on member boroughs in respect of the JC core and associated functions in 2023/24 is £161,958, the same level as for 2022/23. This includes a sum of £5,455 per borough as a contribution towards the continued funding of the YPES. In line with the overall standstill position, it is

proposed that the 2023/24 Joint Committee subscription for MOPAC will be £15,410, the same level as for the current year.

15. At its meeting on 21 June 2022, the Executive approved a facility for officers to draw down a maximum of £300,000 from reserves for the Shared Ambition Impact Fund, subject to the maintenance of a sustainable level of reserves. It is proposed that this annual facility should remain in place during 2023/24 to support the delivery of the Shared Ambitions.

Joint Committee Medium-term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2025/26

16. The indicative budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been prepared on the basis that:

- the Joint Committee core subscription of £161,958 per borough will remain frozen during this period; and
- uncommitted general reserves are not used to balance the budgets.

17. The potential move to a smaller office space will lead to a significant reduction to premises costs. In addition, it is proposed that a review of London Councils operating model will be carried out within the next six months to identify additional savings and efficiencies ranging from £100,000 to £200,000 per annum to ensure overall expenditure does not exceed income generated in each year. The detailed Joint Committee budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found at Appendices C to F.

Grants Committee Budget and Contributions for 2023/24

18. Following consideration by the Grants Committee at its meeting on 30 November, the Leaders' Committee is asked to approve the budget for the Grants Committee for 2023/24 as shown in the Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Indicative Grants Budget 2023/24

	2023/24 Proposed Budget	2022/23 Revised Budget
	£000	£000
Employee & Member Costs	291	271
Running Costs	20	19
S.48 Commissioned Services	6,233	6,233
Central Recharges	142	145
Total Expenditure	6,686	6,668
Indicative Income	(6,668)	(6,668)
Sub-total	(6,668)	(6,668)
General Reserves	(18)	-
Total Income	(6,686)	(6,668)

19. The 2023/24 financial year is the second year of the four-year programme of commissioned services agreed by the Leaders' Committee in December 2019, following recommendations by the Grants Committee. The key features of the proposed budget are:

- a core, pan-London scheme of commissioned services to meet service priorities agreed by the Grants Committee of £6.233 million, which includes the membership subscriptions for boroughs for London Funders of £60,000;
- a provision for grants administration of £469,000 to support the delivery of the commissioned services programme, including contract management and monitoring arrangements;
- a total borough contribution of £6.668 million which will be apportioned in accordance with the ONS 2021 mid-year population data; and
- a transfer from reserves of £18,000 to cover inflationary cost pressures and maintain borough contributions at 2022/23 levels. It is recommended that the increase in costs are funded by reserves in 2023/24 during this transitional period until a move to a smaller office space is secured and the committee benefits from the reduction in premises costs.

Grants Committee Medium-term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2025/26

20. The indicative Grant Committee budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been prepared on the basis that borough contributions to the scheme will remain frozen over the three-year period to 2025/26. In addition to reductions on premises costs, the review of London Councils operating model will seek to identify annual savings and efficiencies within the Grants Committee budget ranging from £20,000 to £50,000. The detailed Grants Committee budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found at Appendices C to F.

TEC Budget, Subscriptions and Charges for 2023/24

21. Following consideration by the TEC Executive Sub-Committee at its meeting on 17 November, TEC were asked to approve the budget for 2023/24 as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Indicative TEC Budget 2023/24

	2023/24 Proposed Budget	2022/23 Revised Budget
	£000	£000
Employee & Member Costs (excludes service administration staff)	745	823
Running Costs	268	324
Payment in respect of Freedom Pass and Taxicard	248,280	218,925
Direct Services	11,569	10,634
Other Operating Expenditure	385	666
Central Recharges	469	536
Total Expenditure	261,716	231,908
Contributions in respect of Freedom Pass and Taxicard	(248,496)	(218,989)
Income for Direct Services	(12,327)	(11,079)
Other Income	(172)	(262)
Sub-total	(260,995)	(230,330)
General Reserves	(463)	(881)
Brought forward balances	-	(141)
TEC Special Projects Reserves	(258)	(556)
Sub-total	(721)	(1,578)
Total Income	(261,716)	(231,908)

Use of Reserves

22. The planned use of TEC uncommitted general reserves of £463,000 in 2023/24 includes an amount of £186,000 to maintain the administration charge of Taxicard Scheme at its current level which subsidises the cost to users of the scheme. It also includes an amount of £87,000 in respect of contributions to environmental initiatives, including work on climate change. The TEC current year's forecast surplus of £1.1 m is sufficient to fund these costs in 2023/24 without reducing the existing level of uncommitted general reserves.

TEC Core Parking Subscription

23. This subscription is frozen at £1,500 per borough and there is little scope to reduce this minimal charge to boroughs, so, as agreed by the Leaders' Committee in November 2010, efforts continue to be concentrated on further efficiencies in the overhead cost for TEC direct services and systems charges, which are explored below

TEC Direct Services

24. TEC currently provides three direct services on behalf of boroughs, one of which is also provided to TfL, which are recouped by an annual administration fee – the Freedom Pass, Taxicard and the London Lorry Control Scheme (LLCS). In overall terms, a sum of £338,000 needs to be recouped from boroughs in 2023/24, the same as for the current year. The proposed level of charge for each direct service, compared to those for the current year are detailed in Table 4 below:

Table 4 – Proposed TEC Direct Services Administration Charge 2023/24

Charge	Basis	2022/23 (£)	2021/22 (£)	Variance (£)	%
Freedom Pass	Per borough	Nil	Nil	-	-
Taxicard	Total	338,000	338,000	-	-
Lorry Control	Average	Nil	Nil	-	-

25. The **administration of the Freedom Pass** covers London Councils costs in negotiating the annual settlements and managing the relationships with transport operators and other contractors. After considering the overall income requirement

for TEC, the proposed charge for 2023/24 remains at zero per borough, as the cost of administering the scheme continues to be met from income collected in respect of lost and damaged freedom passes. This position is reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure forecast income streams continue to cover the costs of administering the scheme.

26. The **administration of the Taxicard Scheme** covers London Councils costs in processing and issuing passes to members and managing the relationships with various contractors. After considering the overall income requirement for TEC, the proposed net cost to be charged to boroughs in 2023/24 is £338,000, no change on the total charge for 2022/23. This proposal includes the use of uncommitted TEC reserves of £186,000, as detailed above, to maintain the unit charge at this level. The active Taxicard total membership as at 30 September 2022 is 59,107, compared to 57,426 as at 30 September 2021, an increase of 1,681, or 2.9% which reflects the continuing recovery from Covid-19. The increase in the spreading base and the recommended use of reserves of £186,000 has decreased the underlying subsidised unit cost of a scheme member from £5.89 to £5.72 per member.

27. The **Lorry Control administration charge** total charge is calculated in the same manner as the Freedom Pass and taxicard administration charge, although it is apportioned to boroughs in accordance with the ONS mid-year population figures for, in the case of 2022/23, June 2020. The total cost of administering the scheme is estimated to be £846,144 in 2023/24, compared to £767,635 in 2022/23, reflecting inflationary increases to contract costs. This figure includes a sum of £50,000 that has been retained in anticipation of further development of the scheme in 2023/24. After consideration of projected income of £1.2 million from the enforcement of the scheme, it is proposed that there will be no borough or TfL contribution in 2023/24, as for the current year. Again, this position will be reviewed annually to ensure forecast income streams continue to cover the costs of administering the scheme.

TEC Traded Services

28. A further range of services provided by TEC relate to various parking and traffic activities, primarily the London Tribunals (LT). A unit charge for each of these 'traded' services is made to the users, which covers the marginal costs of these services. The volumes of these transactions are solely generated by each borough; London Councils has no influence on the levels generated. In addition, an amount apportioned by the number of PCNs issued by each borough and TfL, covers the fixed costs of the parking related services - principally the LT- covering the actual cost of the appeals hearing centre and the fixed cost of the parking managed services contract.

29. The proposed level of charge for each traded service, compared to those for the current year is detailed in Table 5 below:

Table 5 – Proposed TEC Traded Services Unit Charges 2023/24

Charge	2023/24 (£)	2022/23 (£)	Variance (£)	%
Parking Enforcement Service Charge (total charge)	0.2975	0.3751	(0.078)	(21)
Environment and Traffic Adjudicators (ETA) Appeals (Hard Copy)	29.75	29.36	0.39	1.32
ETA Appeals (Electronic)	25.57	25.55	0.02	0.09
ETA Statutory Declarations (Hard Copy)	23.49	23.64	(0.15)	(0.63)
ETA Statutory Declarations (Electronic)	22.65	22.88	(0.22)	(0.97)
TRACE Electronic	7.53	7.53	-	-
TRACE Fax	7.70	7.70	-	-
TEC	0.175	0.175	-	-

30. The **Parking Enforcement Service Charge** is allocated to users in accordance with the number of PCNs issued. For 2023/24, expenditure of £3.496 million needs to be recouped, compared to £3.173 million for 2022/23; an increase of £323,000, which reflects significant inflationary increases along with costs associated with the ULEZ scheme.

31. After top-slicing the amount for the estimated fixed costs of £1.273 million attributable to the contract with the GLA/TfL in respect of road user charging appeals (RUCA) and ULEZ, a total of £2.223 million remains to be apportioned

through the 7.473 million PCN's issued by boroughs and TfL in 2021/22 in respect of parking, bus lane and moving traffic offences, compared to 5.289 million issued in 2020/21. The increase in the number of PCNs issued over the two comparative years increases the cost spreading base, which leads to a reduction in the actual unit charge to boroughs and TfL of £0.078 per PCN, or 21%, from £0.3751 to £0.2975 per PCN for 2023/24. In addition, under the terms of the contract with Northgate, there is a separate fixed cost identified in respect of the borough use of the TRACE and TEC systems. For 2022/23, this sum was £98,000 and is estimated to increase to £105,000 in 2023/24. This sum will be apportioned to boroughs in accordance with volumes of transaction generated on each system by users.

32. The estimated volume of Environment and Traffic Adjudicators (ETA) appeals for 2023/24, based on indicative volumes to date in 2022/23, is 44,762, compared to the budgeted figure of 48,820 for the current year.
33. The average throughput of appeals for the current year to date is 3.63 appeals heard per hour, compared to 3.53 appeals per hour when the current year budget was set in December 2021. This average figure takes account of all adjudicator time spent on postal and personal appeal hearing and non-appeal 'duty adjudicator' activities. Based on this forecast figure and allowing for an increase to adjudicator fees, it is proposed that the indicative hard copy unit ETA appeal cost for 2023/24 is £29.75, an increase of £0.39 or 1.32% on the charge of £29.36 for 2022/23. For appeals where an enforcing authority provides electronic evidence, it is proposed that the unit cost will increase by £0.02 or 0.09% to £25.57, with this lower charge providing an incentive for boroughs to submit electronic evidence under the current contract arrangements. Boroughs will continue to pay a differential charge for the processing of ETA statutory declarations. For hard copy statutory declarations, the proposed unit charge will be £23.49 compared to the charge of £23.64 for the current year, which represents a decrease of £0.15, or 0.63%. For electronic statutory declarations, the proposed unit charge will be £22.65, a decrease of £0.22, or 0.97% on the electronic appeal unit charge of £22.88 for the current year.

34. For RUCA Appeals, the estimated volume of appeals for 2023/24, based on 2022/23 actual volumes to date is 23,801, compared to 24,244 for the current year. Under the terms of the contract, TfL/GLA will reimburse London Councils on a cost-recovery basis for the variable cost of RUCA appeals, ensuring that a break-even position continues in respect of these variable transactions. The rechargeable level of fixed costs associated with this contract is £1.273 million for 2023/24; an increase of £85,000 on the 2022/23 budgeted level of £1.188 million, which reflects inflationary increases.
35. In respect of **all other parking traded services**, the variable charges form part of the parking managed service contract provided by the contractor, Northgate, the volumes of which are again not controlled by London Councils; the individual boroughs are responsible for using such facilities. The volumes are based on those currently being processed by the contractor and are recharged to the boroughs, TfL and the GLA as part of the unit cost charge.
36. The estimated decrease in expenditure between 2022/23 and 2023/24 based on the actual transaction volumes and estimated movement in contract prices is £85,000. The corresponding estimated effect on income, between 2022/23 and 2023/24, is an increase of £130,000, leading to a net overall increase in budgeted income of £45,000 reflecting activity post Covid-19.
37. The charging structure historically approved by TEC for the provision of the variable parking services (excluding appeals) includes a contribution to overheads in each of the charges made to boroughs and other users for these services.

Freedom Pass

38. The main settlement with TfL for concessionary travel is currently estimated at a cost of £217.012 million, representing a provisional increase of £19.662 million, or 9.96%, on the figure of £197,350 million for 2022/23. The increase represents estimates considering the ongoing recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
39. The Rail Delivery Group (RDG) settlement has now been finalised. The costs for 2023/24 are £17.238 Million, an increase of £9.69 million, reflecting a continued recovery from Covid-19 where trip levels are increasing to pre pandemic levels.

40. The budget for payments to other bus operators for local journeys originating in London has been maintained at £1.1 million, following projections for 2023/24, based on the 2021/22 outturn position, recovery from Covid-19 and the current year to date.
41. The budget for the freedom pass issuing costs was £1.518 million for 2022/23. For 2023/24 it is proposed that the budget remains at this level, which will include the cost of an annual pass eligibility review that yields significant cost savings to boroughs.
42. For income in respect of replacement Freedom Passes, current trends indicate that income is forecasted to recover to pre-lockdown levels. The 2023/24 income budget has therefore been increased to £900,000 and there is no proposed change to the unit cost of £12 for a replacement pass. As stated in paragraph 25, it is proposed that the in-house cost of administering the Freedom Pass scheme will be fully funded by this income stream in 2023/24.
43. As agreed by TEC in December 2014, any annual surplus arising from both the freedom pass issuing costs budget of £1.518 million (paragraph 41) and replacement freedom passes income budget of £900,000 (paragraph 42) will be transferred to a specific reserves to accumulate funds to offset the cost of future major pass reissue exercises. As detailed in Table 7 at paragraph 50, the estimated uncommitted specific reserve is £1.184 million, £985,000 of which relates to the Freedom Pass Renewal Reserve.
44. Final negotiations on the actual amounts payable to operators will be completed in time for the meeting of the main TEC Committee on 8 December; any late variations to these provisional figures will be tabled at these meetings.
45. A summary of the provisional freedom pass costs for 2023/24, compared to the current year, can be summarised in Table 6 below. The total cost of the scheme is fully funded by boroughs and the estimated cost payable by boroughs in 2023/24 is £236.868 million, compared to £207.516 million payable for 2022/23. This

represents a increase of £29.4 million or 14.1% which reflects significant increase in anticipated usage of the schemes following Covid-19 along with inflationary increases.

Table 6 – Comparative cost of Freedom Pass 2023/24 and 2022/23

Estimated Cost of Freedom Pass	2023/24(£000)	2022/23 (£000)
TfL Settlement	217,012	197,350
RDG Settlement	17,238	7,548
Non TfL Bus Operators Settlement	1,100	1,100
Freedom Pass Issue Costs	1,518	1,518
Total Cost	236,868	207,516

Taxicard

46. It is assumed that TfL will provide an estimated fixed contribution of £8.000 million, no change in the figure for 2022/23. The total borough contribution towards the Taxicard scheme in 2022/23 is estimated to be £2.257 million, the same as for the current year, although the decision on boroughs' contributions is a matter for boroughs to take individually and will be confirmed in February 2023. The indicative budgetary provision for the taxicard trips contract with ComCab (London), will, therefore, be an amalgam of the TfL and borough funding, currently equating to £10.257 million for 2023/24, the same figure as for the current year. However, several factors such as usage of the scheme particularly considering the ongoing impact and recovery of Covid-19 could influence the final outturn position for 2023/24.

TEC Medium-term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2025/26

47. As with the core Joint and Grants Committees, the indicative TEC budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been prepared on the basis that the core TEC administration charge will remain frozen over the three-year period to 2025/26. In addition to reductions on premises costs, the review of London Councils operating model will seek to identify annual savings and efficiencies within the TEC budget to reduce reliance on the use of general uncommitted reserves to balance the budget. The detailed TEC budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found at Appendices C to F.

48. As well as high inflationary pressures on expenditure and an uncertain economic environment, there are other financial risks that London Councils faces, which include amongst other items:

- the current contract to manage the RUCA/ULEZ tribunal service ends in December 2023 having already been extended for an additional two-year period. This service contributes towards the overhead costs of London Tribunals. The GLA/TfL will most likely re-tender the contract for another five-year period and there is no guarantee that a bid from London Councils will be successful; and
- key policy areas, such as the work climate change, which are directly funded from transfers from reserves. The review of the operating model will have to consider how these important policy areas will be funded in a sustainable manner.

Externally Funded Projects

49. In addition to the proposed expenditure of £277.642 million for largely borough funded activity, expenditure on activities financed through external contributions is currently projected to be in excess of £5 million in 2023/24, with funding being received through various external sources to fully fund the projects, ensuring no cost to boroughs. Once confirmation of continued and any additional funding into 2023/24 is received from funders over the coming months, budget plans for expenditure will be revised accordingly to ensure that they match the available funding.

50. As reported to Leaders' Executive in November, London Care Services (LCS) is no longer financially viable and, subject to member approval, the service will come to an end on 31 March 2023.

51. LCS has been delivered by London Councils since April 2013. The service manages a list of approved foster and residential care providers to support boroughs to meet the needs of looked after children and young people. The service compliments in-house and existing sub-regional arrangements by offering a choice of services with pre-negotiated prices.

52. The number of subscribing boroughs has gone down successively over the past five years, from 36 in 2018-19 to 17 in the 2022-23 financial year (16 London boroughs and one home county).
53. Annual subscriptions covered all costs up to 2019-20. By 2020-21, subscriptions covered staffing and support costs, and LCS generated reserves to cover operating costs. For the current financial year, subscriptions no longer fully cover staffing costs and the service has relied on the use of its reserves. With the continuing decline in subscriptions and the unsustainable year-on-year use of reserves to cover operating deficits, the service is not financially viable with a subscription income of £256,000 and expenditure of £406,000 (current financial year figures).
54. London Councils spoke with union representatives and undertook formal consultation with staff directly affected by potential redundancy (four members of staff). One response was received to the consultation, which noted matters about development of the service, consultation with subscribing boroughs, rescaling the service, and merging with the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance.
55. Although these matters had some merit and were responded to, the financial position of the service remains unworkable, that is, the service is not being subscribed to by sufficient boroughs to cover costs.
56. On that basis, Leaders' Committee is asked to agree that London Care Services closes from April 2023.

Updated position on Reserves

57. The updated position on the overall level of London Councils after considering the forecast outturn for the current financial year and the budget proposals for 2023/24 outlined in this report, is detailed in Table 7 below:

Table 7 - Estimated Uncommitted Reserves

	Joint Committee		Grants Committee	Transport & Environment Committee		Total
	(£000)	(£000)	(£000)	(£000)	(£000)	(£000)
	General	Earmarked	General	General	Specific	
Provisional uncommitted reserves at March 2023	4,685	-	748	3,840	1,184	10,457
Proposed transfer to Premises Transition Reserve	(850)	850	-	-	-	-
Proposals included in 2023/24 budget	-	(437)	(18)	(463)	(258)	(1,176)
Previously approved committed reserves	-	-	-	-	258	258
Estimated residual uncommitted reserves	3,835	413	730	3,377	1,184	9,539

58. For the Grants Committee, the Grants Executive in September 2013 agreed that the level of reserves to cover the S.48 borough funded commissions (priorities 1 and 2) should be set at 3.75% of the budget, which will equate to £251,000 in respect of a proposed budget of £6.686 million for 2023/24. The forecast level of uncommitted reserves of £730,000 is, therefore, in excess of this benchmark at 10.92% of the proposed budget.

59. For TEC, uncommitted general reserves are forecast to be £3.84 million as at 31 March 2023 and reflects the forecast surplus on general reserves of £1.036 million for the current year. After considering the proposed use of general TEC reserves of £463,000 in setting the 2023/24 budget, which will be considered by the main TEC meeting on 8 December, uncommitted general TEC reserves are forecast reduce to £3.377 million, or 20.96% of proposed operating and trading expenditure of £16.109 million.

60. For the Joint Committee functions, uncommitted general reserves are projected to be £3.835 million if the proposals in this report are approved. In a period of continuing financial constraint for London local government, and volatile financial markets, there is continued value in holding a reasonable level of reserves as a contingency. It will also facilitate a period of transition for the organisation, as it implements the outcome of the planned review of its operating model.
61. Under existing CIPFA guidance, the Chief Financial Officer of an organisation is advised to make an annual statement on the adequacy of the level of an organisation's reserves. This is achieved by expressing the total level of estimated uncommitted reserves as a percentage of operating costs.
62. The overall level of estimated residual uncommitted reserves of £9.539 million represents 36.97% of total operating and trading expenditure in 2023/24 of £25.802 million. The comparable figures reported to this committee 12 months ago was projected uncommitted reserves of £8.428 million, which equated to 33.1% of provisional operating and trading expenditure of £25.473 million for 2022/23. This position maintains healthy reserves position, particularly in the current economic climate. The Director of Corporate Resources is, therefore, content to issue a positive statement on the adequacy of the residual London Councils reserves for 2023/24.

Conclusions

63. This report proposes the provisional consolidated income and expenditure budget for 2023/24, together with indicative income and expenditure budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26. This report also proposes the level of boroughs subscriptions and charges to be levied in 2023/24. The report updates the Leaders' Committee on the current level of London Councils reserves after considering all current and proposed commitments, plus the timetable for the overall budget approval process. It includes proposals to carry out an outcome focused review of London Councils operations to identify savings and efficiencies to ensure its financial position remains sustainable. The level of reserves will continue to be an area of key focus in order to ensure London Councils remains financially resilient while allowing enough flexibility to react to changing priorities.

Summary

64. This report proposes the level of boroughs subscriptions and charges to be levied in 2023/24, together with the consolidated revenue income and expenditure budget for 2023/24 and indicative income and expenditure budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

65. The subscription and budget proposals for 2023/24 relating to the Grants Committee, as contained in this report, were considered by the Grants Committee at its meeting on 30 November. The Grants Committee recommended that the Leaders' Committee approve the proposals as laid out in this report and which are also subject to a separate report on this agenda.

66. The subscription and budget proposals for 2023/24 relating to the Transport and Environment Committee were considered by the TEC Executive Sub-Committee at its meeting on 17 November and have been put before the main TEC meeting on 9 December for final approval. The Leaders' Committee is, therefore, asked to endorse the provisional TEC figures as laid out in this report.

Financial Implications for London Councils

As detailed in the body of the report.

Legal Implications for London Councils

None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

None

Appendices

Appendix A – the provisional consolidated revenue expenditure budget for London Councils for 2023/24.

Appendix B – the provisional consolidated revenue income budget for London Councils for 2023/24.

Appendix C – the indicative consolidated revenue expenditure budget for London Councils for 2024/25

Appendix D – the indicative consolidated revenue income budget for London Councils for 2024/25

Appendix E – the indicative consolidated revenue expenditure budget for London Councils for 2025/26

Appendix F – the indicative consolidated revenue income budget for London Councils for 2025/26

Background Papers

London Councils budget working papers 2010/11 to 2025/26.

**Proposed Consolidated Expenditure Budget
2023/24**

	Jt Ctte £000	Grants £000	TEC £000	Total £000
Payments in respect of Concessionary Fares				
TfL	0	0	217,012	217,012
RDG	0	0	17,238	17,238
Other Bus Operators	0	0	1,100	1,100
Freedom Pass survey and reissue costs	0	0	1,518	1,518
Freedom Pass Administration	0	0	516	516
Comcab	0	0	10,257	10,257
Taxicard Administration	0	0	639	639
Sub-Total	0	0	248,280	248,280
Payments for commissioned services				
S.48 pan-London commissions	0	6,173	0	6,173
Subscription to London Funders Group	0	60	0	60
S.48 ESF pan-London commissions	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	0	6,233	0	6,233
TEC Trading Account Expenditure				
Payments to Adjudicators- ETA	0	0	844	844
Payments to Adjudicators - RUCA	0	0	595	595
Northgate variable contract costs - ETA	0	0	300	300
Northgate variable contract costs - RUCA	0	0	153	153
Northgate variable contract costs - Other	0	0	290	290
Payments to Northampton County Court	0	0	5,000	5,000
Lorry Control Administration	0	0	846	846
ETA/RUCA Administration	0	0	3,496	3,496
HEB Administration	0	0	44	44
Sub-Total	0	0	11,568	11,568
Total Direct Services	0	6,233	259,848	266,081
Operating Expenditure				
Contractual Commitments				
Capital Ambition legacy project costs	82	0	0	82
Contribution to LOTI	100	0	0	100
Southwark Street Leasehold Costs	1,567	0	0	1,567
Leases for photocopiers	10	0	0	10
HR Metrics Infinistats contract	37	0	0	37
Northgate Fixed Costs	0	0	105	105
External audit fees	65	0	0	65
CoL Finance/Legal/HR/IT SLA	553	0	0	553
Depreciation	172	0	0	172
Grants GIFTS system support	0	10	0	10
Sub-Total	2,586	10	105	2,701
Salary Commitments				
Officers	4,843	262	694	5,799
Members	231	20	21	272
Maternity provision	40	10	30	80
Sub-Total	5,114	292	745	6,151
Discretionary Expenditure				
Learning and Development /recruitment advertising	180	7	0	187
Staff travel	8	2	0	10
Other premises costs	312	0	0	312
SS ICT support	61	0	0	61
Supplies and services	570	0	163	733
Research and Commissioning	300	0	40	340
Contribution to Health related work	100	0	0	100
Climate Change	0	0	345	345
Sub-Total	1,531	9	548	2,088
Total Operating Expenditure	9,231	311	1,398	10,940
Central Recharges	9	142	469	620
Total Expenditure	9,240	6,686	261,716	277,642

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Appendix B

Proposed Consolidated Income Budget 2023/24

	Jt Ctte £000	Grants £000	TEC £000	Total £000
Borough contributions to TfL	0	0	217,012	217,012
Borough contributions to ATOC	0	0	17,238	17,238
Borough contributions to other bus operators	0	0	1,100	1,100
Borough contributions to surveys/reissue costs	0	0	1,518	1,518
Borough contributions to freedom pass administration	0	0	0	0
Income from replacing lost/faulty freedom passes	0	0	900	900
Income from replacing lost/faulty taxicards	0	0	18	18
Borough contributions to Comcab	0	0	2,257	2,257
TfL contribution to Taxicard scheme	0	0	8,000	8,000
Borough contributions to taxicard administration	0	0	324	324
TfL Contribution to taxicard administration	0	0	129	129
Sub-total	0	0	248,496	248,496
Borough contribution to grants payments	0	6,233	0	6,233
ESF Grant Income	0	0	0	0
Sub-total	0	6,233	0	6,233
TEC trading account income				
Borough contributions to Lorry Control administration	0	0	0	0
London Lorry Control PCN income	0	0	1,200	1,200
Borough ETA appeal charges	0	0	968	968
TfL ETA appeal charges	0	0	176	176
GLA RUCA appeal income	0	0	748	748
Borough fixed parking costs	0	0	2,095	2,095
TfL fixed parking costs	0	0	233	233
GLA fixed parking costs	0	0	1,273	1,273
Borough other parking services	0	0	634	634
Northampton County Court Recharges	0	0	5,000	5,000
Sub-total	0	0	12,327	12,327
Sub-Total	0	6,233	260,823	267,056
Core borough subscriptions				
Joint Committee	5,299	0	46	5,345
Grants Administration	0	435	0	435
TEC (inc TfL)	0	0	51	51
MPA subscription	17	0	0	17
Sub-total	5,316	435	97	5,848
Other Borough charges				
Borough contributions to HR Metrics service	101	0	0	101
Sub-total	101	0	0	101
Other Income				
Investments	75	0	0	75
Room bookings and conferences	100	0	0	100
Letting of office space	110	0	0	110
Sales of publications	18	0	0	18
Employment services trading account income	48	0	0	48
TfL secretariat recharge	0	0	31	31
Sales of Health Emergency badges	0	0	44	44
Miscellaneous income	7	0	0	7
Transfer from TEC Committee	345	0	0	345
Sub-total	703	0	75	778
Transfer from Reserves	437	18	721	1,176
Central Recharges	2,683	0	0	2,683
Total Income Base Budget	9,240	6,686	261,716	277,642

Indicative Consolidated Expenditure Budget
2024/25

	Jt Ctte £000	Grants £000	TEC £000	Total £000
Payments in respect of Concessionary Fares				
TfL	0	0	335,619	335,619
RDG	0	0	23,307	23,307
Other Bus Operators	0	0	1,100	1,100
Freedom Pass survey and reissue costs	0	0	1,518	1,518
Freedom Pass Administration	0	0	513	513
Comcab	0	0	10,257	10,257
Taxicard Administration	0	0	627	627
Sub-Total	0	0	372,941	372,941
Payments for commissioned services				
S.48 pan-London commissions	0	6,173	0	6,173
Subscription to London Funders Group	0	60	0	60
S.48 ESF pan-London commissions	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	0	6,233	0	6,233
TEC Trading Account Expenditure				
Payments to Adjudicators- ETA	0	0	844	844
Payments to Adjudicators - RUCA	0	0	595	595
Northgate variable contract costs - ETA	0	0	300	300
Northgate variable contract costs - RUCA	0	0	153	153
Northgate variable contract costs - Other	0	0	290	290
Payments to Northampton County Court	0	0	5,000	5,000
Lorry Control Administration	0	0	845	845
ETA/RUCA Administration	0	0	3,566	3,566
HEB Administration	0	0	43	43
Sub-Total	0	0	11,636	11,636
Total Direct Services	0	6,233	384,577	390,810
Operating Expenditure				
Contractual Commitments				
Capital Ambition legacy project costs	82	0	0	82
Contribution to LOTI	100	0	0	100
Southwark Street Leasehold Costs	1,182	0	0	1,182
Leases for photocopiers	10	0	0	10
HR Metrics Infinistats contract	39	0	0	39
Northgate Fixed Costs	0	0	107	107
External audit fees	66	0	0	66
CoL Finance/Legal/HR/IT SLA	564	0	0	564
Depreciation	148	0	0	148
Grants GIFTS system support	0	10	0	10
Sub-Total	2,191	10	107	2,308
Salary Commitments				
Officers	4,990	268	708	5,966
Members	236	19	22	277
Maternity provision	40	10	30	80
Sub-Total	5,266	297	760	6,323
Discretionary Expenditure				
Learning and Development /recruitment advertising	180	7	0	187
Staff travel	8	2	0	10
Other premises costs	175	0	0	175
SS ICT support	61	0	0	61
Supplies and services	580	0	164	744
Research and Commissioning	300	0	40	340
Contribution to Health related work	100	0	0	100
Climate Change	0	0	345	345
Savings & Efficiency Targets	0	-8	-648	-656
Sub-Total	1,404	1	-99	1,306
Total Operating Expenditure	8,861	308	768	9,937
Central Recharges	10	127	401	538
Total Expenditure	8,871	6,668	385,747	401,286

Indicative Consolidated Income Budget 2024/25

	Jt Ctte £000	Grants £000	TEC £000	Total £000
Borough contributions to TfL	0	0	335,619	335,619
Borough contributions to ATOC	0	0	23,307	23,307
Borough contributions to other bus operators	0	0	1,100	1,100
Borough contributions to surveys/reissue costs	0	0	1,518	1,518
Borough contributions to freedom pass administration	0	0	0	0
Income from replacing lost/faulty freedom passes	0	0	900	900
Income from replacing lost/faulty taxicards	0	0	18	18
Borough contributions to Comcab	0	0	2,257	2,257
TfL contribution to Taxicard scheme	0	0	8,000	8,000
Borough contributions to taxicard administration	0	0	324	324
TfL Contribution to taxicard administration	0	0	132	132
Sub-total	0	0	373,175	373,175
Borough contribution to grants payments	0	6,233	0	6,233
ESF Grant Income	0	0	0	0
Sub-total	0	6,233	0	6,233
TEC trading account income				
Borough contributions to Lorry Control administration	0	0	0	0
London Lorry Control PCN income	0	0	1,200	1,200
Borough ETA appeal charges	0	0	968	968
TfL ETA appeal charges	0	0	176	176
GLA RUCA appeal income	0	0	748	748
Borough fixed parking costs	0	0	2,137	2,137
TfL fixed parking costs	0	0	238	238
GLA fixed parking costs	0	0	1,298	1,298
Borough other parking services	0	0	634	634
Northampton County Court Recharges	0	0	5,000	5,000
Sub-total	0	0	12,399	12,399
Sub-Total	0	6,233	385,574	391,807
Core borough subscriptions				
Joint Committee	5,299	0	46	5,345
Grants Administration	0	435	0	435
TEC (inc TfL)	0	0	51	51
MPA subscription	17	0	0	17
Sub-total	5,316	435	97	5,848
Other Borough charges				
Borough contributions to HR Metrics service	101	0	0	101
Sub-total	101	0	0	101
Other Income				
Investments	75	0	0	75
Room bookings and conferences	125	0	0	125
Letting of office space	110	0	0	110
Sales of publications	18	0	0	18
Employment services trading account income	48	0	0	48
TfL secretariat recharge	0	0	31	31
Sales of Health Emergency badges	0	0	45	45
Miscellaneous income	7	0	0	7
Transfer from TEC Committee	345	0	0	345
Sub-total	728	0	76	804
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	0	0
Central Recharges	2,726	0	0	2,726
Total Income Base Budget	8,871	6,668	385,747	401,286

Indicative Consolidated Expenditure Budget
2025/26

	Jt Ctte £000	Grants £000	TEC £000	Total £000
Payments in respect of Concessionary Fares				
TfL	0	0	416,398	416,398
RDG	0	0	26,493	26,493
Other Bus Operators	0	0	1,100	1,100
Freedom Pass survey and reissue costs	0	0	1,518	1,518
Freedom Pass Administration	0	0	522	522
Comcab	0	0	10,257	10,257
Taxicard Administration	0	0	640	640
Sub-Total	0	0	456,928	456,928
Payments for commissioned services				
S.48 pan-London commissions	0	6,173	0	6,173
Subscription to London Funders Group	0	60	0	60
S.48 ESF pan-London commissions	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	0	6,233	0	6,233
TEC Trading Account Expenditure				
Payments to Adjudicators- ETA	0	0	844	844
Payments to Adjudicators - RUCA	0	0	595	595
Northgate variable contract costs - ETA	0	0	300	300
Northgate variable contract costs - RUCA	0	0	153	153
Northgate variable contract costs - Other	0	0	290	290
Payments to Northampton County Court	0	0	5,000	5,000
Lorry Control Administration	0	0	862	862
ETA/RUCA Administration	0	0	3,638	3,638
HEB Administration	0	0	44	44
Sub-Total	0	0	11,726	11,726
Total Direct Services	0	6,233	468,654	474,887
Operating Expenditure				
Contractual Commitments				
Capital Ambition legacy project costs	82	0	0	82
Contribution to LOTI	100	0	0	100
Southwark Street Leasehold Costs	1,125	0	0	1,125
Leases for photocopiers	11	0	0	11
HR Metrics Infinistats contract	41	0	0	41
Northgate Fixed Costs	0	0	109	109
External audit fees	68	0	0	68
CoL Finance/Legal/HR/IT SLA	576	0	0	576
Depreciation	151	0	0	151
Grants GIFTS system support	0	10	0	10
Sub-Total	2,154	10	109	2,273
Salary Commitments				
Officers	5,090	273	722	6,085
Members	240	19	22	281
Maternity provision	40	10	30	80
Sub-Total	5,370	302	774	6,446
Discretionary Expenditure				
Learning and Development /recruitment advertising	180	7	0	187
Staff travel	8	2	0	10
Other premises costs	224	0	0	224
SS ICT support	61	0	0	61
Supplies and services	591	0	165	756
Research and Commissioning	300	0	40	340
Contribution to Health related work	100	0	0	100
Climate Change	0	0	345	345
Savings & Efficiency Targets	-57	-20	-710	-787
Sub-Total	1,407	-11	-160	1,236
Total Operating Expenditure	8,931	301	723	9,955
Central Recharges	10	134	411	555
Total Expenditure	8,941	6,668	469,789	485,398

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Appendix F

Indicative Consolidated Income Budget 2025/26

	Jt Ctte £000	Grants £000	TEC £000	Total £000
Borough contributions to TfL	0	0	416,398	416,398
Borough contributions to ATOC	0	0	26,493	26,493
Borough contributions to other bus operators	0	0	1,100	1,100
Borough contributions to surveys/reissue costs	0	0	1,518	1,518
Borough contributions to freedom pass administration	0	0	0	0
Income from replacing lost/faulty freedom passes	0	0	900	900
Income from replacing lost/faulty taxicards	0	0	18	18
Borough contributions to Comcab	0	0	2,257	2,257
TfL contribution to Taxicard scheme	0	0	8,000	8,000
Borough contributions to taxicard administration	0	0	324	324
TfL Contribution to taxicard administration	0	0	132	132
Sub-total	0	0	457,140	457,140
Borough contribution to grants payments	0	6,233	0	6,233
ESF Grant Income	0	0	0	0
Sub-total	0	6,233	0	6,233
TEC trading account income				
Borough contributions to Lorry Control administration	0	0	0	0
London Lorry Control PCN income	0	0	1,200	1,200
Borough ETA appeal charges	0	0	968	968
TfL ETA appeal charges	0	0	176	176
GLA RUCA appeal income	0	0	748	748
Borough fixed parking costs	0	0	2,180	2,180
TfL fixed parking costs	0	0	243	243
GLA fixed parking costs	0	0	1,324	1,324
Borough other parking services	0	0	634	634
Northampton County Court Recharges	0	0	5,000	5,000
Sub-total	0	0	12,473	12,473
Sub-Total	0	6,233	469,613	475,846
Core borough subscriptions				
Joint Committee	5,299	0	46	5,345
Grants Administration	0	435	0	435
TEC (inc TfL)	0	0	51	51
MPA subscription	17	0	0	17
Sub-total	5,316	435	97	5,848
Other Borough charges				
Borough contributions to HR Metrics service	101	0	0	101
Sub-total	101	0	0	101
Other Income				
Investments	75	0	0	75
Room bookings and conferences	150	0	0	150
Letting of office space	110	0	0	110
Sales of publications	18	0	0	18
Employment services trading account income	49	0	0	49
TfL secretariat recharge	0	0	31	31
Sales of Health Emergency badges	0	0	48	48
Miscellaneous income	8	0	0	8
Transfer from TEC Committee	345	0	0	345
Sub-total	755	0	79	834
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	0	0
Central Recharges	2,769	0	0	2,769
Total Income Base Budget	8,941	6,668	469,789	485,398

Leaders' Committee

London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2023/24

Item no: 10

Report by:	David Sanni	Job title:	Director of Corporate Resources
Date:	13 December 2022		
Contact Officer:	David Sanni		
Telephone:	020 7934 9704	Email:	david.sanni@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary	<p>This report considers the proposed budget for the Grants Scheme for 2023/24 and makes a recommendation to the Committee on the appropriate level to recommend to constituent councils for approval. These proposals were considered by the Grants Committee at its meeting on 30 November. The Grants Committee agreed to recommend that the Leaders' Committee approve these proposals.</p>
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Recommendations	<p>The Leaders' Committee is asked to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overall level of expenditure of £6.686 million for the Grants Scheme in 2023/24; • borough contributions for 2023/24 of £6.668 million, consistent with the current year; • a transfer from reserves of £18,000 to fully cover the costs of the scheme; • that further to the recommendations above, constituent councils be informed of the Committee's recommendation and be reminded that further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48
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(4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, if the constituent councils have not reached agreement by the two-thirds majority specified before 1 February 2023 they shall be deemed to have approved expenditure of an amount equal to the amount approved for the preceding financial year (i.e. £6.668 million);

- that constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2023/24 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2020; and
 - that subject to the approval of an overall level of expenditure, the Committee agrees to set aside a provision of £453,000 for costs incurred by London Councils in providing staff and other support services to ensure delivery of the Committee's "making of grants" responsibilities.
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London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2023/24

Introduction

1. This report details the indicative overall budget requirement for the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2023/24 of £6.686 million, an increase of £18,000 on the current year, comprising the cost of borough pan-London commissioned services of £6.233 million, covering priorities 1 for Homelessness and for 2 Domestic and sexual abuse, plus the cost of administering the scheme of £453,000. This sum includes the annual membership subscriptions for boroughs for London Funders of £60,000.
2. The proposed total expenditure budget of £6.686 million will be funded by borough contributions of £6.668 million and a transfer from uncommitted reserves of £18,000.
3. These proposals were considered by the Grants Committee at its meeting on 30 November 2022. The Grants Committee agreed to recommend that the Leaders' Committee approve these proposals. The Leaders' Committee will need to reach a view on both the appropriate overall level of expenditure and to recommend the budget to constituent Councils.
4. The financial year 2023/24 represents the second year of the four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2019. The original decision covered the period from 2021 to 2025, however, due to the extension to the current programme as a result of Covid-19 this programme covers 2022 to 2026.

Approval of Expenditure

5. The statutory basis of the Grants Scheme is Section 48, Local Government Act 1985. Constituent councils agreed to some changes to the operation of the Scheme as part of the establishment of the new ALG on 1 April 2000: these changes mean that the budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme must be approved by the London Councils Leaders' Committee. This will need to happen before any budget that is recommended to constituent councils by the Grants Committee can be formally referred to them as a basis for consideration in their respective councils.
6. If Leaders do not accept the recommendations of the Grants Committee, and instead agree to recommend a different budget figure to Boroughs, the Grants Committee will need to meet urgently to consider the implications for the Grants programme.
7. Section 48(3) of the Local Government Act 1985 requires that at least two-thirds of the constituent councils in Greater London must approve the proposed overall level of expenditure on grants to voluntary organisations and other costs incurred in "the making of grants". This is not a decision that can be delegated to the Grants Committee although that Committee is able to make decisions with regard to allocation of that expenditure once overall expenditure has been approved. This means that when the Committee decides on an overall level of expenditure, subject to the agreement of the Leaders' Committee, it will recommend it to the London Boroughs and the Cities of London and Westminster and at least 22 of them must agree through their respective decision-making arrangements to ratify and give effect to that overall level of expenditure. Once 22 councils have given their approval, the overall level of expenditure and contributions to it are binding on all constituent councils.

Timing of Decisions

8. The Committee needs to make its recommendation in good time so that constituent councils are able to consider the budget proposal within their own decision-making arrangements and make a response within the timescales laid down for the Scheme. The Scheme approved by the boroughs provides that constituent councils shall be asked to agree to the Committee's recommended level of overall expenditure not later than the third Friday in January, in this case 20 January 2023. All constituent councils will have received copies of this report and will be informed of the Committee's recommendation as to overall expenditure for next year, once the decision has been taken.
9. The City of London Corporation has been the Designated Council for the Scheme since 1 February 2004. Bearing in mind the issues raised above, it is essential for the Committee to make a recommendation today, to provide sufficient time for constituent councils to consider the matter before the 1 February deadline and enable the City of London Corporation to approve the levy on constituent councils by the deadline of 15 February 2023.
10. In the event that constituent councils are unable to reach agreement by the two-thirds majority required on an overall level of expenditure before 1 February 2023 the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has powers to intervene and set the budget at the same level as the preceding year. Section 105 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 inserted a new sub-section (4A) into section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 which states that:

"4A. The Secretary of State may by order provide that if -

- *a scheme requires the total expenditure to be incurred under the scheme in any financial year _*
 - *in the making of grants; and*
 - *in the discharging by the designated council of its functions under the scheme, to be approved in accordance with the scheme by some or all of the constituent councils; and*

- *the total expenditure to be incurred in any financial year is not approved as required by the scheme before such date as may be specified in relation to that financial year in the order, the constituent councils shall be deemed, subject to any order which has been or may be made under subsection (5) below, all to have given their approval for that financial year to total expenditure of an amount equal to the amount that was approved or, as the case may be, deemed to have been approved for the preceding financial year".*

Contributions by constituent councils

11. Section 48(3) of the 1985 Act provides that the amount of contributions to the London Councils Grants Scheme shall be determined so that expenditure is borne by constituent councils in proportion to the population of their respective areas. Section 48(4) of the 1985 Act states that the population of any area shall be the number estimated by the Registrar-General and certified by him to the Secretary of State.
12. Under The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, arrangements made under section 48 of the 1985 Act (and also section 88) use total resident population as the means of apportionment and it is no longer necessary for the Registrar General to certify the estimates. The Regulations came into force on 11 December 1992. Regulation 6(8) is of particular importance, stating that:

"A levying body shall secure that the expenses to be met by levies issued by it under these Regulations by reference to the relevant precepting power conferred by section 48 or 88 of the Local Government Act 1985 are borne by the relevant authorities in a proportion calculated by reference to the total resident population of the area of each relevant authority on 30th June in the financial year beginning two years before the beginning of the financial year in respect of which the levy is issued, as estimated by the Registrar General."
13. The Designated Council is defined as a levying body further to Sections 74 and 117 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, which means that the levy will have to be approved formally at a meeting of the Court of Common Council of the Designated Council before the payment requests are sent to constituent councils. The Court of Common Council will consider this matter before the deadline of 15 February 2023. The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992 then require the approved levy to be sent out to constituent councils by 15 February in any year. The term levy refers both to the total contributions from constituent councils and to the apportionment of that total between them.

Summary Timetable

14. To summarise, the timetable for the approval of the budget for 2023/24 is expected to be as follows:

Date	Action
30 November 2022	Grants Committee considered the proposed budget and borough contributions for 2023/24 detailed in this report and made recommendations to Constituent Councils, subject to approval of Leaders' Committee.
13 December 2022	Leaders' Committee is asked to approve the level of budget and borough contributions for 2023/24, as recommended by the Grants Committee on 30 November.
14-16 December 2022	Constituent Councils formally notified of the approved level of budget and borough contributions for 2023/24.
16 December 2022 – 31 January 2023	Constituent Councils to individually ratify the overall level of expenditure for 2023/24 through their respective decision-making arrangements.
1-15 February 2023	The City of London Corporation, as the Designated Councils for the Grants Scheme, approves the levy for 2023/24 on Constituent Councils
15 February 2023	Constituent Councils informed of level of approved expenditure and borough contributions for 2023/24

Budgetary pressures and developments

15. This budget report is prepared against a backdrop of high inflation rates which have surged to a three decade high during 2022. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 11.1% in the 12 months to October 2022. There are several factors contributing to the high level of inflation such as the rise in energy prices, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, supply chain bottleneck in the post Covid-19 recovery period, strong labour market etc. Rising inflation has put additional financial pressure on budgets, most notably for employee and property costs within the Grants Committee, which has resulted in a proposed contribution from reserves of £18,000 as set out in paragraph 24.
16. It is proposed that a review of London Councils operating model, inclusive of Grants Committee operations, will be carried out within the next six months to identify savings and efficiencies that reduce the use of reserves when setting the annual budget. Measures have already been taken to identify potential savings by reviewing London Councils' office space requirements with a view of moving its main office to a smaller premises.

Budget Proposal for 2023/24

17. Appendix A to this report sets out detailed information relating to the proposed budget for 2023/24. The budget assumes:
 - A core, pan-London scheme of services to meet agreed service priorities 1 and 2 of £6.233 million, which includes the membership subscriptions for boroughs for London Funders of £60,000; and
 - In addition to the indicative gross grant payments budget of £6.233 million, the proposal includes a provision for grants administration of £453,000.

Administration of Commissions

18. The staffing costs figures within the proposed 2023/24 budget options reflects direct staffing costs delivery the S.48 Priority 1 and 2 programme, together with the apportionment of time spent on Grants Committee activities by other London Councils staff, such as Grants Committee servicing and Public Affairs. The staffing budget also includes a £10,000 provision for maternity cover and the vacancy level of 2%.
19. In addition, an apportionment of time spent by Corporate Resources, Corporate Governance other than Committee Servicing, the Chief Executive's office, and London Councils Political Advisors are included in the central recharges figure for supporting the Committee's functions, as well as a notional rental figure for office space occupied at Southwark Street.
20. All estimates of administration expenditure levels have previously been based upon a threshold of 5% of the budget for payments to commissions in respect of the borough funded S.48 scheme, as agreed by Grants Committee in the review of non-grants expenditure levels conducted in early 2009. However, with recent inflationary pressures, it continues to be challenging to contain all administrative costs within the 5% envelope, especially after the introduction of the monitoring arrangements in April 2013 and the increase in central costs following the review of the recharge model during 2013/14 following an objection to London Councils accounts. Administrative expenditure for the S.48 commissions, therefore, now equate to 6.8% (or 4.7% excluding central recharges) of the boroughs S.48 budget of £6.686 million, amounting to £453,000 in total for 2023/24.

Use of Reserves

21. Table 1 below updates the Committee on the revised estimated level of balances as at 31 March 2023, if all current known liabilities and commitments are considered, plus the projected underspend of £3,000 for 2022/23:

Table 1 – Estimated Uncommitted Reserves as at 31 March 2023

	Borough Total
	£000
Unaudited reserves as at 1 April 2022	745
Projected surplus/(deficit) for the year	3
Projected reserves as at 31 March 2023	748

22. At its meeting in September 2013, the Grants Executive agreed that it would be appropriate to retain a minimum level of reserves equating to 3.75% of the S.48 borough programme. Based on a proposed borough programme of £6.686 million, this equates to £251,000 for 2023/24. If the recommendations contained in this report are agreed by this Committee, the projected position on reserves is detailed in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Estimated Uncommitted Reserves as at 1 April 2023

	Amount
	£000
Projected reserves as at 31 March 2023	748
Commitments in 2023/24	(18)
Projected reserves as at 1 April 2023	730
Indicative total expenditure 2023/24	6,686
Forecast reserves as a % of indicative expenditure	10.92

23. Due to the budgetary pressures, as set out in paragraph 15 above, it is proposed that a one-off contribution from uncommitted reserves be made in 2023/24. This one-off contribution from reserves will be used to manage this transitional period while the review of London Councils operating model is completed and a move to a smaller office space is secured.
24. The projected residual level of S.48 reserves is £730,000, or 10.92% of the £6.686 million S.48 programme, which is in excess of the 3.75% benchmark.

Borough Contributions

25. Paragraphs 11 to 13 of this report set out the legal position relating to contributions payable by constituent councils to the London Councils Grants Scheme. Contributions for 2023/24 have been calculated using the latest available ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2020 and are set out in Appendix B. The mid-year estimates for June 2021 have not yet been released by ONS.

Grants Committee Medium-term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2025/26

26. The indicative Grant Committee budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been prepared on the basis that borough contributions to the scheme will remain frozen over the three-year period to 2025/26. In addition to reductions on premises costs, the review of London Councils operating model will seek to identify annual savings and efficiencies within the Grants Committee budget ranging from £20,000 to £50,000. The detailed Grants Committee budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found at Appendix C.

Summary

27. This report considers the proposed budget for the Grants Scheme for 2023/24 and makes a recommendation to the Committee on the appropriate level to recommend to constituent councils for approval, following recommendation made by the Grants Committee at its meeting on 30 November. Specifically, the report proposes to an overall level of expenditure in 2023/24 of £6.686 million, which requires borough contributions of £6.668 million (refer to Appendix B), the same level of contribution as for the current year, and a transfer from uncommitted reserves of £18,000.
28. The financial year 2023/24 represents the second year of the four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2019.

Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed revenue income and expenditure budget 2023/24;

Appendix B – Proposed borough subscriptions 2023/24;

Appendix C – Indicative revenue income and expenditure budget 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Background Papers

Grants Committee Budget Working Papers 2022/23 to 2025/26;

Grants Committee Final Accounts Working Papers 2022/23;

Grants Committee Revenue Budget Forecast Working Papers 2022/23; and

London Councils Consolidated Budget Working Papers 2022/23 to 2025/26.

Grants Committee Income and Expenditure Budget 2023/24

Expenditure	Revised Budget 2022/23 £000	Developments £000	Inflation £000	Original Budget 2023/24 £000
Payments in respect of Grants				
London Councils Grants Programme	6,173	0	0	6,173
Membership Fees to London Funders (for all boroughs)	60	0	0	60
Sub-Total	6,233	0	0	6,233
Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure				
Contractual Commitments				
Maintenance of GIFTS Grants IT system	10	0	0	10
	10	0	0	10
Salary Commitments				
Officers	242	12	8	262
Members	19	0	1	20
Maternity provision	10	0	0	10
	271	12	9	292
Discretionary Expenditure				
Staff training/recruitment advertising	7	0	0	7
Staff travel	2	0	0	2
	9	0	0	9
Total Operating Expenditure	290	12	9	311
Central Recharges	145	-3	0	142
Total Expenditure	6,668	9	9	6,686
Income				
Core borough subscriptions				
Contribution to grant payments	6,173	0	0	6,173
Contribution to non-grants expenditure	495	0	0	495
	6,668	0	0	6,668
Transfer from Reserves	0	18	0	18
Central Recharges	0	0	0	0
Total Income	6,668	18	0	6,686
Net Expenditure	0	9	-9	0

Borough Subscriptions 2023/24

ONS Mid-2020 Estimate of Population ('000)	%	2022/23 Base Borough Contribution (£)		ONS Mid-2020 Estimate of Population ('000)	%	2023/24 Base Borough Contribution (£)	Base Difference from 2022/23 (£)
Inner London							
279.52	3.10%	207,038	Camden	279.52	3.10%	207,038	0
10.94	0.12%	8,102	City of London	10.94	0.12%	8,102	0
289.03	3.21%	214,088	Greenwich	289.03	3.21%	214,088	0
280.94	3.12%	208,093	Hackney	280.94	3.12%	208,093	0
183.54	2.04%	135,951	Hammersmith and Fulham	183.54	2.04%	135,951	0
248.12	2.76%	183,779	Islington	248.12	2.76%	183,779	0
156.86	1.74%	116,189	Kensington and Chelsea	156.86	1.74%	116,189	0
321.81	3.57%	238,367	Lambeth	321.81	3.57%	238,367	0
305.31	3.39%	226,143	Lewisham	305.31	3.39%	226,143	0
320.02	3.55%	237,037	Southwark	320.02	3.55%	237,037	0
331.97	3.69%	245,890	Tower Hamlets	331.97	3.69%	245,890	0
329.74	3.66%	244,235	Wandsworth	329.74	3.66%	244,235	0
269.85	3.00%	199,877	Westminster	269.85	3.00%	199,877	0
3,327.64	36.96%	2,464,789		3,327.64	36.96%	2,464,789	0
Outer London							
214.11	2.38%	158,589	Barking and Dagenham	214.11	2.38%	158,589	0
399.01	4.43%	295,545	Barnet	399.01	4.43%	295,545	0
249.30	2.77%	184,658	Bexley	249.30	2.77%	184,658	0
327.75	3.64%	242,767	Brent	327.75	3.64%	242,767	0
332.75	3.70%	246,470	Bromley	332.75	3.70%	246,470	0
388.56	4.32%	287,809	Croydon	388.56	4.32%	287,809	0
340.34	3.78%	252,091	Ealing	340.34	3.78%	252,091	0
333.59	3.71%	247,088	Enfield	333.59	3.71%	247,088	0
266.36	2.96%	197,291	Haringey	266.36	2.96%	197,291	0
252.34	2.80%	186,907	Harrow	252.34	2.80%	186,907	0
260.65	2.90%	193,064	Havering	260.65	2.90%	193,064	0
309.01	3.43%	228,887	Hillingdon	309.01	3.43%	228,887	0
271.77	3.02%	201,298	Hounslow	271.77	3.02%	201,298	0
179.14	1.99%	132,691	Kingston upon Thames	179.14	1.99%	132,691	0
206.45	2.29%	152,920	Merton	206.45	2.29%	152,920	0
355.27	3.95%	263,146	Newham	355.27	3.95%	263,146	0
305.66	3.40%	226,401	Redbridge	305.66	3.40%	226,401	0
198.14	2.20%	146,763	Richmond upon Thames	198.14	2.20%	146,763	0
207.71	2.31%	153,849	Sutton	207.71	2.31%	153,849	0
276.94	3.08%	205,130	Waltham Forest	276.94	3.08%	205,130	0
5,674.85	63.04%	4,203,363		5,674.85	63.04%	4,203,363	0
9,002.49	100.00%	6,668,152	Totals	9,002.49	100.00%	6,668,152	0

Grants Committee Indicative Income and Expenditure Budget

2024/25 and 2025/26

Expenditure	Indicative Budget 2024/25 £000	Indicative Budget 2025/26 £000
Payments in respect of Grants		
London Councils Grants Programme	6,173	6,173
Membership Fees to London Funders (for all boroughs)	60	60
Sub-Total	6,233	6,233
Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure		
Contractual Commitments		
Maintenance of GIFTS Grants IT system	10	10
	10	10
Salary Commitments		
Officers	268	273
Members	19	19
Maternity provision	10	10
	297	302
Discretionary Expenditure		
Staff training/recruitment advertising	7	7
Staff travel	2	2
	9	9
Savings and Efficiency Targets	-8	-20
Total Operating Expenditure	308	301
Central Recharges	127	134
Total Expenditure	6,668	6,668
Income		
Core borough subscriptions		
Contribution to grant payments	6,173	6,173
Contribution to non-grants expenditure	495	495
	6,668	6,668
Transfer from Reserves	0	0
Central Recharges	0	0
Total Income	6,668	6,668
Net Expenditure	0	0

Leaders Committee

London Councils' Shared Ambitions Progress report

Item no: 11

Report by: Alison Griffin **Job title:** Chief Executive

Date: 13 December 2022

Contact Officer: Jillian Kay, Strategic Director, Recovery
(jillian.kay@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

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Summary: This report outlines a progress report and update on London Councils' Shared Ambitions Milestones since they were agreed by Leaders in July. We have substantial progress to report across the board, in a context for London and Londoners which is particularly challenging. Members are invited to agree a new roadmap for the six months ahead (Annex A).

Recommendations Members are asked to:

- Note the progress report and approve the suggested priorities for the first half of next year.

London Councils' Shared Ambitions Progress report

1. Introduction

1.1. This report outlines a progress report on London Council's Shared Ambitions milestones, five months on from their agreement by Leaders in July 2022. The 'Shared Ambitions' framework is illustrated below.



1.2. The period since July 2022 has been marked by political and economic instability, a growing concern across London about the cost-of-living crisis, the impact on Londoners and damage to London's recovery. The shared ambitions framework has enabled us to remain focussed in this context and we have made substantial progress against the roadmap, while responding to the changing context in our support to the Boroughs and in our lobbying. A detailed progress report against the framework is set out in section 2.

1.3. Also, since July, we have moved to a new phase of London's ambitious recovery programme. The Recovery Board, which is co-chaired by our Chair and the Mayor of London, will evolve next year into a 'partnership board'¹ for London, which will take its focus beyond recovery and will bring partners together to tackle a range of issues affecting Londoners. The recovery missions will continue but with many of them managed as business as usual, including through our shared ambitions programme as detailed below. This evolution has already begun, with important

¹ London Partnership Board is a working title

discussions on the cost-of-living crisis at the Board last month. This way of working is a positive legacy for London from our response to the pandemic.

1.4. Looking ahead, our recommendation is that the shared ambition framework remains appropriate, and we will continue to be flexible and responsive to events and opportunities. A revised roadmap is attached at Annex A. Proposed priorities for the next 6 months are:

- Cost of living working group and dashboard (Launch group & dashboard Dec 2022, Dashboard2.0 March 2023) *London's future*
- Agreement of the pan-London infrastructure framework (March 2023), ahead of UKREIFF (May) *London's future*
- Support for asylum seekers - with an opportunity to mark the anniversary of the Ukraine invasion in Feb 2023 *London's future*
- Delivery Plans for climate change programmes (March 2023)– London 'Partnership Board' item on retrofit (Feb 2023) *Climate and net zero*
- Driving up representation of London boroughs in the five new ICSs established across London – ongoing *Wellbeing and prevention*
- Development of policy positions on fiscal devolution through devolution task and finish group – launch in Jan 2023 – advice to Leaders summer 2023 *London's voice*
- Operating model review (April 2023) and continued work to embed race equality (ongoing) *Organisational development*

2. Progress against Shared Ambitions Milestones

2.1. London's Future: a relentless focus on levelling up

- Levelling up and tackling deprivation
- Jobs, skills and support for young people
- Supporting Londoners through the cost-of-living crisis
- Building collaboration between London partners
- Shaping our city for the future
- Developing London's role as a global city

Cost of living: We brought boroughs together in September on the cost-of-living crisis, to share plans and ideas for supporting Londoners through another challenging period. That discussion has been followed up by a number of activities, including the establishment of a member-officer working group chaired by Cllr Claire Holland, a new campaign that will be launched early in the new year in collaboration with the GLA to drive up pension credit take-up and the creation of a data dashboard to enable us to measure the impact of the crisis at pan-London and borough-level, as well as inform our policy development and campaigning. This first iteration of the dashboard should launch in December, and an updated version in March.

Building collaboration: We worked collaboratively with the GLA on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with Leaders agreement on funding allocations to the boroughs and influencing the main bidding pot priorities. Boroughs are on track to start spending on UKSPF in 2022-23, subject to Government agreement to the investment plan which is now overdue. London Councils and borough representatives will be part of a new UKSPF board, reporting to the London 'Partnership' Board, providing oversight of the fund as a whole.

Following the work that we undertook on UKSPF, the GLA is proposing to take a different approach to a new £12.5m Mayoral place-based regeneration fund. It does not propose to allocate via competitive bidding, but rather through a process of engagement and co-commissioning with London boroughs. London Councils has facilitated a discussion between GLA and London borough officers to discuss what data and other processes should be used to identify where the funding might be targeted.

Local Welfare Assistance We commissioned the design and trial of an evaluation framework for Local Welfare Assistance (LWA), working with 7 London boroughs over 6 months. The evaluation has now been completed and the report is due to be published in December. It found that LWA is effective at preventing escalation of crisis and protecting residents from harmful consequences, as well as providing an opportunity for councils to sign-post residents to relevant support that can help prevent future crisis. The findings will inform the ongoing work of the Robust Safety Net mission, including working with interested boroughs to support them to implement the evaluation framework included in the report, as

well as future discussions with government departments to make the case for dedicated LWA funding.

Pan-London plan on SEND: Since the publication of the Green Paper ‘Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability (SEND), we have held a member event with lead members for children to help us shape our response to the proposals set out in the paper, written to Ministers and published an article by Cllr Edwards setting out the key messages from our response. We are working with the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) SEND working group to continue to mitigate some of the challenges facing boroughs and children with SEND and their families.

Leadership on refugee resettlement and reform of asylum dispersal: Since March 2022 we have convened a weekly/fortnightly Ukraine borough leads network. This enables boroughs to share good, innovative and emerging practice, identify and escalate issues of concern. We have also supported borough leads to respond to the humanitarian emergency and escalate issues through officer and political routes following the rapid decanting of the Manston processing.

Working with London boroughs, we have agreed a model for Afghan resettlement to avoid the over-concentration of any homelessness responsibilities in those borough hosting bridging hotels.

A London dispersal plan for Asylum Seekers was developed in close collaboration with boroughs and agreed by Leaders in October 2022. The London asylum dispersal multi-factor model was submitted to Home Office alongside a set of principles and conditions for improving the wider system for receiving, accommodating, supporting and integrating asylum seekers. The London dispersal model has been received and agreed by Home Office.

London’s infrastructure: The delivery of a pan-London infrastructure framework began in August and is on track to be completed by the end of March 2023 ahead of MPIM. The framework will set out a prioritised list of schemes with strategic value for London and that could be particularly attractive to private investors. A workshop with leaders is planned for

mid-January to review the emerging framework, with early soundings of investors also planned for that month.

Working with GLA, boroughs, SRPs and businesses to deliver the Economic

Recovery Framework: In October, we held the first meeting of the refreshed London Councils Economy Board, chaired by Cllr Elizabeth Campbell with portfolio holders around economy, employment, skills, transportation, and environment. The board discussed a refresh of the economic recovery framework, which will be published shortly.

2.2. Climate Adaptation and Net Zero: delivering the seven climate programmes to address the climate issues facing boroughs.

- Delivering the seven climate change programmes
- Financing climate change action
- Supporting people into new green jobs
- Delivering a New Green Deal for London
- London Councils' journey to net zero

3Ci: We are a founding partner of the Cities Commission for Climate Investment (3Ci), which reached an important milestone in October with the launch of an outline business case for place-based packages of investment that blend public and private finance for new infrastructure. Over the next 12 months, 3Ci will be seeking to establish a range of demonstrator projects to test the principles and assumptions of the business case on the ground. Working with boroughs, we have identified over 600 projects that could support London to achieve its net zero ambitions and are ensuring that priority schemes are incorporated into the pan-London infrastructure framework.

Delivery Plan of Climate Programme actions: Over the summer, we brought together officers from the 7 climate change programmes to reflect on the progress made over the last 2 years, look at the connections and common challenges and start to scope out the next phase of programme development. There was broad consensus that by working together councils can have greater impact on the climate emergency, but there is also a recognition that a plan is needed for sustainably resourcing this work in the next phase. The programmes are naturally at different stages, but all are starting to deliver key actions from their plans. One of the most notable achievements to date has been Retrofit London winning the MJ Award for 'leadership in responding to the climate emergency' in June 2022.

Green New Deal for London: We continue to jointly deliver the Green New Deal mission with GLA colleagues. The focus is on retrofitting all buildings, improving green finance for net zero projects and creating the right conditions for accelerating programmes for green skills development. In February, we brought all of the different stakeholders together in a Warmer and Greener Buildings Summit, which resulted in a number of actions being taken forward. London Councils leads through its Retrofit London programme and business organisations have committed action on their stock. London Councils and GLA have developed a joint statement on green finance and how the place-based approach of blended finance can work with the green bond that the Mayor is progressing. On green skills, we are currently taking stock of all the different activities taking place, including strategic sub-regions, the Green Economy climate programme, individual boroughs and the GLA with a view of creating an overall, collaborative strategy for delivery in this space.

Transport and Mobility contracts: We continue to work towards the inclusion of climate change and sustainability in Transport and Mobility contracts (the milestone of Q2 2002 for LLCS and HEB has been rolled forward to 2023). A new Assistant Director, Commercial, Contracts and Service Delivery, was appointed and started at London Councils last month. This will enable further progress in this area, including the development of a procurement pipeline for transport and mobility during Q1 of 2023.

2.3. Wellbeing and the London borough role in Prevention: establishing and developing Integrated Care Systems across London.

- Supporting boroughs in improving health & wellbeing
- Addressing health inequalities
- Improving housing conditions
- Improving mobility and transport
- Addressing violence against women and girls
- Developing Integrated Care Systems

Drive up representation of London boroughs in ICSs: We have formed a Chief Executives' ICS leads group to enable the exchange of intelligence and information about the development of new partnership arrangements, including ICB membership and governance and place partnerships. Working with the Chief Executive group and London

Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs' Network, we have drafted a stocktake of ICSs in London and boroughs' views on the priorities for new partnership arrangements. We have worked with NHS partners and voluntary and community groups to collate innovative models of partnership working and produce a framework for borough-based partnerships to undertake a self-assessment of local arrangements. Finally, we held a Leader and Member session on 14 November, shining a light on the role of councils in ICS partnerships and borough partnerships and facilitating a space for members to exchange experiences about collaboration with health partners.

We have published a report and self-assessment tool to promote early years integration. The purpose is to improve wellbeing for both parents and young children, which has led to greater collaboration in ICSs. We are working with partners in the NHS to promote the report findings across regional and ICS networks in the NHS.

Improvement in housing standards and conditions: We have set up the Setting the Standard system (London's centralised temporary accommodation inspection service) and 33 per cent of the bed and breakfast and studio properties used for Temporary Accommodation in London have been inspected. We have a target to have inspected 60 per cent by 2023. We have also launched a sector led housing standards improvement programme, which includes a series of learning action groups. This programme will also include a peer-to-peer programme taking place in early 2023.

We are leading the Life Off the Streets programme, a partnership initiative for tackling rough sleeping in London. The programme is ambitious and cross cutting and includes tackling non-UK rough sleeping, responding to the specific needs of women and young people, ensuring greater support for rough sleepers around their health and support needs and enough off the streets accommodation that can manage those needs.

Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): We held our first member lunchtime event on tackling VAWG, chaired by our Community Safety and VAWG Lead, Cllr Jas Athwal. With around 30 attendees, topics covered included the key challenges for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence, services funded through the London Council Grants programme and a case study presented by Shaminder Ubhi (Director of the Ashiana Network, one of London Councils' grants partners) about a survivor of abuse with no recourse to public funds who accessed support via their service.

We have successfully engaged at an early stage with new Police Commissioner, establishing a platform for improving the police and local authority partnership including local policing and community engagement.

Review of Climate Programme actions with public health outcomes: A workshop was held between the seven climate programmes, GLA, ADPH and others which identified several significant synergies, including tackling inequality and promoting public health. These will be tackled through the implementation plan scheduled for later in the year. The low carbon transport programme is undertaking a deeper assessment of the overlaps between transport and health policy as part of its work. Again, this will be included in the implementation plan. LEDNet has been through a process to define its strategic priorities and reinvigorate the network. Five key themes are taken forward, including transport and health & environment. All themes are currently being scoped out with action plans being developed.

2.4. London's Voice: developing a shared London narrative to maximise the city's opportunities for all Londoners.

- Lobbying for London
- A shared London narrative
- A fair share of funding for Londoners
- A vision for greater financial autonomy
- Greater devolution and levelling up
- London Councils is a trusted partner

Levelling Up and London: London Councils was recently invited to submit evidence for the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee's inquiry into funding for levelling up. Our response welcomed the overall strategic aim of levelling up as a lever for addressing deprivation and regional differences in opportunity. However, we also raised concerns regarding the lack of an overarching funding strategy, the short-term nature of levelling up funding and an overly centralised system with government controlling too many of the funding levers. We reiterated our call for greater fiscal devolution to local areas over the medium to long term.

Making the case for London: London Councils have led the development of Opportunity London where we work with key London partners to present a powerful narrative about London's future as an open and green world city to global investors to attract sustainable investment into all of London's boroughs and communities. Through Opportunity London we are working with other cities as part of 'Team UK' at a range of investor events in the UK and which will include a joint stand with Manchester at the UK Reiff investment event in Leeds in Spring 2023.

We have developed a new narrative for London Councils as the collective of London local government where shared ambitions are developed, agreed and championed by members working together; where boroughs speak as one and collaborate with Government, the Mayor of London, the London public sector, the third sector and key UK and other international cities. A programme of work is underway to ensure that the new narrative is embedded in all of the briefings and communications of London Councils to ensure consistent and coherent messaging across the organisation.

Fair funding campaigning: While the government has not consulted on local government finance reforms, as had been planned in July, London Councils has undertaken a range of activity to lobby for fair share of funding for Londoners. This has included: raising awareness of the overarching pressures on boroughs budgets caused by inflation (June); highlighting the potential undercounting of London's population in the 2021 Census (June); illustrating the financial pressures on high needs budgets (in responding to the SEND Green Paper consultation, July); raising concerns about planned reforms to the Homelessness Prevention Grant (consulted on in August) and the distribution of ASC charging reform funding (consulted on in September).

Budget submission: Our submission ahead of the Mini-Budget in September set out the challenges facing London boroughs, emphasising the lower funding of outer London boroughs. It sought financial support for London's boroughs, called for increases to social care funding and postponement of the ASC funding reforms, support for residents and businesses with the rising cost of living and inflation, funding for net zero, and devolution. The rapid changes to the wider national political context, meant London Councils did not make a submission. Our lobbying and media campaigning ahead of the recent Autumn

Statement gained coverage in the Guardian, Times and BBC and other outlets to raise awareness of the £700m funding gap London boroughs were facing for 2023-24.

While we were successful in our lobbying call for a delay to the proposed ASC funding reforms, the recent Autumn Statement announcements on the 7% cap on social rents and the freeze in Local Housing Allowance rates remain a significant concern.

Fiscal devolution: Analysis was undertaken in August to support the decision not to reconstitute the pan-London business rates pool next year (seen previously as an important steppingstone to greater fiscal devolution). In November, the Executive agreed to establish a task and finish group to help update and renew London Councils policy positions on fiscal devolution. This work will begin in January 2023 and make recommendations to Leaders Committee by the summer.

2.5. Value Proposition for Boroughs: ensuring our services and everything we do adds value to the work of boroughs.

- Led by the boroughs
- Our services, advocacy, and lobbying
- Supporting professional networks
- Promoting innovation and leading practice
- Supporting boroughs to be more resilient

Led by the boroughs: We have launched a new series of online briefings for councillors – London in Brief. These are led by London Councils Executive Members and Strategic Policy Leads and all London’s councillors direct access to the expertise at London Councils and its partners. Councillors can attend live or access recordings of the events when it is convenient to them. The subject matter is focussed on London Councils shared ambitions and started with workshops on VAWG and Climate Change.

As the provider of the secretariat for the London APPG we organised a number of briefings on key priorities from the shared ambitions including asylum seekers and cost of living to ensure that London’s parliamentarians are aware of how these issues impact on boroughs and how boroughs are working to tackle them.

Freedom Pass: We have completed the Freedom Pass settlement for 2023/24 with transport operators and the apportionment to boroughs. The cost of the settlement is £236.87 million, compared to £207.52 million in 2022/23. The increase in cost is largely down to assumed levels of fares rises (13.3%), recovery in rail usage and the completion of new stages of the Elizabeth Line. The final cost could come down in the coming months once DfT and the Mayor announce fares rises for next year. It should be noted that without the agreement negotiated by London Councils, TfL could invoke the 'reserve scheme', which would be significantly more expensive for boroughs.

We successfully completed a mid-term review of Freedom Passes expiring in 2025. The exercise checks continued eligibility of pass holders at the mid-point of their passes' five-year life. The exercise, which is forecast to cost £177,000, is estimated to avoid £6 million of cost to boroughs, thereby generating a benefit / cost ratio of 34 to one.

Senior workforce development: In workforce development, we have delivered an induction offer for new Chief Executives that have started during the past year that has been well received.

With significant churn at chief executive level in London there has been recognition this year of the need for a workforce strategy that will ensure a pipeline of chief executives and senior managers that can effectively support Leaders in their roles. The first elements of this work comprise continuation of the London Leadership Programme (LLP) and the development of an 'aspiring chief executives' programme. The recommissioning of a further four cohorts of the LLP will begin in December ready for launch in summer 2023, while the commissioning of the aspiring chief executive programme will begin in the new year. The aim of this programme will be to help participants understand the challenges of being a chief executive, how they can work effectively with members and how to tackle issues at a pan-London level. We have also developed and commissioned London Skills Academy to build housing development capabilities in boroughs.

Performance benchmarking: The announcement of the Office for Local Government and their intentions around the collection and publishing of performance data meant a decision was taken to pause the building and commissioning of a new bespoke benchmarking solution. In the interim to help support boroughs be more resilient, we have worked with the

Local Government Association to develop a series of data reports using their LG Inform benchmarking tool. These reports will provide information to the Self Improvement Board (SIB) that will measure the performance of London against a set of key metrics, highlight lines of enquiry for the Board related to borough or service performance and highlight notable practice from boroughs that can be shared more widely. This new model of reporting was trailed at the October Board meeting with information presented that is now enabling deep dives on a series of identified topics/themes. We will support boroughs to use the LG Inform reports and amend their own versions as required, alongside continuing to seek further information on the establishment of the Office of Local Government and government intentions around benchmarking.

On behalf of the SIB, we have continued to successfully deliver peer-to-peer support programmes for chief executives and treasurers. Both programmes have had high levels of engagement from across almost all boroughs and help contribute to building personal and organisational resilience.

Support for networks: We are ensuring that all professional networks supported by London Councils are aware of the shared ambitions and support their delivery. This has included the Directors of Communications rapid sharing of best practice about communicating with the public on the cost-of-living crisis; as well as a joint workshop with the National Centre for Cyber Security and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure on how to communicate with the public and other stakeholders in the event of a cyber-attack.

2.6. Organisational Development: enabling the organisation and its people to do their best work on behalf of London and Londoners.

- Powers
- People and diversity
- Premises
- Practices
- Budget strategy

Budget and premises strategy: Our budget and medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) were completed on schedule and presented to the Executive. Work on delivering the

strategy will continue in the new year with a planned review of our operating model. The review of our future premises requirements carried out by Moveworks, a firm of workplace consultants, was completed in October 2022. It revealed that we need significantly less office space than we currently occupy, and we can secure significant savings on premises costs over the medium-term by moving to a smaller property. This presents an opportunity to free up resources to reduce reliance on the use of reserves when setting annual budgets and will make our financial arrangements more sustainable. Members have considered the outcome of the review and are supportive of our proposed strategy to move to a smaller office space to reduce premises costs.

Powers and governance: We provided initial advice to Elected Officers about priorities on London Councils powers and governance and have begun discussions with DLUHC about the potential for London Councils to have the same powers to receive and distribute funds pan-London as the GLA.

Leadership and values: We created an internal leadership group to engage a wider group of staff in the leadership of the organisation. Our work to embed race equality across the organisation is continuing as planned with staff participating in the Race Equality Learning & Development Sessions commissioned for this year. We also recently celebrated two years of the Leadership in Colour programme.

Outcome based pilots: We successfully delivered three pilots between May and July using an outcomes-based methodology that enabled collaborative working across multi-disciplinary teams. The pilots focussed on data collaboration in order to shape policy positions, reviewing the on-boarding process for new starts and how we can be better at identifying and sharing leading practice. The results and learning from the pilots were presented to CMT and will be used to shape using the outcomes focussed way of working to deliver other shared ambitions projects in 2023.

3. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the progress report and update and provide any steers to officers for priorities for next year. Members are also asked to note the below economic, policy and resource implications.

Economic landscape

The political and financial turmoil in late 2022 reshaped the economic and financial landscape for London and the UK. Rising energy, food, and other goods prices have pushed up interest rates to levels not seen since the 2008 financial crisis. Inflation is set to peak at a 40-year high in this quarter (11% CPI), and unemployment is projected to peak at 4.9% in Q3 2024 from the current 3.5%. In summary, the medium-term fiscal outlook has materially worsened since the beginning of the year due to a weaker economy, higher interest rates, and higher inflation.

The squeeze on real incomes, rise in interest rates, and fall in house prices all weigh on consumption and investment. It is expected this will tip the economy into a recession lasting just over a year from the third quarter of 2022.

Policy implications

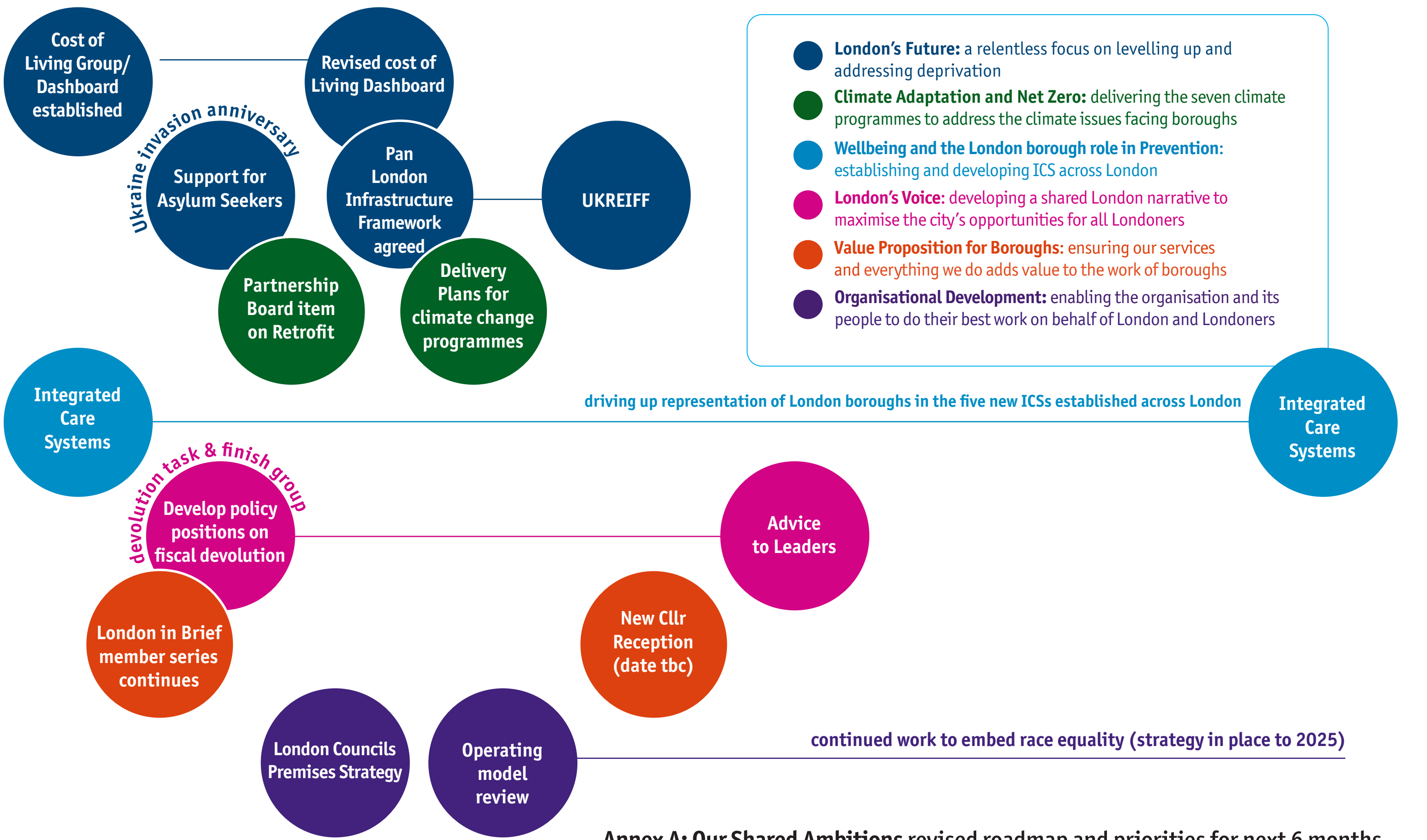
The Milestones should also be viewed within the wider policy context and key political events that will occur in the year ahead. These include, but are not limited to:

- Mar 2023 – Spring Statement
- May 2023 – Local Elections (England outside London)
- May 2023 – Kings Speech
- 6 May 2023 –Coronation
- Sep – Oct 2023 – Party Conferences
- Oct 2023 – Autumn Budget
- Nov 2023 – UNFCCC COP28

Resource implications

London Councils is already working to deliver the Shared Ambitions as set out in the report. At its meeting in November, the Executive recommended that the Leaders' Committee approve the proposed budget for 2023/24 and MTFS, which is included as a separate item on the agenda. The budget and financial strategy aims to ensure that we make the best use of our resources to deliver our leaders' ambitions. The Executive has established a Shared Ambition Impact Fund to support this work. The fund is being used to augment expertise and capacity in the health and wellbeing team to ensure the development of the Integrated Care Systems deliver the right outcomes for London's communities. It may also be

necessary to draw on the Fund to support our work on the cost-of-living data dashboard (see separate paper to Leaders).



- London's Future:** a relentless focus on levelling up and addressing deprivation
- Climate Adaptation and Net Zero:** delivering the seven climate programmes to address the climate issues facing boroughs
- Wellbeing and the London borough role in Prevention:** establishing and developing ICS across London
- London's Voice:** developing a shared London narrative to maximise the city's opportunities for all Londoners
- Value Proposition for Boroughs:** ensuring our services and everything we do adds value to the work of boroughs
- Organisational Development:** enabling the organisation and its people to do their best work on behalf of London and Londoners

Annex A: Our Shared Ambitions revised roadmap and priorities for next 6 months

Leaders' Committee

Appointment of External Auditor

Item no: 12

Report by: David Sanni

Job title: Director, Corporate Resources

Date: 13 December 2022

Contact Officer: David Sanni

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Summary

At its meeting on 1 December 2022, the Audit Committee received a report providing details on the outcome of the external audit procurement process. The Audit Committee reviewed the procurement process carried out by London Councils officers and recommended that the Leaders' Committee approve the appointment of PKF Littlejohn LLP as London Councils' external auditor for a four-year period, commencing with the audit of the 2022/23 accounts and ending with the completion of the audit of the 2025/26 accounts.

Recommendations The Leaders' Committee is asked to:

- note the recommendation of the Audit Committee; and
- approve the appointment of PKF Littlejohn LLP as London Councils' external auditor for a four-year period commencing with the audit of the 2022/23 accounts and ending with the completion of the audit of the 2025/26 accounts.

Introduction

1. In accordance with the requirements of London Councils' governing agreement, the Director of Corporate Resources must make appropriate arrangements to procure the audit of London Councils' annual accounts. An audited version of the annual accounts is presented to the Audit Committee for approval before circulation to all member boroughs each year. In June 2019, following the recommendation from the Audit Committee, this Committee approved the appointment of Grant Thornton as London Councils external auditor for a four-year period covering the audit of the 2019/20 to 2022/23 accounts.
2. A decision was taken by the Audit Committee to retender the external service a year early following a significant increase to Grant Thornton's proposed fee to audit the 2021/22 accounts. In addition, the firm has been unable to complete its audits within the September deadline set out in the audit contract due to the impact of Covid-19 working restrictions and other factors affecting the public sector audit profession.
3. London Councils officers carried out a procurement exercise to appoint an auditor for the four-year period commencing with the audit of the current year's accounts. The outcome of the procurement exercise was considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 1 December 2022. The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference includes the responsibility to make a recommendation to the Leaders Committee on the appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditor. The Audit Committee was asked to review the procurement process and recommend the appointment of the successful tenderer.

Procurement Process

4. As a joint committee, London Councils is ineligible to join the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) scheme to procure its external audit service. PSAA is specified as an appointing person under the provisions of

the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and appoints auditors to local government bodies that opt into its scheme. PSAA is unable to appoint an auditor to joint committees as they are not listed as relevant bodies within Schedule 2 of the act and do not have an obligation to produce statutory accounts. Joint committees that opt to produce annual accounts have to make their own arrangements to appoint an auditor.

5. An open tender exercise was published in June 2022 for the procurement of an external auditor to audit the accounts and annual returns for the 2022/23 to 2025/26 financial years. A decision to proceed with an open tender procedure rather than a procurement framework, as used in previous exercises, was taken in order to open up the process to a wider number of firms. A previous requirement for local government experience was removed to attract more interest from audit firms and improve competition. The tender was advertised on the government Find a Tender portal for a 30-day period in accordance with the procurement regulations. The tender was also advertised on London Councils website. Despite a reasonable number of views of the tender advert on the portal, there were no bids received by the submission deadline.
6. As no bids were received, officers sought legal advice from the City of London Solicitor's department on whether the negotiated procedure without prior publication allowed under Regulation 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 could be used as an alternative procurement process. The legal team confirmed that Regulation 32 is permitted as no bids were submitted in response to the open tender procedure. The negotiations under this process are subject to certain conditions which include no substantial changes to the contract terms and conditions set out in the original advertised tender.
7. Following initial discussions, London Councils officers invited six firms to bid for the audit contract. The firms were asked to provide responses to questions based on the assessment criteria included in the Invitation to Tender (ITT) to describe how they intend to meet the requirements of the service. The assessment criteria which formed the basis of evaluating the tenders comprised of the following key areas:

- Audit approach
 - Expertise and performance
 - Accounting framework
 - Leadership
 - Staffing Structure
 - Client relationship
 - Implementation
8. Out of the six firms invited to bid for the work, one firm submitted a bid, three firms declined to bid and no response was received from the remaining two firms. The bid received was from PKF Littlejohn LLP. An assessment and evaluation of the bid was carried out by London Councils officers during October 2022. PKF Littlejohn submitted a convincing bid which showed its ability to deliver an effective external audit service. It is a top 30 audit firm in the UK that has extensive experience auditing membership organisations such as London Councils. Its clients include the Local Government Association (LGA), the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Academy of Medical Sciences, British Beer and Pub Association and British Property Association. Its not-for-profit client base also includes schools, universities, charities and parish councils.
9. It provided a detailed description of its audit approach which include an in-depth planning process to identify key audit risks and the evaluation of financial and operational controls. Its proposed team is led by a partner and manager with significant experience auditing not-for-profit organisations, including the LGA. The firm's technical partner has experience of auditing local authority accounts and will be involved in the training and briefing of staff assigned to the audit team. The firm will use its experience of working in the public sector through a framework contract with Small Authorities' Audit Appointments to audit small bodies such as parish councils. Through this work it attends the National Audit Office's (NAO) Local Authority Auditor Group which considers and discusses the NAO's Code of Audit Practice that sets out what auditors of local public bodies are required to do to fulfil their

statutory responsibilities. PKF Littlejohn quoted and annual audit fee £53,273 in its bid. This fee represents a decrease of £11,727 (18%) on Grant Thornton's proposed fee for 2021/22 of £65,000.

Audit Committee Recommendation

10. The Audit Committee reviewed the procurement process carried out by London Councils officers. The Committee was provided with the final scores resulting from the assessment and evaluation of the tender received. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Audit Committee recommends that the Leaders' Committee approve the appointment of PKF Littlejohn LLP as London Councils' external auditor for a four-year period commencing with the audit of the 2022/23 accounts and ending with the completion of the audit of the 2025/26 accounts.

Recommendation

11. The Leaders' Committee is asked to:

- note the recommendation of the Audit Committee; and
- approve the appointment of PKF Littlejohn LLP as London Councils' external auditor for a four-year period commencing with the audit of the 2022/23 accounts and ending with the completion of the audit of the 2025/26 accounts.

Financial Implications for London Councils

The contract will be for a four-year period, commencing with the audit of the 2022/23 accounts and ending on the completion of the audit of the 2025/26 accounts. If PKF Littlejohn LLP is appointed, the annual cost of the external audit contract for 2022/23 will be £53,273 which can be met from existing budget provisions. The contract terms stipulate that fee increases cannot exceed the Consumer Price Index.

Legal Implications for London Councils

London Councils' governing agreement requires the Director of Corporate Resources to make appropriate arrangements to procure the audit of the annual accounts.

Equalities Implications for London Councils

None

Appendices

None

Background Papers

London Councils Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement.

London Councils Audit Committee – Terms of Reference

External audit tender documents 2022

Leaders' Committee

Minutes and Summaries

Item no: 13

Report by: Lisa Dominic **Job title:** Senior Governance Support Officer
Date: 13 December 2022
Contact Officer: Christiane Jenkins
Telephone: 020 7934 9540 **Email:** Christiane.jenkins@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary Summaries of the minutes of London Councils

Recommendations Leader's Committee is recommended to note the attached minutes:

- TEC AGM – 9 June 2022
- Audit Committee – 16 June 2022
- Grants Committee AGM – 13 July 2022
- TEC Executive – 14 July 2022
- GLEF – 19 July 2022
- Audit Committee 15 September 2022
- TEC – 14 October 2022
- YPES – 20 October 2022
- Executive 8 November 2022
- Grants Executive – 14 November 2022

Leaders' Committee

Report from the Transport & Environment Committee – 9 June 2022

Item no:

Report by: Alan Edwards **Job title:** Governance Manager
Date: 11 October 2022
Contact Officer: Alan Edwards
Telephone: 020 7934 9911 **Email:** Alan.e@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee held on 9 June 2022

Recommendations: For information.

Attendance: Cllr Syed Ghani (LB Barking & Dagenham), Cllr Arun Mittra (LB Barnet, Deputy), Cllr Peter Craske (LB Bexley - Virtual), Cllr Krupa Sheth (LB Brent), Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley), Cllr Scott Roche (LB Croydon – Virtual), Cllr Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing), Cllr Rick Jewell (LB Enfield), Cllr Averil Lekau (RB Greenwich), Mayor Philip Glanville (LB Hackney, Chair), Cllr Sharon Holder (LB Hammersmith & Fulham), Cllr Mike Hakata (LB Haringey), Cllr Anjana Patel (LB Harrow - Virtual), Cllr Katherine Dunne (LB Hounslow), Cllr Rowena Champion (LB Islington), Cllr Cem Kemahli (RB Kensington & Chelsea), Cllr Ian Manders (RB Kingston), Cllr Rezina Choudhury (LB Lambeth), Cllr Louise Krupski (LB Lewisham), Cllr Natasha Irons (LB Merton), Cllr James Asser (LB Newham), Cllr Jo Blackman (LB Redbridge), Cllr Alex Ehmann (LB Richmond), Cllr Catherine Rose (LB Southwark), Cllr Barry Lewis (LB Sutton), Cllr Clyde Loakes (LB Waltham Forest), Cllr Claire Gilbert (LB Wandsworth, Deputy), Alex Williams (Transport for London), and Julian Bell (TEC Member on TfL Board).

Part A: AGM

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Geof Cooke (LB Barnet), Cllr Adam Harrison (LB Camden), Cllr Barry Muggleston (LB Havering), Cllr Jonathan Bianco (LB Hillingdon), Cllr Judi Gasser (LB Wandsworth), Cllr Paul Dimoldenberg (City of Westminster), and Shravan Joshi (City of London Corporation)

2. Declarations of Interest (in addition to those supplied on the sheet)

Freedom Pass & 60+ Oyster Card

Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley)
Cllr Rowena Champion (LB Islington)

East London Waste Authority

Cllr Jo Blackman (LB Redbridge)

North London Waste Authority

Cllr Arjun Mittra (LB Barnet)

Friend of London Transport Museum

Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley)

London Underground Transport Museum

Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley)

SERA

Cllr Jo Blackman (LB Redbridge)

Thames RFCC

To Note: Cllr James Asser (LB Newham) was standing down from the Thames RFCC.

Members were asked to let Alan Edwards know, via email, of any further declarations of interests they needed recorded for the minutes.

3. Election of TEC Chair for 2022/23

Councillor Clyde Loakes nominated Mayor Philip Glanville (LB Hackney) to be the Chair of TEC. This was seconded by Councillor Cem Kemahli. Mayor Philip Glanville was elected as the Chair of TEC for 2022/23.

Mayor Glanville welcomed the new TEC members to the first “in person” TEC meeting that he had chaired. He paid tribute to the colleagues that were no longer on the Committee, including Councillor Zinkin from LB Barnet, and Councillor Holland (LB Lambeth) who had been a previous TEC Chair and a TEC Vice Chair.

4. Election of Vice Chairs of TEC for 2022/23

The Committee appointed the following TEC vice chairs:

Councillor Deidre Costigan (Labour Vice Chair – LB Ealing)

Councillor Cem Kemahli (Conservative Vice Chair – RB Kensington & Chelsea), and

Councillor Alex Ehmann (Liberal Democrat Vice Chair – LB Richmond)

5. Revised Membership of London Councils’ TEC for 2022/23

The Committee considered and noted a revised report that set out the latest details of the Committee’s Membership for 2022/23. It was agreed that the TEC membership would be reported at the AGM.

The Chair said that Councillor Averil Lekau had been listed as the TEC Member for RB Greenwich and LB Tower Hamlets. It was agreed that Councillor Lekau would be removed from LB Tower Hamlets as this was an error. It was also agreed to add Cllr Guy Lambert as a deputy for LB Hounslow and to delete Councillor Jon Burke as a deputy for LB Hackney, and to replace him with Councillors Guy Nicholson and Mete Coban as deputies. Post meeting note: Shravan Joshi was nominated to be the new City of London representative on TEC.

6. Appointment of the TEC Executive Sub Committee for 2022/23

The Committee elected the following members to the TEC Executive Sub Committee for 2022/23:

Labour Representatives:

Mayor Phil Glanville (Chair – LB Hackney)

Cllr Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing)

Cllr Krupa Sheth (LB Brent)

Cllr Mike Hakata (LB Haringey)

Cllr James Asser (LB Newham)

Cllr Rezina Chowdhury (LB Lambeth)

Cllr Judi Gasser (LB Wandsworth)

Post meeting note: One Labour vacancy now exists as Councillor Gasser, LB Wandsworth, could not be on the TEC Executive Sub Committee.

Conservative Representatives:

Cllr Cem Kemahli (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

Cllr Peter Craske (LB Bexley)

Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley)

Liberal Democrat Representative:

Cllr Alex Ehmann (LB Richmond)

City of London Corporation Representative:

Shravan Joshi

7. Nominations to Outside Bodies 2022/23

The following nominations were made to the TEC Outside Bodies for 2022/23:

(a) Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat (LB Hounslow)

(b) Thames RFCC

West – Conservative Vacancy TBC

South West – Cllr Julia Neden-Watts (LB Richmond, LD)

South East – Cllr Averil Lekau (RB Greenwich)

North East – Cllr Syed Ghani (LB Barking & Dagenham)

Central North – Cllr Sharon Holder (LB Hammersmith & Fulham)

Central South – Cllr Catherine Rose (LB Southwark)

North – Cllr Mike Hakata (LB Haringey)

(c) London Sustainable Development Commission

Cllr Jo Blackman (RB Redbridge)

(d) Urban Design London (UDL)

Cllr Nigel Haselden (LB Lambeth)

Cllr Johnny Thalassites (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

(e) London City Airport Consultative Committee

The LB Redbridge TEC representative to be asked to be a member of LCACC for 2022/23 (and not LB Havering, as stated in the report).

(f) ReLondon (formerly LWARB)

A Conservative replacement is needed for Cllr Guy Senior (LB Wandsworth), who is no longer a serving councillor)

(g) London Fuel Poverty Partnership

Cllr Natasha Irons (LB Merton)

(ii) TEC Funding Sub-Group (Membership)

Cllr Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing, Lab)

Cllr Catherine Rose (LB Southwark, Lab)

Cllr Rick Jewell (LB Enfield, Lab)

Cllr Clyde Loakes (LB Waltham Forest, Lab)

Cllr Cem Kemahli (RB Kensington & Chelsea, Con)

Cllr Alex Ehmann (LB Richmond, Lib Dem)

x One Conservative Vacancy – To be confirmed.

(Post meeting note: Cllr Nicholas Bennett, LB Bromley, was nominated to fill the Conservative vacancy on the Transport Funding Sub-Group).

8. TEC AGM Minutes of 10 June 2021 (already agreed – for noting)

The Committee noted the TEC AGM minutes from 10 June 2021.

9. TEC Constitutional Matters

The Committee received a report that proposed an amendment to London Councils' Standing Orders. The report also provided, for information, the most recent version of London Councils' Scheme of Delegations, which encompassed amendments to reflect the current officer structure of London Councils.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the proposed amendment to London Councils' Standing Orders, as detailed in this report and at Appendix One; and **(ii)** noted the proposed amendments to London Councils' Scheme of Delegations to officers at Appendix Two, including the relevant amendments to sections 7, 8, 12 and Part A of Appendix A.

Part B: Items of Business

10. Talk by Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Transport

Seb Dance made some of the following comments:

- TfL depended on fares revenue to make up most of their funding. Other countries like Singapore received most of their funding for public transport through taxation.
- TfL was heading for a surplus before the pandemic. However, the pandemic had resulted in a big fall in ridership. Trains were becoming busy again but were not anywhere near what TfL would like (70% in the middle of the week, with ridership at the weekend being higher due to leisure and tourism). More financial support was required from the Government.
- The last short-term funding deal was due to end on 24 June 2022. Capital investment was needed to keep projects on cycle access and road junctions going.
- A number of conditions had been placed on TfL in order to receive funding. The current scheduled rail strikes would also affect TfL. The Government needed to invest in London's transport system. A large number of jobs depended on this (eg trains for the Elizabeth Line were made in Derby).
- TfL had no choice but to implement the 4% cut to the bus service network (21 services would be withdrawn in total under current plans). Attempts were being made to cover the withdrawn bus services with other services, although changes to peoples' journeys might be required. TfL had no choice but to plan for a "managed decline" in services.
- It was important that bus services were protected in outer London as well as inner London, and to ensure that there were no distinctions to this.

A Q and A session took place.

Councillor Manders asked for more details regarding the situation with capital funding. He said that a number of cycle lanes in his borough of Kingston remained only half finished. Councillor Rose voiced concern that most of the withdrawals of bus routes during the day were in the borough of Southwark. Also, the removal of some bus routes was having a detrimental effect on key growth corridors. Councillor Kemahli asked whether there was any flexibility on this 4% reduction to bus services. Seb Dance said that TfL was fighting for capital funding in order to improve the network. He said that it was essential that boroughs received funding for key infrastructure projects. Seb Dance said that TfL had wanted to continue from where it had left off and support from the boroughs was very much needed when it came to requesting TfL funding from the Government.

Councillor Holder asked whether an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) had been carried out when looking into the 4% cuts to bus services. She said that this needed to be shared with the boroughs (for example, the problems the mobility impaired might have in getting off and on of buses). Seb Dance said that a full EqIA had been carried out as part of the TfL consultation and this could be found on TfL's website. He said boroughs should let TfL know if there were any clear omissions. Seb Dance said that although it was not TfL's decision to cut bus services, TfL did have control over where the 4% cuts were implemented.

The Chair thanked Seb Dance for attending TEC and giving an update on the current situation with TfL funding.

11. Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) Expansion & Road User Charging Consultation, Discussion by Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment & Energy, and Alex William, Transport for London

Shirley Rodrigues made some the following comments:

- Road User Charging was a long way from being introduced, but emissions had to be reduced in order to meet the target in 2030.
- Huge strides had been made by 2016 to reduce air pollution, but London was still not meeting the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines (poor health among the young and elderly due to air pollution were a big problem)
- Vehicles were not meeting emission standards and this was causing lung problems in high polluting areas, including around schools.

Alex Williams, Director of Borough Planning, TfL, made the following comments:

- The Mayor had two main priorities for London, (a) to clean-up London's air, and (b) introduce a Road User Charging scheme. (Alan Edwards would send a copy of the presentation to TEC Members).
- TfL had looked at a whole range of initiatives, including the London-wide ULEZ scheme and a Road User Charging scheme. TfL was well aware of the cost of living crisis people were going through and would help people to transition to any new initiatives.
- The impacts of air pollution resulted in approximately 4,000 premature deaths in 2019 through conditions like asthma. This was a big and serious problem.
- TfL was helping to reduce poor air quality by cleaning up the bus and taxi fleets and increasing the uptake of EVs and encouraging Healthy Streets (walking etc). TfL could not do all this on its own though.
- ULEZ was the most effective scheme in reducing NO_x (a 9% reduction in 2019) and CO₂.
- A ten-week consultation period was taking place, and TfL had met with outer London Chief Executives to discuss the proposed ULEZ extension. The removal of the £10 autopay arrangement and an increase to the PCN level were deemed to be the most effective deterrent.

A Q and A session took place.

Councillor Kemahli said that a great deal of pollution came from tyres, as well as exhausts. He asked what was being done in order to tackle other harmful particulates. Councillor Krupski felt that scrappage schemes should be more nuanced. Car club membership could also be offered to help with this. Shirley Rodrigues said that pollution from tyres was a problem, although the main problem was the source of fuel. She said that TfL was unable to help with tyre pollution. With regards to scrappage schemes, Shirley Rodrigues said that the GLA would be updating people in due course, although they were trying to help the most in need through any scrappage schemes.

Shirley Rodrigues informed Members that a Road User Charging scheme would be needed, although this was nowhere near ready to be implemented. She said that discussions were just taking place to look at what needed to be taken into account and to understand what the issues were. She said that Road User Charging was being put out with the ULEZ consultation as it was clear that it would be needed. Shirley Rodrigues said that she welcomed borough efforts to make the case to support Londoners for cleaner air. She said that she recognised the need for cars in order to visit family, for instance. With regards to the dangers of pm 2.5, Shirley Rodrigues said that a way needed to be found to get this message across better. She said that London was doing well when it came to reducing air quality but not so well when it came to pm 2.5 emissions, which were having a terrible impact on health. Alex Williams said that TfL was committed to factor in low-income Londoners into any scheme, including road user charging schemes.

The Chair thanked Shirley Rodrigues and Alex Williams for the presentation on the ULEZ expansion and a Road User Charging scheme.

12. Flooding Investment in London

Members considered a report that presented a business case on behalf of the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) for an increase in the locally raised levy (1.99%) to invest in flood risk management schemes across the Thames catchment.

Robert Van de Noort (Chair of the Thames RFCC) and Claire Bell (Environment Agency) made the following comments:

- The Thames RFCC was a partnership organisation that worked with local authorities, flood authorities and Thames Water.
- Thames RFCC received its funding through (a) the levy, and (b) Grants in Aid from the Government. In the current programme, every £1 that the Thames RFCC received was matched by 6% to 7% in Grants in Aid.
- The Thames RFCC was now asking for a steer from TEC for a 1.99% increase to the levy from the boroughs, which was considerably less than the cost of inflation.
- The Thames RFCC understood the major challenges that boroughs were experiencing with their finances. However, the RFCC wanted to deal with flood risk in the whole of the Thames area and wanted to help communities with critical infrastructure.
- The Thames RFCC was currently funding two major schemes, namely (i) tidal flooding (eg the Thames Barrier), which was predominantly funded by Grant in Aid, and (ii) surface water flooding (rainfall). The Thames Barrier would now continue to be functional for another 30 years, but work was starting on preparing for a new one.

The Committee: (i) noted the report; and (ii) noted that a steer was provided to the TEC members who sat on the Thames RFCC to recommend a levy increase of 1.99 per cent for 2023/24.

13. TEC Business Plan & Priorities for 2022/23

The Committee considered a report that provided Members with a look back at what had been achieved in 2021/22 and look forward to the priorities for 2022/23, linking them to London Councils' shared ambitions as agreed by London Councils' Leaders.

Katharina Winbeck, Strategic Lead, Environment and Transport, made the following comments:

- There was a TEC Agreement that would be sent to TEC Members for their information, along with a copy of the TEC Business Plan presentation. This agreement sets out the powers of the Committee and they are generally quite constraint.
- As an example, when TEC wanted to take on the lead role of co-ordinating funding for and implementation of EV infrastructure, this required the TEC Agreement to be amended. This is usually a long process, as every London local authority had to agree the changes.
- TEC had two main functions: (a) Policy work, and (b) Services. The TEC Policy team was made up of seven members of staff, who worked closely with a number of relevant professional networks like the London Technical Advisers Group (LoTAG) and the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet), but also the GLA, TfL and our own established officer groups which were always regionally and politically represented.

Stephen Boon, Transport and Mobility Director, introduced the Services role of TEC and made the following comments about the services that TEC provided:

- TEC Services employed 21 members of staff and 6 contractors.
- Key services included the Freedom Pass. This was a very important service for older and disabled Londoners
- Taxicard is a highly valued concessionary taxi service, for mobility and sight impaired Londoners. TfL provided the majority of funding for the Taxicard service.
- There were two tribunals which received a volume of parking and traffic and Road User Charging appeals. London Tribunals provided a statutory role. London Councils provided all the facilities to support the independent adjudicators (Environment and Traffic Adjudicators and Road User Charging Adjudicators – RUCA). RUCA was a separate tribunal (based at the same tribunal hearing centre in Fournival Street) and heard appeals against TfL congestion charging and low emission zone schemes.
- The London Lorry Control Scheme (LLCS) restricted the movement of heavy goods vehicles at night and the weekends, in order to limit the noise to residents. The LLCS generated £1million a year in income and TEC was looking at working more closely with TfL in order to enforce the scheme more effectively.

The Committee: (i) noted the report, (ii) agreed that Alan Edwards would send a copy of the latest TEC Agreement and the TEC Business Plan/Priorities presentation to Members for information, (iii) noted that

Members should contact Katharina Winbeck if they had any comments/suggestions regarding the TEC Business Plan and Priorities for the coming year, and **(iv)** noted that any further dialogue on the TEC priorities should take place via email after the meeting.

14. Response to DEFRA's Environmental Targets Consultation

Subject to a couple of minor variations/additions, the Committee noted the minutes of the TEC Main meeting held on 14 October 2021. The minutes of this meeting would be agreed via the TEC Urgency Procedure following the meeting.

The Committee received a report that provided an overview of London Councils' draft submission to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' consultation on new environmental targets. The full draft response could be found in Appendix 1 of the report. Katharina Winbeck introduced the report and said that comments and contributions were now required from TEC before the response to the consultation went to DEFRA. She explained that for London Councils to respond to consultations, the topic needed to be relevant to more than a couple of boroughs and there should be a London-specific angle.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the consultation response for submission to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This would not be completely signed-off at this stage, and **(ii)** noted that the issue of biodiversity would be included and a final version signed off by TEC Chair and Vice Chairs.

15. London E-Scooter Trial Update

The Committee received a report that updated TEC on the London Councils and TfL's activities on the future mobility agenda, including the e-scooter rental trial, the provision of rental e-bikes in London and the Government's announcements regarding private e-scooters, rental e-scooters and rental e-bikes.

Agathe de Canson, Principal Policy and Projects Officer, London Councils, introduced the report which gave an update on the e-scooter trial and e-bike rental market, and also the legislation on e-scooters. She said that the trial was being coordinated with London Councils and TfL and was one of 32 authorised trials around the UK by the DfT. Agathe de Canson informed Members that it was still currently illegal to use private e-scooters on public land. She said that the trial was taking place until 20 November 2022 and 10 boroughs were currently participating.

Agathe de Canson said that the e-bike market was currently unregulated, although four operators were renting bikes out in London. She said that the network was "patchy" and not ideal for the boroughs – e-bikes were ending-up in different locations for which no agreement is in place and work with the boroughs was taking place to improve the dialogue on this. She said that the Government would create a new vehicle class for e-scooters in the Transport Bill with a view to legalise their use on public land in due course. Safety requirements and speeding limits would be set out.

Elizabeth Gaden (Transport for London) said that an EQIA had been created to look at the impact on people with disabilities, and a great deal of engagement had taken place on this. She informed Members that an audible warning system was being looked at with the operators and London Councils and TfL were working with "Pearl". This was new technology that had not been carried out by anyone else yet. Elizabeth Gaden said that more qualitative data would be required.

The Committee: **(i)** agreed that Elizabeth Gaden would contact the borough of Barking & Dagenham with regards to the borough becoming part of the e-scooter trial, **(ii)** noted that the e-scooter trial was scheduled to end on 20 November 2022, and **(iii)** noted the report.

16. Items Considered under the TEC Urgency Procedure

The Committee considered and noted a report that outlined the items that were sent to TEC Elected officers under the TEC Urgency Procedure for the meeting that took place on 24 March 2022. The Urgency Procedure was sent to TEC Elected Officers on 25 March 2022.

17. Dates of the TEC & TEC Executive Sub Committee Meetings for 2022/23

The Committee received and agreed a report that outlined the proposed dates for the TEC and TEC Executive Sub Committee meetings for 2022/23.

18. Minutes of the TEC Main Meeting held on 24 March 2022

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the TEC Main meeting held on 24 March 2022 were an accurate record.

The meeting finished at 17:19pm

Minutes of the Informal Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 16 June 2022 in Meeting Room 5, 59½ Southwark Street, London, SE1 0AL

Councillor Stephen Alambritis MBE nominated Councillor Peray Ahmet (LB Haringey) to be the new Chair of the London Councils' Audit Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Robin Brown (LB Richmond). Councillor Peray Ahmet was elected to be the new Chair of the Audit Committee

Members Present:

Cllr Peray Ahmet (LB Havering)
Cllr David Gardner (RB Greenwich)
Cllr Stephen Alambritis MBE (LB Merton) (virtual)
Cllr Robin Brown (LB Richmond)
Cllr Jonathan Cook (LB Wandsworth)

In Attendance:

Matt Lock, Head of Audit & Risk Management, City of London Corporation (virtual)
Ciaran T McLaughlin, Engagement Lead, Grant Thornton UK LLP
Ibukun Oluwasegun, Audit Manager, Grant Thornton UK LLP
London Councils' officers were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 17 March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Role of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee received a report that provided an overview of the role of London Councils Audit Committee. It included the Committee's Terms of Reference, the City of London Internal Audit Charter and the cycle of reports

David Sanni, Director of Corporate Resource, London Councils, introduced the report which gave an overview of the role of the Audit Committee, which is a sub-committee of London Councils' Leaders Committee and consists of five Members. The Audit Committee plays a key role in the good governance, strong financial management and effective audit arrangements at London Councils and its Terms of Reference could be found at Appendix A of the report. David Sanni said that the Terms of Reference sets out the Committee's role in governance arrangements, audit processes, review of fraud and corruption policies, approval of the accounts and external audit plan.

David Sanni said that Appendix B of the report provided details of the City of London Corporation's Internal Audit Charter, which sets out the role of internal audit. Matt Lock (Head of Audit and Risk Management) provides the internal audit service for London Councils through an SLA with the City of London Corporation. A five-year programme and audit plan that was presented at the last Audit Committee meeting in March 2022 could be found at the end of the report.

The Audit Committee noted the contents of the report on the role of London Councils' Audit Committee and the appendices.

5. Review of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

The Audit Committee received a report that: (i) reviewed each element of the current Annual Governance Statement (AGS), (ii) highlighted any continuing and potentially new areas for development (and those from previous years that had been addressed), and (iii) made recommendations for revisions that would be contained in the AGS to be included in the audited accounts for 2021/22.

David Sanni introduced the report that presented the revised Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to be included in the 2021/22 accounts. London Councils was required to publish the AGS in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework – Delivering Good Governance in Local Government". David Sanni said that the key changes were the reference to "shared ambitions", which had been agreed with Group Leaders, the change of date for constitutional documents and the outcome of internal audit reviews. David Sanni confirmed that there were no significant governance issues to report.

David Sanni informed Members that there were three appendices in the report, namely:

Appendix A - changes to the AGS were highlighted in red,
Appendix B – 2021/22 Annual Internal Audit Report & Head of Internal Audit Opinion, and
Appendix C – a "clean" version of the accounts for approval by the Audit Committee

Matt Lock said that he had nothing further to report and said that a satisfactory audit opinion had been given.

Councillor Brown asked if more background information could be given on the new Shared Ambitions and re-organisation of London Councils, that was mentioned in the AGS. David Sanni informed Members that the new Chief Executive of London Councils, Ali Griffin, had worked with colleagues to come up with a set of Shared Ambitions for London Councils that were agreed with the Group Leaders. These ambitions included political leadership, being a trusted partner and having a pan-London focus as set out in the AGS. There has been a re-organisation to London Councils' structures to help deliver the Shared Ambitions.

David Sanni said that one of the overarching aims of London Councils was to promote best practice across the boroughs and to improve the lives of Londoners. Councillor Brown asked whether this included reorganising the finance team at London Councils. David Sanni said that there were three directorates which had now been split into various "teams". Each member of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) has a team. The Corporate Resources team, along with the Corporate Governance team, was previously part of the Chief Executive's Directorate but was now a separate team. David Sanni said that the changes had no direct impact on the finance team but did have an impact on the Policy and Public Affairs Directorate which has been broken down into smaller teams.

Councillor Cook asked about the two additional areas for development in relation to the Parking and Traffic Services and cyber security that were included in the AGS following the review of the internal audit work. David Sanni informed Members that the outcome of the reviews included

“amber” or “red” rated recommendations and it was normal practice to include such reviews in the AGS.

The Audit Committee:

- Noted the opinion of the Head of Audit and Risk Management at the City of London on the overall control environment, as detailed in Appendix B; and
- Approved the recommended changes to the AGS for 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix A, to produce the AGS for 2021/22 for inclusion in London Councils’ accounts for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix C.

6. Internal Audit Update

The Audit Committee received a report that provided the Committee with an update in relation to the work of the Internal Audit since the last update report made to the March 2022 Audit Committee meeting. The report also provided an overall status update on progress against the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan, work against which was underway with one assignment completed to draft report stage.

Matt Lock informed Members that work on declarations of interest and gifts and hospitality was now finalised and would be reported to the Audit Committee meeting on 15 September 2022. He said that the audit on “Financial Management” had been started and was planned for Quarter 1. The remainder of the plan would be picked-up as detailed in the schedule on page 47 of the report. Matt Lock said that there was nothing further to comment on at this stage.

Councillor Brown asked whether there were any matters arising from the review of gifts and hospitality and declarations of interest. Matt Lock said that the review found that there was not a consistent process to managing declarations of interests, as Members made their declarations to their home boroughs. Matt Lock said that London Councils had to consider whether it is appropriate and proportionate to request and retain Members’ declaration of interests given that they already make declarations to their home boroughs.

Councillor Brown asked about the cyber security review in light of the recent cyber hack that took place in the London Borough of Hackney. Matt Lock said that he was content with the commitment received from London Councils’ management to implement the recommendations and a follow-up exercise would be carried out in due course. He informed the Committee that there was no need for concern regarding cyber security at London Councils, although it needed to be taken seriously. David Sanni said that the review of cyber security had come up with seven recommendations, one of which had a “red” rating and had now been implemented. He confirmed that four other recommendations had been implemented before the end of the year. Out of the two outstanding recommendations, one had been partially completed and just needed London Councils’ Corporate Management Team (CMT) to sign it off. David Sanni said that cyber security was taken very seriously by London Councils.

Councillor Gardner said that boroughs had different thresholds when it came to declaring interests and accepting gifts. He said that what was applicable to London Councils may well be different to other boroughs. Matt Lock said that the internal audit did not look into what other boroughs did with regards to declarations, gifts and hospitality. He said that any declarations needed to be relevant to London Councils. Members made their declarations to their own local authorities and set limits for gifts and hospitalities that the local authority felt was appropriate.

The Audit Committee noted the internal audit update report.

7. London Councils' Pension Scheme

The Committee considered a report that informed Members of the London Pension Fund Authority's (LPFA) response to concerns on its investment performance during the 2020/21 financial year.

David Sanni said that a letter had been written to Councillor Ruth Dombey, who was on the Board at the LPFA, regarding London Councils' IAS19 Net Pension Liability for the 2020/21 financial year. The London Councils' pension liability had increased from £24 million to £42 million in this year. David Sanni said that Members were concerned about the investment performance of the LPFA fund. A response had been received back from the LPFA, although no real detail was given regarding the fund's investment performance. London Councils' officers would continue to monitor this situation closely. David Sanni said that an IAS19 valuation report for March 2022 had been received and pension assets had increased by £9 million.

Councillor Cook said that there was a lack of detail in the letter that had been received from the LPFA. He felt that more detailed information should be provided on the fund's investment performance as the net pension liability figure was quite high. Councillor Gardner asked what measures were being taken to address this issue. He said that this had an impact on the overall value of the pension scheme and needed to be pursued further. Councillor Brown asked what Members views were on the letter received back from Robert Branagh the CEO at the LPFA. He said that the fund includes London Councils' pension assets and agreed that the letter did not provide sufficient information on the funds investment performance.

Councillor Alambritis said that he was on the LPFA from 2010 to 2018 and that there had been pressure to pool pension funds (eg with Lancashire County Council). He said that the LPFA was a long-term investor and the pooled pension fund was in its infancy. Councillor Alambritis felt that more investment was needed in housing and more probing needed to be carried out, especially when it came to how well the Local Pensions Partnership Investments (LPPI) was performing. Councillor Alambritis said that London Councils officers should pursue this matter further with the leadership of LPPI and the LPFA. David Sanni said that he would be happy to pursue this further on behalf of the Audit Committee. He informed Members that the letter was just the start of the conversation and did not provide any detailed information. David Sanni said that he would take on board the comments from Members and go back to the LPFA on this.

The Audit Committee:

- Noted the response from the LPFA that could be found at Appendix B of the report; and
- Agreed that London Councils officers should pursue the matter of the LPFA's investment performance with the leadership of the LPPI and LPFA.

8. Informing the Audit Risk Assessment

The Audit Committee received a report that presented the responses provided by London Councils' officers to the external auditor's questionnaire on "Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for London Councils" in connection with its audit of the 2021/22 financial statements.

David Sanni introduced the report, which was a response to the external auditor's questionnaire on the audit risk assessment. The questionnaire sought to gain an understanding of London Councils' oversight arrangements on specific areas like fraud, laws and regulations and accounting estimates. Ciaran McLaughlin, Engagement Lead, Grant Thornton UK, explained that was a requirement of the auditing standards. Councillor Cook asked whether any issues had arisen

regarding fraud in the past 3 to 4 years. Ciaran McLaughlin confirmed that no material fraud issues had arisen in this period.

The Audit Committee considered and noted the responses to the external auditors Informing the Audit Risk assessment to London Councils” questionnaire.

The meeting finished at 11:29am

Action Points

	Action	Progress
7. London Councils’ Pension Scheme	<i>London Councils officers should pursue the matter of the LPFA's investment performance with the leadership of the LPPI and LPFA.</i>	Ongoing

Leaders' Committee

Report from the Grants AGM – 13 July Item no: 2022

Report by: Ana Gradiska **Job title:** Principle Governance and Projects Officer
Date: 13 December 2022
Contact Officer: Ana Gradiska
Telephone: 020 7934 9781 **Email:** Ana.gradiska@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' Grants AGM held on 13 July 2022

Recommendations: For information.

London Borough & Royal Borough:

Barnet
Bexley
Brent
City of London Councils
Croydon
Ealing
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Harrow
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston upon Thames
Lambeth
Lewisham
Merton
Newham
Redbridge
Richmond upon Thames
Sutton
Tower Hamlets
Westminster

Representative:

Cllr Sara Conway (attending virtually)
Cllr David Leaf
Cllr Mili Patel
Paul Martinelli
Cllr Ola Kolade
Cllr Jasbir Anand
Cllr Adel Khairah
Cllr Christopher Kennedy
Cllr Rebecca Harvey (attending virtually)
Cllr Sarah Williams (attending virtually)
Cllr Jean Lammiman (attending virtually)
Cllr Martin Goddard (attending virtually)
Cllr Shivraj Grewal
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Cllr Sof McVeigh (attending virtually)
Cllr Andreas Kirsch (attending virtually)
Cllr Donatus Anyanwu
Mayor Damien Egan
Cllr Eleanor Stringer
Cllr Charlene McLean (attending virtually)
Cllr John Howard (attending virtually)
Cllr Nancy Baldwin
Cllr Marian James (attending virtually)
Cllr Saied Ahmed (attending virtually)
Cllr Nafsika Butler-Thalassis

Nazira Mehman (IKROW) and Tai Rosenzweig (Women and Girls Network) were present for item 12.

London Councils officers were in attendance.

Members were informed of the hybrid meetings protocols for London Councils' Grants Committee and reminded that this meeting would be live-streamed for the press and public.

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Saima Ashraf (LB Barking and Dagenham), Nadia Shah (LB Camden), Cllr Vicky Ashworth (LB Waltham Forest) and Cllr Simon Hog (LB Wandsworth).

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Cllr Martin Goddard declared his non-pecuniary interest as a retired Grant Thornton partner.

3. Acknowledgement of outgoing and new members

- 3.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, London Councils, welcomed the new and returning members of the Grants Committee. She also expressed her team's appreciation to outgoing members for all their hard work on the Grants Committee.
- 3.2 Members asked for their thanks to the former members of the Grants Committee to be recorded.

4. Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year

- 4.1 Mayor Damien Egan was nominated as the Chair of the Grants Committee by Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) and seconded by Cllr Nancy Baldwin (LB Richmond upon Thames)
- 4.2 There being no other nominees for the Chair, the Strategy Director declared Mayor Egan Chair of the Grants Committee and stepped down to allow the elected Chair to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

5. Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year

- 5.1 The Chair called for nominations for the three Vice Chairs for 2022-23. He nominated the following members as Vice Chairs of the Grants Committee, seconded by Cllr Shivraj Grewal (LB Hounslow):
- Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington) as the Labour Vice Chair;
 - Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) as the Conservative Vice Chair;
 - Cllr Marian James (LB Sutton) as the Liberal Democrat Vice Chair.
- 5.2 There being no other nominees, the Chair declared Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Cllr Leaf and Cllr James as the Vice Chairs of the Grants Committee.

6. Election of the Grants Executive for the 2022-23 Municipal Year

- 6.1 The following members were appointed:
- Mayor Damien Egan (LB Lewisham) – Chair (Lab)
 - Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington)
 - Cllr Eleanor Stringer (LB Merton)
 - Cllr Stephanie Cryan (LB Southwark)
 - Cllr Vicky Ashworth (LB Waltham Forest)
 - Cllr Jean Lammiman (LB Harrow)
 - Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley)
 - Cllr Sof McVeigh (RB Kensington and Chelsea)
 - Cllr Marian James (LB Sutton)
 - Paul Martinelli (City of London)

7. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 16 March 2022

- 7.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee held on 16 March 2022 were agreed.

8. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 14 July 2021 – for noting

- 8.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 14 July 2021, which had been previously agreed, were noted.

9. Constitutional Matters:

9.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report which proposed an amendment to London Councils' Standing Orders. The report also provided, for information, the most recent version of London Councils Scheme of Delegations, which encompasses amendments to reflect the current officer structure of London Councils.

9.2 The Grants Committee:

- Noted the proposed amendments to London Councils Standing Orders
- Noted the proposed amendments to London Councils Scheme of Delegations to officers.

10. Operation of Grants Committee 2022-2023

10.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report, which informed members of the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive and set out dates for meetings in the municipal year 2022-23.

10.2 The Grants Committee:

- Noted the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive;
- Noted the programme of meetings.

11. London Councils Grants Committee - Pre-Audited Financial Results 2021/22

11.1 David Sanni, Director of Corporate Resources at London Councils presented this report, which detailed the provisional pre-audited final accounts for London Councils Grants Committee for 2021/22.

11.2 Grants Committee members:

- Noted the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £56,000 for 2021/22, the final year of the extended five-year programme of commissions;
- Noted the provisional level of reserves and the financial outlook.

12. Partner Presentation: Women and Girls Network (ASCENT Advice and Counselling Project) and IKWRO

12.1 Tai Rosenzweig (Women and Girls Network) gave a presentation on the organisation's ASCENT project.

12.2 Nazira Mehman gave a summary of the work of IKWRO.

13. Performance of Grants Programme 2017-22: April 2017 to March 2022 (end of programme)

13.1 Feria Henry, Grants Manager, London Councils, summarised the main points in the report, which provided members with an update on the two priorities of the Grants programme, for the period April 2017 to March 2022. She said that all 13 projects have ended their cycle with a Green RAG-rating.

14. Grants Programme 2022-26: Implementation Update

14.1 The Strategy Director introduced the report which provided an update on the implementation of the new Grants programme.

14.2 Grants Committee members:

- Noted the activity to-date and continuing activity to implement the 2022-2026 pan-London Grants Programme;
- Noted the final awarded grant values to partners who are delivering the programme from April 2022.

The meeting finished at 1pm.

Leaders' Committee

Report from the TEC Executive Sub Committee – 14 July 2022

Item no:

Report by: Alan Edwards **Job title:** Governance Manager
Date: 13 December 2022
Contact Officer: Alan Edwards
Telephone: 020 7934 9911 **Email:** alan.e@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' TEC Executive Sub Committee held on 14 July 2022

Recommendations: For information.

Attendance: Mayor Phil Glanville (LB Hackney – Chair), Councillor Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley), Councillor Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing), Councillor Mike Hakata (LB Haringey), Councillor Cem Kemahli (RB Kensington & Chelsea), Councillor Rezina Choudhury (LB Lambeth), Councillor James Asser (LB Newham), Councillor Alex Ehmann (LB Richmond), and Shravan Joshi (City of London Corporation).

1. Apologies for Absence & Announcement & Deputies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Krupa Sheth (LB Brent) and Councillor Peter Craske (LB Bexley).

2. Declarations of Interest

Additional Declarations of Interest other than those listed at agenda item 2 were as follows:

West London Waste Authority
Councillor Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing))

North London Waste Authority
Councillor Mike Hakata (LB Haringey)
Councillor Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing)

Western Riverside Waste Management
Councillor Rezina Choudhury (LB Lambeth)

Thames Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC)
Councillor Mike Hakata (LB Haringey)

Member of SERA

Councillor Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing)
Councillor Rezina Choudhury (LB Lambeth)
Councillor James Asser (LB Newham)

London Road Safety Council
Councillor Mike Hakata (LB Haringey)

3. TfL Board Update

Julian Bell (TfL Board Member) introduced the item. He said that he was no longer a councillor and that this should be amended on the agenda (item 3) of the TEC Executive held on 14 July 2022. Julian Bell informed Members that his tenure on the TfL Board would be ending in September 2022 and he hoped that TEC Executive Members had found the presentations and updates on the TfL Board helpful and informative.

Julian Bell made some of the following comments:

- There had been a dip in fares revenue recently due to the impact of the recent rail strikes.
- Total journeys had increased to 76% compared to 40% at the start of the pandemic, and ridership on buses was up to its highest level of 79% and tubes to 68%.
- The Elizabeth Line had caused a big spike in journeys taken on 24 May 2022, with an additional 4.2 million journeys taken.
- Weekend demand was becoming consistently stronger than demand during the week. Ridership from Tuesdays to Thursdays was far higher than on Mondays and Fridays, where more people were choosing to work from home. This was having implications on TfL budgets and budget planning.
- The next funding deal was due on 28 July 2022 – no funds were given to TfL for the additional 2 weeks. £40k was allocated to each borough, but TfL was unable to provide any additional funding during this period. A long-term funding deal urgently needed to be secured. Any borough funding that remained unused previously could still be used.
- The Government has said that TfL had not shown sufficient progress to meet the conditions to ensure further funding, even though TfL had met the conditions that the Government had set out (the Appendix lists what TfL had done to meet those conditions).
- 33k consultation responses had been received regarding the ULEZ extension and 15k responses (so far) on the bus consultation and good engagement with boroughs was taking place (details on this became very granular in terms of specific roles and bus frequencies).
- 10 million journeys made on new Elizabeth Line

A Q and A session took place. Julian Bell informed Members that TfL had planned for five different ridership scenarios, including the new WFH and shift patterns. The loss of commuting pattern was looking like a permanent change. Julian Bell said that more bus services needed to be moved into outer London. He said that the key was to ensure that the services that were operated were safe.

The Chair said that the TfL fares revenue was volatile. He said that although the ridership on buses was improving, a managed decline from 4% to 18% would have a major impact on the recovery of buses. Julian Bell said that great efforts were being made to avoid that managed decline scenario. However, he informed Members that the pandemic “top-up” system received from the Government had been underperforming.

The Chair thanked Julian Bell for the presentations and updates that he had given to the TEC Executive, as the TEC representative on the TfL Board. It was noted that Julian Bell would be staying for item 6 (*“Response to the TfL Bus Consultation”*) which was taken next in the agenda.

4. Presentation on London Councils’ Climate Programme

Hannah Jameson, the new Programme Director of Climate Change, London Councils, gave a presentation on London Councils’ climate change programme and made some the following comments:

- There were seven climate change programmes being worked on. Work was continuing with external partners and action plans for each programme were on the London Councils’ website.
- Retrofit programme had recently won the MJ Award. Estimated £49 billion cost to deliver. Looking at making homes energy efficient in local areas. Boroughs were contributing to the retrofit programme. Looking at developing next stage of the programme and how to deal with the funding issue and developing skills.
- Looking at how Low Carbon Development and how to reduce the carbon impact. Had a policy framework and to attract sustainable development in London. This was being led by the London borough of Hackney.
- Low Carbon Transport – very clear targets and looking at what happens with the TfL efficiency programme. Looking at what the levers were in each borough (eg parking and road management), especially around EV charging points etc (lots of varieties across London). This was being led by the City of Westminster and the Royal Borough of Kingston.
- A Renewable Power programme was taking place and was focussing on energy procurement and advice and decentralised energy. This was being connected to the cost-of-living crisis with a view to reducing energy needs etc. Programme was also looking at the current approach to energy procurement and power purchasing agreements (PPAs). The programme was being led by the London Borough of Islington.
- Key achievements included the award-winning retrofit programme and the various events that had been held (One World Living, LOTI/LEDNET design sprint etc).

The Chair thanked Hannah Jameson for the update on London Councils’ Climate Change programme.

5. Surface Water Flooding Governance Arrangements

The TEC Executive Sub Committee received a report that gave a short update on the activities of the Surface Water Flooding Transition Group since March 2022 and presented a paper on the proposed governance structure of the Surface Water Flooding Strategic Group.

Stephen Boon introduced the report and said that sign-off was needed for the governance proposals. He said that TEC had already signed-off the previous proposals in 2021, which was then the Transition group that was chaired by Mayor Glanville. Stephen Boon said that the aim was now to get the work started again (an officer group had met on 4 July 2022), and for the TEC Executive to approve the proposed governance structure as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report. The Chair confirmed that he was at the last Transition Group meeting and had already agreed these recommendations. He said that it was hoped that the recommendations were now ready to be signed-off.

The Chair said that constant buy-in was required from the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) and Thames Water. He said that it was hoped that funding would be released and that good communications regarding these issues would continue. The Chair said that he was happy to agree the governance structure and thanked Katharina Winbeck and Simon Gilby for their work, and also Councillor Peter Zinkin for his valuable contribution to this flooding work.

The TEC Executive Sub Committee: **(i)** noted the report, and **(ii)** agreed the governance structure as outlined in the Appendix of the report.

6. Emissions Accounting Working Group

The TEC Executive Sub Committee received a report that provided Members with a summary of the progress by the Emissions Accounting Working Group, following the set of recommendations from the Emissions Accounting Task and Finish Group that were agreed by members at the full London Councils TEC meeting on 14th October 2021.

Simon Gilby introduced the report and informed Members that the recommendations had been signed off in October 2021. He said that the first meeting of the working group had taken place and there were three strands of work to take forward. Each of the areas would be dealt with in a linear fashion, and waste would also be looked at. Simon Gilby said that a workshop had also taken place on 9 February, where comments from borough officers were taken into account. He said that it was envisaged that work on emissions accounting would be commissioned during the spring 2022, with the results available sometime in June/July 2022.

The TEC Executive Sub Committee noted the Emissions Accounting Working Group Progress report.

7. Transport & Mobility Performance Information

The TEC Executive Sub Committee received a report that detailed the London Councils' Transport and Mobility Services performance information for Q3 2021/22 and full year 2020/21.

Andy Rollock, Mobility Services Manager, London Councils, introduced the report, which would be a brief update to Members on any areas of concern. He said that the continued poor performance of the Freedom Pass call answering was due to a control centre staffing resource issue (high than usual levels of staff sickness due to Covid, along with staff self-isolating). As mentioned in the previous performance information report, the contractor has been issued with an Improvement Notice which would remain in place until improvements were made.

The TEC Executive Sub Committee noted the Transport and Mobility Services Performance information report, and the explanation for the areas of poor performance.

8. TEC Pre-Audited Financial Accounts 2021/22

The TEC Executive Sub Committee received a report that detailed the provisional pre-audited final accounts for Transport and Environment Committee for 2021/22

David Sanni, Director of Corporate Resources, London Councils, introduced the report. He said that there was a provisional surplus of over £1million, with key variances, including an underspend on independent bus operators, an overall surplus for the London Lorry Control Scheme (LLCS) and an underspend in Taxicard of approximately £2.4million (this is offset by borough and TfL contributions of the same amount and has no impact on the bottom line). The report includes a request to carry forward an underspend of £141,000 on the review of the Lorry Control Scheme and a transfer of £139,000 to the Freedom Pass Renewal Reserve in accordance with normal Committee practice. Grant Thornton, the external auditor, will carry out the audit in October and the outcome reported to the Audit Committee and circulated to TEC.

The TEC Executive Sub Committee: **(i)** noted the provisional pre-audited financial results for 2021/22, which show an indicative surplus of £1.028 million for the year; Agreed the transfer of £139,000 out of the provisional surplus to the specific reserve, in accordance with usual Committee practice, **(ii)** noted the carry forward of the underspend on the London Lorry Control Scheme review budget of £141,000 into 2022/23, **(iii)** noted the provisional level of reserves, as detailed in paragraph 38 and the financial outlook, as detailed in paragraphs 39-40 of this report, and **(iv)** agreed that Stephen Boon would look into how many people that took-up the Freedom Pass scheme were actually using it.

9. London Tribunals Update

The TEC Executive Sub Committee received a report that asked Members to approve officers exploring a closer working relationship between the Environment and Traffic Adjudicators (ETA) and the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (TPT) and noted the important staffing changes at the ETA tribunal.

Stephen Boon, Director of Transport & Mobility, London Councils, introduced the report. He informed Members that Anthony Chan was now the new Interim Chief Adjudicator who replaced Caroline Hamilton. Stephen Boon thanked Caroline Hamilton for all her work at London Tribunals and the joint working with the ETAs.

The TEC Executive Sub Committee: **(i)** approved London Councils officers exploring joint working between the Environment and Traffic Adjudicators (ETA) and the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (TPT), **(ii)** recognised and thanked Caroline Hamilton for her service as Chief Adjudicator, and in particular, improving the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the ETA tribunal (a letter would be sent by TEC to Caroline Hamilton thanking her personally), and **(iii)** welcomed Anthony Chan in his new role of Interim Chief Adjudicator.

10. Transport Bill Planning

The TEC Executive Sub Committee considered a report that updated Members on the Government's plan to introduce a Transport Bill in this parliamentary session, and London Councils' proposed activity on this piece of legislation.

Agathe de Canson introduced the report which updated Members on the Government's Transport Bill that came out of the Queen's Speech on 10 May 2022. She said that there was no date set for when the Bill would be introduced. The Transport Bill mainly centred on railways, but also included e-scooters, bike rental schemes and pedicabs, which did affect the boroughs. Agathe de Canson said that the Bill had been drafted but would not cover the decriminalisation of speeding offences. She said that TEC and the boroughs were well placed to have an influence on the Bill, particularly regarding issues in the Bill which affect London boroughs such as e-scooters, pedicabs and micro-mobility rental schemes.

The TEC Executive Sub Committee noted the report.

11. Minutes of the TEC Main Meeting held on 9 June 2022

The TEC Executive Sub Committee noted the minutes of the TEC Main meeting held on 9 June 2022.

12. Minutes of the TEC Executive Sub Committee held on 10 February 2022

The minutes of the TEC Executive Sub Committee held on 10 February 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. It was noted that an additional Labour Member on the TEC Executive Sub Committee was still required.

The meeting finished at 16:27pm

Leaders' Committee

Report from the Greater London Employment Forum Meeting (Virtual)

Item no:

Report by: Steve Davies **Job title:** Head of London Regional Employers Organisation
Date: 19 July 2022
Contact Officer: Steve Davies
Telephone: 020 7934 9963 **Email:** steve.davies@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the virtual Greater London Employment Forum meeting held on 19 July 2022

Recommendations: For information.

Attendance: Employers' Side - Cllr Sade Bright (Barking & Dagenham), Cllr Barry Rawlings (Barnet), Cllr Pauline Tunnicliffe (Bromley), Cllr Richard Olszewsk (Camden), Cllr Jeet Bains (Croydon), Cllr Bassam Mahfouz (Ealing), Cllr Ivis Williams (Greenwich), Cllr Carole Williams (Hackney), Cllr Zarar Qayyum (Hammersmith & Fulham), Cllr Sarah Williams (Haringey), Cllr David Ashton (Harrow), Cllr Shantanu Rajawat (Hounslow), Cllr Alison Holt (Kingston), Cllr David Amos (Lambeth), Cllr Amanda de Ryk (Lewisham), Cllr Sally Kenny (Merton), Cllr Zulfikar Ali (Newham), Cllr Kuldev Sehra (Richmond), Cllr Stephanie Cryan (Southwark), Cllr Richard Clifton (Sutton), Cllr Paul Douglas (Waltham Forest), Cllr Kemi Akinola (Wandsworth), Cllr Adam Hug (Westminster) and Florence Keelson-Anfu (City of London).
Trade Union Side - Helen Reynolds (UNISON), Gloria Hanson (UNISON), Gabby Lawlor (UNISON), Christine Lander (UNISON), Simon Steptoe (UNISON), Sean Fox (UNISON), Andrea Holden (UNISON), Sonya Howard (UNISON), Jackie Lewis (UNISON), Adejare Oyewole (UNISON), Kerie Ann (UNISON), Janet Walker (UNISON), Vaughan West (GMB), Christine Golding (GMB), Kehinde Akintude (GMB), George Sharkey (GMB), Sonya Davies (GMB), Donna Spicer (GMB) and Danny Hoggan (Unite).

1. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Muhammed Butt (Brent), Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Enfield), Cllr Ray Morgan (Havering), Cllr Douglas Mills (Hillingdon), Diarmaid Ward (Islington), Cllr Josh Rendall (Kensington & Chelsea), Cllr Helen Coomb (Redbridge), Cllr Abu Chowdhury (Tower Hamlets), Deputy Alastair Moss (City of London), Donna Spicer (GMB), Ella Watson (Political Advisor to the Labour Group, London Councils),

2 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: The constitution provides that the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair should alternate between the two sides on an annual basis. This year it is the turn of the Trade Union Side to Chair.

Cllr Richard Clifton, Vice-Chair (Sutton) informed that on behalf of Cllr Mohammed Butt (Brent) Chair of the Employers Side Vice-Chair who is not in attendance today that he nominates Sean Fox (UNISON) Chair of the Greater London Employment Forum for 2022-23, seconded by Sonya Howard (UNISON).

The Chair nominated Cllr Mohammed Butt (Brent) as Vice-Chair of the Greater London Employment Forum for 2022-23, seconded by Danny Hoggan (Unite).

3. **Confirmation of the Greater London Employment (GLEF) Membership 2022-23:** The membership of GLEF was noted and agreed as follows.

Borough	Rep	Party	Deputy
Barking & Dagenham	Sade Bright	Lab	Irma Freeborn
Barnet	Barry Rawlings	Lab	Ross Houston
Bexley	Andy Dourmoush	Con	Stephen Hall
Brent	Muhammed Butt	Lab	Mili Patel
Bromley	Pauline Tunnicliffe	Con	Stephen Wells
Camden	Richard Olszewski	Lab	
Croydon	Jeet Bains	Con	
Ealing	Steven Donnelly	Lab	
Enfield	Nesil Caliskan	Lab	Ayten Guzel
Greenwich	Mariam Lolavar	Lab	
Hackney	Carole Williams	Lab	Philip Glanville
Hammersmith & Fulham	Zarar Qayyum	Lab	
Haringey	Sarah Williams	Lab	Julie Davies
Harrow	David Ashton	Lab	Steven Greek
Havering	Ray Morgon	Con	
Hillingdon	Douglas Mills	Con	Eddie Lavery
Hounslow	Shantanu Rajawat	Lab	
Islington	Diarmaid Ward	Lab	Santiago Bell-Bradford
Kensington & Chelsea	Josh Rendall	Con	Catherine Faulks
Kingston upon Thames	Alison Holt	LD	Andreas Kirsh
Lambeth	David Amos	Lab	Nanda Manley Browne
Lewisham	Amanda de Ryk	Lab	Kim Powell
Merton	Sally Kenny	Lab	Billy Christie
Newham	Zulfiqar Ali	Lab	
Redbridge	Helen Coomb	Lab	Vaniska Solanki
Richmond upon Thames	Kuldev Sehra	LD	Phil Giesler
Southwark	Stephanie Cryan	Lab	
Sutton	Richard Clifton	LD	
Tower Hamlets	Abu Chowdhury	Ind	Amin Rahman
Waltham Forest	Paul Douglas	Lab	Vicky Ashworth
Wandsworth	Kemi Akinola	Lab	
Westminster	Adam Hug	Lab	Aicha Less
City of London	Alistair Moss	Ind	

UNISON

Helen Reynolds
Sean Fox
Mary Lancaster
Simon Steptoe
Clara Mason
Gabby Lawler
Gloria Hanson
Andrea Holden
Maggie Griffin
Jackie Lewis
Simon Hannah
Sonya Howard
Glenn Marshall
Valerie Bossman Quarshie
April Ashley
Janet Walker
Kerie Anne
Christine Lander
Adejare Oyewole

Julie Woods (in attendance)

UNITE

Gary Cummins
Danny Hoggan
Susan Matthews
Kath Smith
Jane Gosnell
Pam McGuffie
Mick Callanan
Clare Keogh

GMB

Penny Robinson
Keith Williams
George Sharkey
Gary Harris
Kehinde Akintude
Donna Spicer
Sonya Davis
Christine Golding

If members are aware of any changes that need to be made to the GLEF list of Representatives and Deputies, please contact [Debbie Williams](#).

4. **Notes of the Last Meeting including any Matters Arising:** The notes of the meeting held on 22 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Apprenticeship Report – Item 4

Gabby Lawlor (UNISON) stated that the union side believed and have raised before that a breakdown of apprenticeships and what they look like explicitly would be provided in the next annual report so we can look at how we can make any developments.

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary responded that this was the case and would take back and remind colleagues at London Councils who collect annual information on apprenticeships.

Occupational Health & Safety – Item 3

Jackie Lewis (UNISON) stated that she understood, and it is mentioned in the minutes, that a further meeting was to be arranged between the Health and Safety Network and the unions to have further discussions. This has not happened and asked that a meeting be arranged.

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary responded that he does believe that there has been a breakdown with communications with the Health & Safety group but will pick up and sort out a meeting.

5. **London Pensions Collective Investment Vehicle (CIV) Update - Cameron McMullen, Client Relations Director:** Cameron McMullen provided an update on the London Pensions Collective Investment Vehicle (CIV) and informed colleagues that his presentation would be shared following this meeting (also attached).



GLEF presentation
19 July 2022.pptx

Simon Steptoe (UNISON) stated that he understood the wish to go down the engagement route, which has not been successful and asked if the 2040 target will be regularly reviewed?

Cameron responded yes, absolutely the common thought in CIV is that is the best route and with the 2040 target now set we need to work out how we achieve this.

Sonya Howard (UNISON) stated that having sustainable investments up to 2040, which is eighteen years, seems quite a long time so are there any reasons why this is so long?

Cameron responded that we are battling with ourselves, central government set a net zero target in 2050, so we are being a bit ambitious with 2040. If we are looking at more ambitious targets it gives a greater restriction on investments on the market which has a bearing on the fiduciary pension fund for the members themselves, so as much as we would like a more ambitious target, we have to align the companies we are taking forward.

Cllr Adam Hug (Westminster) stressed that a lot of boroughs have 2030 targets will need to ensure this is fully compliant by then. It is changing constantly but we need to be clear that we need to hit the 2030 targets we have.

Cameron responded that he realises there are conversations between councillors and pension funds at local level, but London CIV are not involved in local discussions.

Cllr Zufikar Ali (Newham) stated that he wondered there was an action plan to see how many will be moving from red/amber to green and whether there were any sanctions and pressure we can use to move them to green? Also is there a defined timeline/outcome?

Cameron responded that there is a defined timeline and outcome. When colleagues receive the presentation, you will see the roadmap with the ambitions to the 2040 net zero target. The easy part is setting the target the hardest is working out how we get to the target. In terms of pressuring there are two other parties we consult with, one of which we have procured with. The other part of the staring is the guidance we have received from the LAPFF, it is the connection through this where we think we can get better outcomes.

Cllr Richard Olszewsk (Camden) asked if Cameron was able to illustrate how London CIV compare with other co-funds regionally?

Cameron responded that they are currently pulling together the reports on how we are performing but have difficulty with the eight pools around the country as we all do things slightly differently. We are currently pulling together the information and data which will be made available in due course. Previous reports are on our website - <https://londonciv.org.uk/>

Danny Hoggan (Unite) stated that when London CIV first started, we had a presentation from Lord Kerslake and we were given assurances that they would increase representation for the unions on the CIV Board. Unions have an invested interest as it is also our money. We do have a greater say but would suggest one person from each trade union sits on the CIV Board.

Cameron responded that the information provided is that the number of trade union representatives on the shareholder committee is proportionate so this may be something that Kristina Ingate, Director for Governance & Company Secretary, London CIV can provide more information on post this meeting.

Vaughan West (GMB) stated that having managed to get representation for the trade union side it was still very late in the day in comparison to private sector funds. The public sector fund was well behind the legislation, but London CIV had to be brought to the table and forced by the unions kicking and screaming to give us representation. We were finally allowed one representative on the Board, but our view still remains that we have one representative per union. It is incumbent that we continue to raise the injustice when we have the opportunity to do so. Would be interested to know the makeup of regional CIV's compared to London.

Cameron responded that he completely understands where the unions are coming from and will take this back to London CIV and get Kristina to come back with a response. In terms of other CIVs this information should be available at local pool level but will find out and come back on this issue.

Jackie Lewis (UNISON) stated that concern had been raised in the chat facility about people not being able to see the presentation clearly so wanted to take the opportunity to highlight for future presentations that they need to be accessible to anyone using screen reader software. Would ask that the Joint Secretaries have a discussion on trying to make sure that documents going forward are accessible as we should allow for the fact that people may need to use screen reading software.

The Chair agreed we can take this away and discuss at Joint Secretaries.

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary stated that quite rightly we need to be mindful of accessibility arrangements and appreciates that a majority of our reports are straight forward text but that presentations are mainly graphics.

6. Local Government and NHS Employment Service Passport Update - Steve Davies, Regional Employers Side Secretary: Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary stated that reports had previously been provided to this forum along with the premise behind it and that it was a concept discussed with NHS Employers groups, NHS unions, London borough Heads of HR as well as the Joint Secretaries.

We originally talked about this pre-Covid, and everyone was on board with the principles within the report but for good reasons the take up has stalled during Covid so I am now looking to reenergise so I suggest that we look to try and integrate this as part of our London Agreement so it would therefore be incorporated for all London boroughs.

I have just started to re-engage with the National Health Employers who have been tied up with CCS arrangements, so want to pick up with them on how they will pick up on this again. It has not died of death; we want to make the Passport a positive for London.

The Chair stated that he agreed that incorporating this into the London Agreement was a good idea.

Cllr Carole Williams (Hackney) informed colleagues that she had enquired at the Employers Side meeting whether there was anyway of us influencing on what the NHS does around equalities? They have a much higher ethnicity gap than local authorities in their lower graded positions so if there was anyway of influencing them as part of the process that would be great.

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary stated that the Employers Side had agreed it would be good to engage with NHS employers in terms of how we can share best practice in addressing equalities and diversity issues. In the NHS they seem to have a bigger pay gap from an ethnicity perspective compared to London boroughs. Have discussed previously with HR colleagues how we can share best practice with the NHS so this is something I will be pick up with respective bodies going forward.

The Chair asked whether the reason for having the Passport as part of the London Agreement was due to boroughs not being engaged or said that they were not going to sign-up to it?

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary responded that no boroughs had indicated that they were not going to sign-up to it but only a few boroughs have signed-up so far so definitely stalled. No strong dissenting voices which is why I suggest we make it part of the London Agreement.

The Chair stated that boroughs who have not signed-up so far might be thinking that redundancies might impact them, which they will not, so we need to make it clear going forward that the financial side will not impact them.

7. Local Government Pay Claim 2022 - Steve Davies, Regional Employers Side Secretary: Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary stated that the report provided was straightforward and highlighted the key elements from the unions claim and outlined a summary of the main groupings as well as highlighting the chief officer claim, which is for a substantial increase. The Chief Executives claim is similar, but they want to peg their claim more directly to the Local Government Services (LGS) pay claim.

Have also added the contextual information that the trade union side helpfully put into their claim, the key bullet points the unions wanted to make along with the practical issues for the National Employers in terms of the National Living Wage (NLW).

The National Employers are due to meet on Monday 25 July to discuss the specifics of the unions claim.

Sonya Howard (UNISON) raised and stated that she did not expect a response that one of the concerns raised at the unions side meeting was about retention and with the fact that supermarkets are now paying £11.50 per hour so I think we need to bear in mind that we will haemorrhage staff who can work down the road in our local supermarkets. Also, when you speak to an employer about meeting the pay claim they respond yes but we may need to lose staff, which is not going to be helpful and that we appreciate the cost-of-living crisis we are all facing.

Donna Spicer (GMB) stated that people in the public sector have seen their pay decrease over the years and the retention is not just in schools but across local government and Sonya is correct in saying that supermarkets are paying more per hour than schools are paying our support staff so unless we increase this year's offer there will be a lot of people willing to walk out of schools. These people are in what are classed as decent jobs but are now visiting food banks and this is not ok. The next generation of children will suffer as teachers are struggling to cope specially in terms of what they are earning.

Simon Steptoe (UNISON) stated that in the past we have asked the employers to make common course to pay the right amount for staff, which they have not always done, so please do this. We need resources to pay staff to actually deliver the services we need.

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary responded that colleagues had made brilliant points, I know that from meetings with different employer groups that they are really mindful of all the points raised and making representations to government in terms of pressures on local government and the need for good settlements to help support a good pay settlement. Also because of the cost-of-living pressures it is incumbent on all of us all to make sure the offer and agreement is sorted out in good time this year, obviously depends on the nature of the employer's response but the sooner the better an agreement is made the better it will be for our staff.

Donna Spicer (GMB) stated that we all want the claim to go through quickly, but you are right it depends on the pay offer so if we want it to go quickly it needs to be a decent offer.

Cllr Adam Hug (Westminster) stated that it was a clear response from discussions in the Employers Side meeting earlier that there needs to be as much pressure possible put on the government to try and get money for the local government pot.

Mary Lancaster (UNISON) stated that she hoped we were all saying the same thing, it is important we address this. There are going to be announcements today about teachers likely getting offered 5% and support staff might get lower than this, which will be an added insult to everything. Members have to start to understand that our members are not going to just roll over. We hear what Steve has said about the need to move quickly but the employers have not yet come back to the unions with an offer.

Harry Honnor (LGA) responded that National Employers received the unions claim on 8 June, which was two months beyond the pay implementation date. The Employers then held regional consultations that concluded on 27 June. The National Employers are meeting on 25 July, and we hope that a formal response to the unions claim will emerge from this meeting. We are expecting pay review body announcements this afternoon which will inform National Employers discussions on Monday.

In terms of funding, it is not in the remit of the National Employers to lobby the government, it is for the LGA to do this so suggest that members feed their views through their political groups of the LGA. In terms of timescale, we got the claim late, but we have moved very quickly to consult and hopefully the Employers will agree a formal response next Monday then we are in unions hands to what they decide to do with the offer but none of us want a delay to the process.

Danny Hoggan (Unite) stated that 1.75% offer is the reason why it has taken so long. We have taken industrial action in Northern Ireland where we have not got the Tory laws on the threshold there and we

will be trying our best to put up a bit of a fight. Also are we replicating claims in our outsourced services? No. the number of our members say they want more than a certificate after risking lives on the frontline during Covid-19 when managers were sitting safely at home.

Sonya Howard (UNISON) stated that she thinks the points have been made but it is important that we speak to our members, we just do not decide on what an offer should be. We have heard that people have had enough firstly with Covid and now with cost-of-living crisis, so it is for the Employers to come back with a decent offer, so appealing to them to come up with something decent and striking is always the last resort.

The Chair stated that he agrees with what colleague have said agreed with what colleagues have said and informed that the NJC Staff Side are meeting on Wednesday 27 July. Clearly, we will consult our members as we see appropriate depending on what the offer is. Hopefully the Employers will receive a quick and short response on Wednesday.

8. Menopause Policies Update - Steve Davies, Regional Employers Side Secretary: Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary stated that this item was a request for an update from the union side on what boroughs are doing. We received a good and positive response from boroughs, not one borough is not proactively doing something in supporting people going through the menopause in terms of guidance, support groups, menopause advocates, intranet comms, some boroughs have specific policies and others have support in place, which is really positive.

Donna Spicer (GMB) stated that it was good to hear that finally this issue is being addressed and listened to as every person going through the menopause will need support within the workplace, still sad to see the small list of usual symptoms mentioned as we need to be aware that there are almost 66 symptoms. Disappointed some councils only offering guidance as this can be misinterpreted by managers. If there is good practice out there it would be good to share and as well as UNISON, GMB has a really good menopause toolkit 'Smash the Stigma' which includes an all-staff survey which boroughs can use as well as a good model policy which was produced by an Ambulance Trust on the South Coast. Link – <https://www.gmb.org.uk/menopause>

Cllr Alison Holt (Kingston) informed that Kingston is becoming a Bloody Good Accredited Employer and the borough is embracing, would encourage other London boroughs to go down this route. We are also committed to be a Menopause Friendly Employer, but the whole ethos behind the accreditation is not just the menopause it is about periods all throughout adult life.

Cllr Ali Zulfikar (Newham) stated that from his perspective we have a number of initiatives in place, and we are also looking at e-learning, chat groups and drop-in sessions as the key issue is making people to come forward and talk to their line manager.

Sonya Howard (UNISON) stated that obviously through there is a plethora and wealth of information out there, but it is about what information we use, we set up a policy two years ago in Kensington & Chelsea as well as running cafes, drop-ins and supplying fans and ran joint events with HR so there is a lot of work we can do to raise awareness. A lot of organisations have model policies so no excuse for not having a policy but would encourage councils to talk to their trade unions. Would be good to know what councils have implemented a policy. It is also about the quality and understanding, policies keep moving they are not dead objects, things change so they need to be revisited, they are organic, but we still need to remind managers, so training is also quite key.

Carole Williams (Hackney) stated that was important to have this update, feels like a long time ago we discussed this and also gave thanks to all who have used inclusive language today as we need to lead on this. More than happy to share what we Hackney is doing, we held extensive consultations with our equalities groups across the council and we bought a menopause motion which adds to the council. Huge amount of work going on since then and working through the commitment of the motion which I am happy to share with this with colleagues.

The Chair stated that we can all share good practice.

Jackie Lewis (UNISON) flagged up that some people going through the menopause are of a young age and that there is a tendency to think this only happens to older people. Some used the word 'end of the stigma' which is a key aspect to this, the menopause needs to be normalised as a workplace issue and staff need to understand that it is normal for people to have some difficulties. Would also ask for an update at the point to which boroughs have actually adopted a formal policy because it is one of those issues where an employer will say we do it but do nothing at all. Staff need to know where they can get help. So would be good to know if boroughs have adopted a formal policy at a future update. If something is working well elsewhere then we can pinch ideas. We are not in competition with each other, but good employer practice helps with recruitment and retention.

Cllr Stephanie Cryan (Southwark) informed that they have adopted a formal policy in agreement with the unions. We do have to break the stigma and not sweep under the carpet, and it is important that we understand that everyone's experience of the menopause is different and can hit when you least expect it, so we need to adapt policies to be flexible. If any council has not adopted one, why have you not so please adopted one.

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary stated that colleagues had made some good points. Donna Spicer is right about the other union's charters on this, and we need to share in terms of sharing best practice with our London borough networks. Fully take on board the point made about sharing policies and understanding what policies boroughs have in place, but one thing I would say is that a policy is not as active as it should be so was encouraged that some boroughs did not have a policy but were actively promoting engagement with people with setting support groups, training, meetings which is far more important to me in sharing best practice. We can ask which boroughs have a formal policy, but I thought it was good to see what positive action boroughs were taking to support their staff no matter what their age.

Janet Walker (UNISON) stated that Waltham Forest adopted a guidance some time back but that it is still an issue where females work in a dense work environment run by men where there is a still a struggle, so it does need to be policy for managers. With the symptoms of the menopause and young people it plays alongside the Disability Act which is why it needs to be a policy and embedded especially for male workers.

9. London Councils Constitutional Matters – To receive a cover report and attachments for noting.

- 1: Amendments to London Councils Standing Orders
- 2: Protocol for London Councils Virtual Meetings
- 3: Scheme of Delegations

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary informed that these do not really affect the Greater London Employment Forum or the Greater London Provincial Council, so just for noting.

10. Any Other Business

Extreme Heat Policy - Andrea Holden (UNISON)

Andrea stated that Haringey have had a policy in place since the mid-80s around trigger temperatures and that it with the increasing extreme heat we are experiencing every year and the government seemingly not interested in doing anything I think it is about time we need to stop sitting on our hands and do something about it in terms of agreeing a legal heat working minimum.

Sonya Howard (UNISON) reinforced what Andrea has said and informed that they are looking at pan-policy as the extreme heat will be happening more and more in the future. Councils are being supportive, but it is something we need to look at in a more serious way, over 35 degrees can be extremely dangerous for people with underlying health issues. So going forward we need a more agreed approach to working in extreme heat.

Danny Hoggan (Unite) stated that most councils had done really well supporting staff but that there does need to be a common policy in place. We all need educating on this and perhaps between us can produce a piece of work.

Steve Davies, Employers Side Secretary thanked colleagues for their comments/suggestions, good points well-made and suggested that this is something to flag up for next year and promote as good practice for employers in terms of the maximum heat issue and support. Information this week from councils is that there have been different Gold meetings over the last few days, so leadership has been meeting on how they support staff and their communities.

The meeting concluded at 1.02pm

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 23 February 2022

Group meetings: 10am Joint Meeting: 11.30am

Minutes of the Informal Virtual Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 15 September 2022.

Minutes of the informal, virtual meeting of London Councils' Audit Committee held on 15 September 2022.

Members Present:

Cllr Peray Ahmet (LB Haringey)
Cllr David Gardner (RB Greenwich)
Cllr Stephen Alambritis MBE (LB Merton)
Cllr Robin Brown (LB Richmond)
Cllr Jonathan Cook (LB Wandsworth)

In Attendance:

Matt Lock, Head of Audit & Risk Management, City of London Corporation
Ciaran T McLaughlin, Engagement Lead, Grant Thornton UK LLP
Ibukun Oluwasegun, Audit Manager, Grant Thornton UK LLP
London Councils' officers were in attendance.

Introductions were made. The Chair said that the meeting was originally going to take place "in-person" but was rescheduled to take place virtually owing to a planned rail strike. The rail strike had since been called-off but it was agreed that it was too late to change the Audit Committee back to an in-person meeting.

A thirty second silence/pause took place in order to reflect on and pay respects to Queen Elizabeth II who had sadly passed away.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 16 June 2022

It was noted that the Audit Committee held on 16 June 2022 was referred to as an "informal" committee meeting and this needed to be changed. It was also noted that the Chair was listed as being from the London Borough of Havering on the "Present" section at the front of the minutes and this needed to be changed to the London Borough of Haringey.

Subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022 were noted to be an accurate record of the meeting and would be formally agreed via the London Councils' Urgency Procedure following the meeting.

4. Financial Accounts 2021/22

The Audit Committee received a report that presented the pre-audited London Councils Consolidated Statement of Accounts for 2021/22, London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 and London Councils Grants Committee Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.

David Sanni, Director of Corporate Resources, London Councils, introduced the report of the Statement of Accounts, that would normally be scheduled for member approval before the end of September 2022 in accordance with London Councils financial regulations. Grant Thornton had indicated in its audit plan that the 2021/22 final audit would commence in October. It is hoped that future audits of the accounts will be completed in sufficient time for the Committee to consider and approve them before the September deadline. The accounts would be shared with the London Councils' Audit Committee and included in the reports going to the March 2023 meeting of the Audit Committee.

David Sanni said that the accounts show a combined surplus of £1.4 million across the three funding streams after including net transfer from reserves. Table 3 (page 8) of the report show how the results are disclosed in the accounts with the transfer from reserves excluded and the actuarial gain on pension assets/liabilities included to comply with the local authority accounting standards. Table 5 (page 9) showed the net reduction of usable reserves as at 31 March 2022, resulting in a closing figure of £12.431 million. The Chair said that the work on the accounts had been put back and asked whether it would be completed by November 2022. David Sanni said that the audit was due to start in October 2022, with a view to complete it in November 2022. Ciaran McLaughlin, Engagement Lead, Grant Thornton, said that the audit was scheduled to start in October 2022, although due to a wider sector issue with national infrastructure assets, there had been a build-up/backlog of work which may affect the timescale for completing London Councils' audit. He said that there is a risk that the audit may not be signed-off until early December 2022 but they would aim to complete the work as quickly as possible.

Councillor Gardner said that he would feel more comfortable if a full Audit Committee meeting convened, rather than by correspondence, in order for Members to examine the Financial Accounts in more detail. Councillor Gardner also voiced concern that the deficit reduction that had taken place over the last few years had eaten into the reserves. He felt that this was not sustainable and asked whether this was a long-term deliberate plan or was just a result of the pandemic. The Chair said that she would be happy for a full Audit Committee meeting to convene in December 2022. David Sanni said that an additional Audit Committee meeting could take place in December 2022, once the accounts had been completed. Alan Edwards, Governance Manager, London Councils, would canvass for a suitable date in December.

David Sanni said that London Councils utilised the reserves in order to balance the budget. However, as part of this year's budget setting process, London Councils was looking to reduce the reliance of reserves, by reviewing its operating model and resetting budgets that have clear patterns of recurring underspends/surpluses which will help create a more sustainable position going forward. Councillor Cook asked, as a new Member to the committee, how long the trend of relying on the reserves had been going on. David Sanni said that a reliance on reserves had taken place over the last decade. He said that there were specific reserves that were used to fund the Freedom Pass renewal exercise that took place every 5-years and important environmental initiatives, such as the work on Climate Change.

David Sanni said reserves were also used to keep some charges to boroughs at their current levels to avoid passing on cost increases. They had also been used to set up the Digital Enablement Fund and support IT system developments. Therefore, there is always likely to be some reserves used in setting the budget but there are firm plans to reduce reliance on the use of reserves in the future. David Sanni said that the reserves could not be continually relied upon because a minimum level of reserves had to be maintained for cashflow purposes and as a contingency against unexpected circumstances. Councillor Gardner asked what the minimal level of reserves were. David Sanni said that the minimum level of reserves for the Grants Committee was £250,000 but a higher amount was held by the committee. TEC was in a similar position where the value of reserves held exceeded the agreed minimum levels. He said that there was no set level of reserves for the core Joint Committee. Councillor Brown felt that London Councils should not hold a high level of excess reserves.

Councillor Brown asked for an explanation as to why the service costs for pensions had increased so much. David Sanni informed Members that the significant increase had been identified by officers. It was due to an increase in the rate of inflation and the discount rate used to calculate the pension liability. David Sanni said that the increase will be raised with the LPFA. Councillor Alambritis said that he fully supported London Councils policy on reserves which was consistent with the boroughs and gave the organisation a degree of flexibility.

The Audit Committee:

- Noted that Alan Edwards would canvass for a date in December 2022 on which to hold an additional “in-person” Audit Committee meeting; and
- Noted that the audited Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 would be considered at Audit Committee meeting in December 2022.

5. Internal Audit Update

The Audit Committee received a report that provided an overall status update on progress against the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan and a summary of the findings from the completed review of Declarations of Interests, Gifts and Hospitality (Amber Assurance Opinion). The report was an update in relation to the work of Internal Audit since the last update report provided at the June 2022 meeting.

Matt Lock, Head of Audit & Risk Management, City of London Corporation, introduced the report. There has been progress against the plan with work on the Financial Management audit soon to be completed. Matt Lock said that one of the key messages to be taken from the declarations of interest work was to consider whether London Councils’ procedures were proportionate in comparison to other local authorities and boroughs. He said that there was a low level of responses to requests for annual declaration of interests. The process should be reviewed and changed if it is found to be disproportionate. There were recommendations made to enhance existing processes in order to improve compliance. Matt Lock informed Members that most councillors made their declarations to their own boroughs. He said that it was important to recognise that London Councils was a separate organisation.

Councillor Brown asked if the declarations only apply to Members that sit on a statutory committee or whether they relate to Members that sit on any London Councils’ committee. Matt Lock said that it applies to Members that sit on decision-making committees.

The Audit Committee noted the latest progress on the Internal audit.

6. External Auditor Appointment

The Audit Committee received a report that provided an update on the appointment of an external auditor for London Councils.

David Sanni informed Members that a tender had gone out in the summer with a view to attracting a wider number of firms to apply. However, the tender had failed to attract any bids and a new tender process was already underway. David Sanni said that this would be completed by the end of October 2022. He said that the outcome would be reported to Members by correspondence and the new auditors would hopefully be confirmed at London Councils’ Leaders Committee in December. The Chair suggested that this item could be added to the agenda of the additional Audit Committee meeting being planned in December 2022. Reuben Segal, Head of Governance, London Councils, confirmed that the Leaders’ Committee would be taking place on 13 December 2022. Councillor Brown agreed and said that the Audit Committee could meet to approve the new auditors at the Audit Committee meeting being scheduled in December.

Councillor Brown said that the current market was a difficult one. He asked whether one of the requirements of the tender to have experience of auditing local government accounts, had been

relaxed in order to attract more applicants. David Sanni said that the procurement process includes an assessment of the bidders ability to adapt its approach to audit accounts prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice. He said that while London Councils followed the local authority accounting framework, the nature of its activities differed from that of local authority. Councillor Gardner agreed and said that it was a difficult market at the moment. He asked how many firms London Councils had approached and whether a suggested audit fee had been provided. David Sanni confirmed that it had been an open tender exercise. He said the tender advert had received a decent number of “hits” but this had not translated into any bids. David Sanni informed Members that a decision was taken to run an open tender exercise in order to attract a wider number of accountancy firms. He said that a copy of the accounts were included in the tender documents and these contained the previous year’s audit fees.

The Audit Committee:

- Noted the contents of the report; and
- Noted that the outcome of the subsequent procurement exercise will be reported to the Committee for consideration at the proposed December meeting.

7. London Councils’ Pension Scheme

The Committee considered a report that provided an update on discussions with the London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA) on its investment performance since the last Committee meeting on 16 June 2022.

David Sanni said that LPFA officers acknowledge Members concerns and are happy to meet to discuss the matter. They had proposed a private meeting as they were unable to attend this meeting or the next one in March. The LPFA had provided results of a benchmarking exercise which showed that the fund outperformed its LGPS peers during 2021/22 with a return of 13.5%. However, they had not provided a comparison to other sectors. David Sanni said that he would make enquiries to see if LPFA could join the proposed Audit Committee meeting in December 2022. The Chair said that she would be happy to meet the LPFA and to bring all these issues together at the meeting planned for December.

Councillor Brown asked whether it would be possible to have the papers for the new Audit Committee meeting well in advance, as it would be beneficial for Members to have the opportunity to go through these reports. He said that that it would be helpful to see a set of documents that provides details of the LPFA’s investment strategy, governance structures and information on the performance of the different pension funds. David Sanni thanked Councillor Brown for his comments which would be brought to the attention of LPFA officers. He said that he would ensure that papers were sent to Audit Committee Members within good time.

David Sanni said that the funds for different pension schemes were pooled and managed as one single “pot” of assets. Councillor Brown asked how the LPFA balanced the needs of different pension schemes if there was one big pool of assets. He said that it was important understand how the LPFA meets the different needs of its various employers, in terms of investment strategies. For example, does an employer with a fully funded scheme have the option to select a balanced investment strategy while one with a funding deficit, can opt for a high growth strategy. David Sanni felt that all employers’ scheme assets are managed under the same investment strategy with individual employers funding levels managed through employer contributions following the triennial valuations.

David Sanni said that these issues could be raised at the meeting with the LPFA. The Chair agreed that these documents should be shared with Members within good time.

The Audit Committee:

- Noted the LPFA would be invited to the new Audit Committee meeting planned for December 2022 in order to answer Members' questions on pension fund investments and performance; and
- Noted that the papers and relevant documents for the December Audit Committee meeting would be sent to Members within good time.

8. Dates of the Audit Committee Meetings for 2023/24

The Audit Committee received a report that notified members of the proposed Audit Committee meeting dates for 2023/24.

The Chair said that the report would now need to be updated to include the additional Audit Committee meeting scheduled for December 2022.

The Audit Committee noted the Audit Committee meeting dates for 2023/24 and noted that an additional meeting would be added to the report for December 2023.

The meeting finished at 11:14am

Leaders' Committee

Report from the Transport & Environment Committee – 14 October 2022

Item no:

Report by: Alan Edwards **Job title:** Governance Manager
Date: 13 December 2022
Contact Officer: Alan Edwards
Telephone: 020 7934 9911 **Email:** Alan.e@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee held on 14 October 2022

Recommendations: For information.

Attendance: Cllr Syed Ghani (LB Barking & Dagenham), Cllr Geof Cooke (LB Barnet), Cllr Peter Craske (LB Bexley - Virtual), Cllr Krupa Sheth (LB Brent), Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley), Cllr Adam Harrison (LB Camden), Cllr Scott Roche (LB Croydon – Virtual), Cllr Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing), Cllr Rick Jewell (LB Enfield), Cllr Averil Lekau (RB Greenwich), Mayor Philip Glanville (LB Hackney, Chair), Cllr Mike Hakata (LB Haringey), Cllr Anjana Patel (LB Harrow), Cllr Katherine Dunne (LB Hounslow), Cllr Rowena Champion (LB Islington), Cllr Cem Kemahli (RB Kensington & Chelsea), Cllr Ian Manders (RB Kingston), Cllr Rezina Choudhury (LB Lambeth), Cllr Louise Krupski (LB Lewisham), Cllr Natasha Irons (LB Merton), Cllr James Asser (LB Newham), Cllr Jo Blackman (LB Redbridge), Cllr Alex Ehmann (LB Richmond - Virtual), Cllr Catherine Rose (LB Southwark), Cllr Barry Lewis (LB Sutton), Cllr Clyde Loakes (LB Waltham Forest), Cllr Judi Gasser (LB Wandsworth), Cllr Paul Dimoldenberg (City of Westminster), Shravan Joshi (City of London Corporation), and Alex Williams (Transport for London).

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Sharon Holder (LB Hammersmith & Fulham), Cllr Barry Mugglestone (LB Havering), Cllr Jonathan Bianco (LB Hillingdon), and Cllr Abdul Wahid (LB Tower Hamlets). No deputies were announced.

2. Declarations of Interest (in addition to those supplied on the sheet)

Freedom Pas, 60+ Oyster Card & Blue Badge

Cllr Geof Cooke (LB Barnet)
Cllr Anjana Patel (LB Harrow)
Cllr Ian Manders (LB Kingston)
Cllr Barry Lewis (LB Sutton)

Wes London Waste Authority

Cllr Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing)

Western Riverside Waste Authority

Cllr Judi Gasser (LB Wandsworth)

London Cycling Campaign

Cllr Katherine Dunne (LB Hounslow)

Cllr Ian Manders (RB Kingston)
Cllr Barry Lewis (LB Sutton)

London Road Safety Council
Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley)
Cllr Katherine Dunne (LB Hounslow)

London Sustainable Development Commission
Cllr Jo Blackman (LB Redbridge)

3. TfL Funding Update – Presentation from Alex Williams & David Rowe (TfL)

4. Election of Vice Chairs of TEC for 2022/23

The Committee appointed the following TEC vice chairs:

Councillor Deidre Costigan (Labour Vice Chair – LB Ealing)

Councillor Cem Kemahli (Conservative Vice Chair – RB Kensington & Chelsea), and

Councillor Alex Ehmann (Liberal Democrat Vice Chair – LB Richmond)

5. Revised Membership of London Councils' TEC for 2022/23

The Committee considered and noted a revised report that set out the latest details of the Committee's Membership for 2022/23. It was agreed that the TEC membership would be reported at the AGM.

The Chair said that Councillor Averil Lekau had been listed as the TEC Member for RB Greenwich and LB Tower Hamlets. It was agreed that Councillor Lekau would be removed from LB Tower Hamlets as this was an error. It was also agreed to add Cllr Guy Lambert as a deputy for LB Hounslow and to delete Councillor Jon Burke as a deputy for LB Hackney, and to replace him with Councillors Guy Nicholson and Mete Coban as deputies. Post meeting note: Shravan Joshi was nominated to be the new City of London representative on TEC.

6. Appointment of the TEC Executive Sub Committee for 2022/23

The Committee elected the following members to the TEC Executive Sub Committee for 2022/23:

Labour Representatives:

Mayor Phil Glanville (Chair – LB Hackney)

Cllr Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing)

Cllr Krupa Sheth (LB Brent)

Cllr Mike Hakata (LB Haringey)

Cllr James Asser (LB Newham)

Cllr Rezina Chowdhury (LB Lambeth)

Cllr Judi Gasser (LB Wandsworth)

Post meeting note: One Labour vacancy now exists as Councillor Gasser, LB Wandsworth, could not be on the TEC Executive Sub Committee.

Conservative Representatives:

Cllr Cem Kemahli (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

Cllr Peter Craske (LB Bexley)

Cllr Nicholas Bennett (LB Bromley)

Liberal Democrat Representative:

Cllr Alex Ehmann (LB Richmond)

City of London Corporation Representative:

Shravan Joshi

7. Nominations to Outside Bodies 2022/23

The following nominations were made to the TEC Outside Bodies for 2022/23:

(a) Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee
Cllr Shantanu Rajawat (LB Hounslow)

(b) Thames RFCC

West – Conservative Vacancy TBC

South West – Cllr Julia Neden-Watts (LB Richmond, LD)

South East – Cllr Averil Lekau (RB Greenwich)

North East – Cllr Syed Ghani (LB Barking & Dagenham)

Central North – Cllr Sharon Holder (LB Hammersmith & Fulham)

Central South – Cllr Catherine Rose (LB Southwark)

North – Cllr Mike Hakata (LB Haringey)

(c) London Sustainable Development Commission

Cllr Jo Blackman (RB Redbridge)

(d) Urban Design London (UDL)

Cllr Nigel Haselden (LB Lambeth)

Cllr Johnny Thalassites (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

(e) London City Airport Consultative Committee

The LB Redbridge TEC representative to be asked to be a member of LCACC for 2022/23 (and not LB Havering, as stated in the report).

(f) ReLondon (formerly LWARB)

A Conservative replacement is needed for Cllr Guy Senior (LB Wandsworth), who is no longer a serving councillor)

(g) London Fuel Poverty Partnership

Cllr Natasha Irons (LB Merton)

(ii) TEC Funding Sub-Group (Membership)

Cllr Deidre Costigan (LB Ealing, Lab)

Cllr Catherine Rose (LB Southwark, Lab)

Cllr Rick Jewell (LB Enfield, Lab)

Cllr Clyde Loakes (LB Waltham Forest, Lab)

Cllr Cem Kemahli (RB Kensington & Chelsea, Con)

Cllr Alex Ehmann (LB Richmond, Lib Dem)

x One Conservative Vacancy – To be confirmed.

(Post meeting note: Cllr Nicholas Bennett, LB Bromley, was nominated to fill the Conservative vacancy on the Transport Funding Sub-Group).

8. TEC AGM Minutes of 10 June 2021 (already agreed – for noting)

The Committee noted the TEC AGM minutes from 10 June 2021.

9. TEC Constitutional Matters

The Committee received a report that proposed an amendment to London Councils' Standing Orders. The report also provided, for information, the most recent version of London Councils' Scheme of Delegations, which encompassed amendments to reflect the current officer structure of London Councils.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the proposed amendment to London Councils' Standing Orders, as detailed in this report and at Appendix One; and **(ii)** noted the proposed amendments to London Councils'

Scheme of Delegations to officers at Appendix Two, including the relevant amendments to sections 7, 8, 12 and Part A of Appendix A.

Part B: Items of Business

10. Talk by Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Transport

Seb Dance made some of the following comments:

- TfL depended on fares revenue to make up most of their funding. Other countries like Singapore received most of their funding for public transport through taxation.
- TfL was heading for a surplus before the pandemic. However, the pandemic had resulted in a big fall in ridership. Trains were becoming busy again but were not anywhere near what TfL would like (70% in the middle of the week, with ridership at the weekend being higher due to leisure and tourism). More financial support was required from the Government.
- The last short-term funding deal was due to end on 24 June 2022. Capital investment was needed to keep projects on cycle access and road junctions going.
- A number of conditions had been placed on TfL in order to receive funding. The current scheduled rail strikes would also affect TfL. The Government needed to invest in London's transport system. A large number of jobs depended on this (eg trains for the Elizabeth Line were made in Derby).
- TfL had no choice but to implement the 4% cut to the bus service network (21 services would be withdrawn in total under current plans). Attempts were being made to cover the withdrawn bus services with other services, although changes to peoples' journeys might be required. TfL had no choice but to plan for a "managed decline" in services.
- It was important that bus services were protected in outer London as well as inner London, and to ensure that there were no distinctions to this.

A Q and A session took place.

Councillor Manders asked for more details regarding the situation with capital funding. He said that a number of cycle lanes in his borough of Kingston remained only half finished. Councillor Rose voiced concern that most of the withdrawals of bus routes during the day were in the borough of Southwark. Also, the removal of some bus routes was having a detrimental effect on key growth corridors. Councillor Kemahli asked whether there was any flexibility on this 4% reduction to bus services. Seb Dance said that TfL was fighting for capital funding in order to improve the network. He said that it was essential that boroughs received funding for key infrastructure projects. Seb Dance said that TfL had wanted to continue from where it had left off and support from the boroughs was very much needed when it came to requesting TfL funding from the Government.

Councillor Holder asked whether an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) had been carried out when looking into the 4% cuts to bus services. She said that this needed to be shared with the boroughs (for example, the problems the mobility impaired might have in getting off and on of buses). Seb Dance said that a full EqIA had been carried out as part of the TfL consultation and this could be found on TfL's website. He said boroughs should let TfL know if there were any clear omissions. Seb Dance said that although it was not TfL's decision to cut bus services, TfL did have control over where the 4% cuts were implemented.

The Chair thanked Seb Dance for attending TEC and giving an update on the current situation with TfL funding.

11. Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) Expansion & Road User Charging Consultation, Discussion by Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment & Energy, and Alex William, Transport for London

Shirley Rodrigues made some the following comments:

- Road User Charging was a long way from being introduced, but emissions had to be reduced in order to meet the target in 2030.
- Huge strides had been made by 2016 to reduce air pollution, but London was still not meeting the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines (poor health among the young and elderly due

- to air pollution were a big problem)
- Vehicles were not meeting emission standards and this was causing lung problems in high polluting areas, including around schools.

Alex Williams, Director of Borough Planning, TfL, made the following comments:

- The Mayor had two main priorities for London, (a) to clean-up London's air, and (b) introduce a Road User Charging scheme. (Alan Edwards would send a copy of the presentation to TEC Members).
- TfL had looked at a whole range of initiatives, including the London-wide ULEZ scheme and a Road User Charging scheme. TfL was well aware of the cost of living crisis people were going through and would help people to transition to any new initiatives.
- The impacts of air pollution resulted in approximately 4,000 premature deaths in 2019 through conditions like asthma. This was a big and serious problem.
- TfL was helping to reduce poor air quality by cleaning up the bus and taxi fleets and increasing the uptake of EVs and encouraging Healthy Streets (walking etc). TfL could not do all this on its own though.
- ULEZ was the most effective scheme in reducing NO_x (a 9% reduction in 2019) and CO₂.
- A ten-week consultation period was taking place, and TfL had met with outer London Chief Executives to discuss the proposed ULEZ extension. The removal of the £10 autopay arrangement and an increase to the PCN level were deemed to be the most effective deterrent.

A Q and A session took place.

Councillor Kemahli said that a great deal of pollution came from tyres, as well as exhausts. He asked what was being done in order to tackle other harmful particulates. Councillor Krupski felt that scrappage schemes should be more nuanced. Car club membership could also be offered to help with this. Shirley Rodrigues said that pollution from tyres was a problem, although the main problem was the source of fuel. She said that TfL was unable to help with tyre pollution. With regards to scrappage schemes, Shirley Rodrigues said that the GLA would be updating people in due course, although they were trying to help the most in need through any scrappage schemes.

Shirley Rodrigues informed Members that a Road User Charging scheme would be needed, although this was nowhere near ready to be implemented. She said that discussions were just taking place to look at what needed to be taken into account and to understand what the issues were. She said that Road User Charging was being put out with the ULEZ consultation as it was clear that it would be needed. Shirley Rodrigues said that she welcomed borough efforts to make the case to support Londoners for cleaner air. She said that she recognised the need for cars in order to visit family, for instance. With regards to the dangers of pm 2.5, Shirley Rodrigues said that a way needed to be found to get this message across better. She said that London was doing well when it came to reducing air quality but not so well when it came to pm 2.5 emissions, which were having a terrible impact on health. Alex Williams said that TfL was committed to factor in low-income Londoners into any scheme, including road user charging schemes.

The Chair thanked Shirley Rodrigues and Alex Williams for the presentation on the ULEZ expansion and a Road User Charging scheme.

12. Flooding Investment in London

Members considered a report that presented a business case on behalf of the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) for an increase in the locally raised levy (1.99%) to invest in flood risk management schemes across the Thames catchment.

Robert Van de Noort (Chair of the Thames RFCC) and Claire Bell (Environment Agency) made the following comments:

- The Thames RFCC was a partnership organisation that worked with local authorities, flood authorities and Thames Water.
- Thames RFCC received its funding through (a) the levy, and (b) Grants in Aid from the Government. In the current programme, every £1 that the Thames RFCC received was matched by 6% to 7% in Grants in Aid.
- The Thames RFCC was now asking for a steer from TEC for a 1.99% increase to the levy from

the boroughs, which was considerably less than the cost of inflation.

- The Thames RFCC understood the major challenges that boroughs were experiencing with their finances. However, the RFCC wanted to deal with flood risk in the whole of the Thames area and wanted to help communities with critical infrastructure.
- The Thames RFCC was currently funding two major schemes, namely (i) tidal flooding (eg the Thames Barrier), which was predominantly funded by Grant in Aid, and (ii) surface water flooding (rainfall). The Thames Barrier would now continue to be functional for another 30 years, but work was starting on preparing for a new one.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the report; and **(ii)** noted that a steer was provided to the TEC members who sat on the Thames RFCC to recommend a levy increase of 1.99 per cent for 2023/24.

13. TEC Business Plan & Priorities for 2022/23

The Committee considered a report that provided Members with a look back at what had been achieved in 2021/22 and look forward to the priorities for 2022/23, linking them to London Councils' shared ambitions as agreed by London Councils' Leaders.

Katharina Winbeck, Strategic Lead, Environment and Transport, made the following comments:

- There was a TEC Agreement that would be sent to TEC Members for their information, along with a copy of the TEC Business Plan presentation. This agreement sets out the powers of the Committee and they are generally quite constraint.
- As an example, when TEC wanted to take on the lead role of co-ordinating funding for and implementation of EV infrastructure, this required the TEC Agreement to be amended. This is usually a long process, as every London local authority had to agree the changes.
- TEC had two main functions: (a) Policy work, and (b) Services. The TEC Policy team was made up of seven members of staff, who worked closely with a number of relevant professional networks like the London Technical Advisers Group (LoTAG) and the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet), but also the GLA, TfL and our own established officer groups which were always regionally and politically represented.

Stephen Boon, Transport and Mobility Director, introduced the Services role of TEC and made the following comments about the services that TEC provided:

- TEC Services employed 21 members of staff and 6 contractors.
- Key services included the Freedom Pass. This was a very important service for older and disabled Londoners
- Taxicard is a highly valued concessionary taxi service, for mobility and sight impaired Londoners. TfL provided the majority of funding for the Taxicard service.
- There were two tribunals which received a volume of parking and traffic and Road User Charging appeals. London Tribunals provided a statutory role. London Councils provided all the facilities to support the independent adjudicators (Environment and Traffic Adjudicators and Road User Charging Adjudicators – RUCA). RUCA was a separate tribunal (based at the same tribunal hearing centre in Fournival Street) and heard appeals against TfL congestion charging and low emission zone schemes.
- The London Lorry Control Scheme (LLCS) restricted the movement of heavy goods vehicles at night and the weekends, in order to limit the noise to residents. The LLCS generated £1million a year in income and TEC was looking at working more closely with TfL in order to enforce the scheme more effectively.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the report, **(ii)** agreed that Alan Edwards would send a copy of the latest TEC Agreement and the TEC Business Plan/Priorities presentation to Members for information, **(iii)** noted that Members should contact Katharina Winbeck if they had any comments/suggestions regarding the TEC Business Plan and Priorities for the coming year, and **(iv)** noted that any further dialogue on the TEC priorities should take place via email after the meeting.

14. Response to DEFRA's Environmental Targets Consultation

Subject to a couple of minor variations/additions, the Committee noted the minutes of the TEC Main meeting held on 14 October 2021. The minutes of this meeting would be agreed via the TEC Urgency Procedure following the meeting.

The Committee received a report that provided an overview of London Councils' draft submission to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' consultation on new environmental targets. The full draft response could be found in Appendix 1 of the report. Katharina Winbeck introduced the report and said that comments and contributions were now required from TEC before the response to the consultation went to DEFRA. She explained that for London Councils to respond to consultations, the topic needed to be relevant to more than a couple of boroughs and there should be a London-specific angle.

The Committee: **(i)** noted the consultation response for submission to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This would not be completely signed-off at this stage, and **(ii)** noted that the issue of biodiversity would be included and a final version signed off by TEC Chair and Vice Chairs.

15. London E-Scooter Trial Update

The Committee received a report that updated TEC on the London Councils and TfL's activities on the future mobility agenda, including the e-scooter rental trial, the provision of rental e-bikes in London and the Government's announcements regarding private e-scooters, rental e-scooters and rental e-bikes.

Agathe de Canson, Principal Policy and Projects Officer, London Councils, introduced the report which gave an update on the e-scooter trial and e-bike rental market, and also the legislation on e-scooters. She said that the trial was being coordinated with London Councils and TfL and was one of 32 authorised trials around the UK by the DfT. Agathe de Canson informed Members that it was still currently illegal to use private e-scooters on public land. She said that the trial was taking place until 20 November 2022 and 10 boroughs were currently participating.

Agathe de Canson said that the e-bike market was currently unregulated, although four operators were renting bikes out in London. She said that the network was "patchy" and not ideal for the boroughs – e-bikes were ending-up in different locations for which no agreement is in place and work with the boroughs was taking place to improve the dialogue on this. She said that the Government would create a new vehicle class for e-scooters in the Transport Bill with a view to legalise their use on public land in due course. Safety requirements and speeding limits would be set out.

Elizabeth Gaden (Transport for London) said that an EQIA had been created to look at the impact on people with disabilities, and a great deal of engagement had taken place on this. She informed Members that an audible warning system was being looked at with the operators and London Councils and TfL were working with "Pearl". This was new technology that had not been carried out by anyone else yet. Elizabeth Gaden said that more qualitative data would be required.

The Committee: **(i)** agreed that Elizabeth Gaden would contact the borough of Barking & Dagenham with regards to the borough becoming part of the e-scooter trial, **(ii)** noted that the e-scooter trial was scheduled to end on 20 November 2022, and **(iii)** noted the report.

16. Items Considered under the TEC Urgency Procedure

The Committee considered and noted a report that outlined the items that were sent to TEC Elected officers under the TEC Urgency Procedure for the meeting that took place on 24 March 2022. The Urgency Procedure was sent to TEC Elected Officers on 25 March 2022.

17. Dates of the TEC & TEC Executive Sub Committee Meetings for 2022/23

The Committee received and agreed a report that outlined the proposed dates for the TEC and TEC Executive Sub Committee meetings for 2022/23.

18. Minutes of the TEC Main Meeting held on 24 March 2022

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the TEC Main meeting held on 24 March 2022 were an accurate record.

The meeting finished at 17:19pm

Minutes

Young People's Education and Skills Board meeting

Date 20 October 2022 **Venue** Online (Microsoft Teams)

Meeting Chair Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director – Communities, London Councils (to item 5)

Mayor Rokshana Fiaz, Mayor of Newham and London Councils
Executive Member for Skills and Employment (from item 6)

Contact Officer: Peter O'Brien

Telephone: 020 7934 9742 **Email:** peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov

Attendance:

Members:

Mayor Rokshana Fiaz	CHAIR, Mayor of Newham and London Councils Executive Member for Skills and Employment (Labour)
Councillor Alison Holt	Deputy Leader, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (Liberal Democrat)
Ben Anderson	Community Manager, Landsec, London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) – Board Member
Anthony Haines	Senior Manager, Department for Education (DfE)
Caroline Dawes	Head of Children, Education and Young People, London Councils
Graeme Atherton, Professor	Head, Centre for Levelling Up and Director of National Education Opportunities Network, University of West London
John Prior	Principal, Orchard Hill College, representing NATSPEC
Leethen Bartholomew	Head of Children and Young Londoners Team Greater

	London Authority (GLA), representing the Deputy Mayor of London
Mandeep Gill	Principal and Chief Executive, Newham Sixth Form College (Representing Sixth Form Colleges)
Mary Vine Morris MBE	Director, London Region, Association of Colleges (AoC)
Michael Heanue	Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority (GLA), London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) – Officer
Rebecca Durber	Regional Engagement Manager, Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP)
Sam Parrett CBE, Dr	Group Principal and CEO, London and South East College Group, representing the Association of Colleges (AoC) – General Further Education
Liz Maifredi	Group Partnership Manager – London and Essex, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) (representing Sarah Hernandez)
Tanya Douglas	Deputy Headteacher, Chace Community School, representing the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
Yolande Burgess	Strategy Director: Communities, London Councils
<i>Officersh:</i>	
Peter O'Brien	16 to 18 Manager Children, Education and Young People, London Councils
<i>Guests and Observers:</i>	
Daniel Houghton	Political Adviser to the London Councils Liberal Democrat Group
<i>Presenter</i>	
Matthew Raleigh	London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA)
<i>Apologies:</i>	
Councillor Ian Edwards	Leader, London Borough of Hillingdon, London Councils Executive Member for Schools and Children's Services (Conservative) for absence
Jane McSherry	Director of Children, Schools and Families, London Borough of Merton representing the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) for absence

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair at the start of the meeting, Yolande Burgess presided over the meeting until item 5 when Mayor Fiaz took the chair.
- 1.2 Apologies are noted above.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Cllr Holt's governorship of South Thames College Group was placed on record. No other conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Notes of the last meeting

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 were agreed.

4. The London Youth Offer and Care Leavers Compact

- 4.1 Caroline Dawes from London Councils presented on the London Youth Offer and answered Board members questions by demonstrating how this work linked with the London Recovery Board's New Deal for Young People Mission before handing over to Matthew Raleigh from the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA), who spoke about the Care Leavers Compact (the presentations were sent to Board members in a post-meeting note and are available on the meeting webpage). The meeting welcomed the initiatives and agreed to support them. It was hoped they would incorporate a skills guarantee and careers guidance. Board members wishing to become more involved were asked to contact Peter O'Brien, who was also asked to arrange a follow-up on the Care leavers Compact.

5. Places Planning

- 5.1 Caroline Dawes introduced the discussion, speaking to a paper about declining enrolments in early years and primary education settings that was circulated to Board members ahead of the meeting, with Peter O'Brien adding comments specific to 16 to 18 year-olds' education and training. Caroline confirmed the intention to publish a report in November, when the data collection and analysis would be complete, and that the DfE (ministers and senior officers) would be sent a copy of the conclusions.
- 5.2 Board members discussed the paper, pointing out:
- Places planning should be more explicitly linked to the interests of young Londoners rather than educational settings, though equipping London's

education leaders, local authorities and funders with data would assist discussions about how the issue affected different areas and institutions.

- Inevitably, there were significant differences in the scale of the issue in different parts of London; though there was no clear correlation of factors across the boroughs that would be least affected.
- The issue highlighted by the paper needs to be considered as part of a wider critique of the curriculum and progression pathways for 16 to 18 year-olds, with particular emphasis on the transition points into, within and out of this phase of London's learning system.

6. Policy Update, Performance Report and Priorities for the Academic Year

6.1 Peter O'Brien spoke to a paper that combined three subjects.

6.2 The Board discussed the paper and agreed that the priorities and proposal to review the Board constitution should clarify how it was intended to work with the adult skills sector. Peter O'Brien was asked to speak with Mary Vine-Morris and Michael Heanue about these areas.

6.3 The Chair asked that the next meeting be given more a more detailed overview of the youth labour market in London to contextualize the performance statistics.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 February at 1400

Leaders' Committee

Report from the Grants Committee Executive 2022 held on 14 November 2022 - informal meeting, held on-line

Item no:

Report by: Ana Gradiska **Job title:** Principle Governance and Projects Officer
Date: 13 December 2022
Contact Officer: Ana Gradiska
Telephone: 020 7934 9781 **Email:** Ana.gradiska@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' Grants Executive held on 14 November 2022

Recommendations: For information.

Members:

Mayor Damien Egan (LB Lewisham) - Chair
Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley)
Cllr Marian James (LB Sutton)
Cllr Stephanie Cryan (LB Southwark)
Cllr Eleanor Stringer (LB Merton)
Cllr Sof McVeigh (RB Kensington & Chelsea)
Cllr Jean Lammiman (LB Harrow)
Paul Martinelli (City of London)

London Councils officers were in attendance.

The Chair welcomed Grants Executive members and London Councils officers to the meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington) and Cllr Vicky Ashworth (LB Waltham Forest)

2 Declarations of Interests*

2.1 No interests were declared.

3 Minutes of Grants Executive held on 2 March 2022 (for noting – to be agreed by Urgency)

3.1 The minutes were noted with the following amendment: Cllr James to be added to the list of attendees.

4 Minutes of Grants Committee AGM held on 13 July 2022 (for noting)

4.1 The minutes were noted.

5 Review of Agenda for Grants Committee 30 November 2022

5.1 Strategy Director – London’s Communities introduced this item and said that:

- Items 1-5 – these were the standard items, including a report on the performance of the new Grants Programme from April 2022 to September 2022.
- Item 6 - James Banks, Chief Executive of London Funders, has been invited to speak at the next Grants Committee meeting on London Funders’ support to boroughs (London Councils pay £60,000 per annum on behalf of the boroughs for their services) and the Grants Programme. His presentation would also cover the cost of living crisis. One of the roles of London Funders was to consider issues such as how to fund projects in a more strategic way and how to ensure the reach of projects across London (for example through its project *Propel*). The Strategy Director was a Trustee of London Funders on London Councils’ behalf and it would be helpful for the Grants Committee to consider what else could be done to maximise the benefits of this role.
- Item 7 - *Deferred Commissioning of Refuge Provision for the 2022-2026 Programme* – the Grants Committee Executive would discuss this report at the present meeting, and then the Grants Committee would be asked to endorse the proposals at the meeting on 30 November.
- Item 8 - *London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2023-24*
- Item 9 - *Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2022-23*

5.2 Grants Committee Executive members agreed the proposed agenda for the Grants Committee meeting on 30 November 2022.

6 Deferred Commissioning of Refuge Provision for the 2022-2026 Programme – Next Steps

6.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item and said that in March 2021, Grants Committee agreed to delay this commission due to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which placed new duties on the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) with regards to commissioning provision for domestic abuse. The intention was to see what work the GLA and MOPAC would commission, in order to ensure there were synergies with the work of the Grants Programme. The existing grant agreement with Ashiana Network for provision of refuge services was extended to the end of March 2023. This delay to commissioning meant that the timescales would be quite tight; however, they were still achievable.

6.2 The Strategy Director introduced Rachel Buttrick, the London Councils lead on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) policy at London Councils, who has been liaising with the GLA and MOPAC as part of this work.

6.3 The Strategy Director added that there would be a ‘market warming’ event the following week, where London Councils officers will give a presentation to the sector which would

contain the key things that the Grants Committee was looking for in the specification and the key things that needed to be included in the application.

Action: Strategy Director to email members after the market warming event

Action: Strategy Director to email members information on VAWG statistics, broken down by borough, and email the draft specification

6.4 Members agreed Grants Committee Executive takes the decision to award the grant for refuge provision in late January 2023