

22 January 2018

Dear Leader

Future Direction of the London CIV

The London CIV will be bringing a report on the future direction of the London CIV to the Leaders' meeting in March.

Ahead of that, we thought that it would be useful to write setting out where the CIV is now and the reasons for bringing you a report in March.

The London CIV was formally established two and half years ago. Since then it has secured regulatory approval, established a team of 16 staff and by the end of this year will have brought £14bn of LLAs assets under LCIVs oversight. In the current year, there will be an annualised £6m of savings to the LLAs in management fees as a result of the work of the CIV. This puts the CIV some way ahead of the other pooled funds that are currently being established.

However the wider context has changed radically since London Councils took its decision to establish the CIV. In particular, the Government has decided that pooling should be mandatory across the country and have set an ambitious timetable for this to be progressed. The London CIV was very consciously set up as a voluntary scheme with the decisions on investment lying with the individual LLA pension funds.

In order to respond to this changed context and take stock of progress, a Governance review was undertaken last year jointly by LCIV, the Joint Committee (PSJC) overseeing the work of the CIV, and the LLA Treasurers. Willis Towers Watson was commissioned to lead the review and presented their final report to the Governance Review Steering Group in December.

The Towers Watson report pointed to the need to both clarify the purpose of the CIV and establish new governance arrangements that reflected this purpose. At present, the CIV is reporting to multiple different stakeholders in a complex way with the risk that none of them feel entirely satisfied with their ability to influence it. The report also recommended that the CIV strengthen its capacity to engage with individual LLAs.

The PSJC will consider its response to the report at its meeting on the 31st January. From discussions at the Steering Group, there is a fair degree of agreement on the changes to the governance that need to be made. As part of the discussion the PSJC will also receive a report on the alternative pooling models that have been set up so that we can compare and contrast them with the London model. LCIV have also reflected on what is the most effective approach to investment and engagement with individual LLAs going forward.

Recommendations from this discussion will come to the Leaders' Committee in March.

At the same meeting, the PSJC will have the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget for next year for the CIV to approve. The numbers put forward in it will be very much in line with the Strategy agreed last year.

LCIV is a start-up and has perhaps inevitably experienced some of the growing pains that go with this. Hugh Grover, who played a vital role in getting LCIV up and running has now stepped down and Mark Hyde-Harrison, a very experienced investment manager is covering the role on an interim basis. We will also be recruiting for a new Chief Investment Officer in the near future. In both cases it makes sense to complete the review work before undertaking this recruitment. The LCIV are confident that we can continue to make good progress.

London was a pioneer in establishing pooled arrangements and is consequently ahead of the rest of the country in this regard and LLA leaders played a key role in creating the LCIV. It makes sense to take stock now on how best to deliver the original vision for the CIV in the light of the wider changes that are happening on local authority pension fund management.

Do please get in touch if you would to have a discussion ahead of the Leaders' Committee meeting in March.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R W Kerslake', written in a cursive style.

Lord Kerslake