

Notice of KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	<i>Local London Inter Authority Agreement</i>
Cabinet Member:	<i>Councillor Ray Morgon Leader of the Council</i>
SLT Lead:	<i>Neil Stubbings – Director of Regeneration</i>
Report Author and contact details:	<i>Howard Swift, Head of Inclusive Growth 01708 432654 howard.swift@havering.gov.uk</i>
Policy context:	<i>The decision supports delivery of the Council's Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy, its Employment and Skills Plan and its Social Value Strategy</i>
Financial summary:	<i>Membership to the Local London Partnership requires an annual contribution from each authority of £50,000 but may attract greater financial benefits</i>
Reason decision is Key	<p><i>Indicate grounds for decision being Key:</i></p> <p><i>(a) Expenditure or saving (including anticipated income) of £500,000 or more</i></p> <p><i>(b) In excess of 10% of the gross controllable composite budget at Head of Service/ Assistant Chief Executive level (subject to a minimum value of £250,000)</i></p> <p><i>(c) Significant effect on two or more Wards</i></p>
Date notice given of intended decision:	<i>20th March 2023</i>

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Relevant OSC:	<i>Places Overview & Scrutiny Board</i>
Is it an urgent decision?	<i>No</i>
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	<i>No</i>

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents x

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy x

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place. x

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Leader of the Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the discharge of functions jointly through the creation of a new Local London Joint Committee as outlined in Schedule 2 to the Local London Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) at Appendix A;
2. Approve the new Local London IAA attached at Appendix A to this report;
3. Approve the annual membership fee of £50k for the duration of the Council's membership and any other payments that may be due in accordance with the IAA;
4. Agree the following appointments to the Joint Committee of Local London for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Municipal Years:
 - i) Member – Councillor Ray Morgon
 - ii) Substitute – Councillor Gillian Ford
5. Subject to the above, agree that the London Borough of Redbridge continues to be the "Accountable Body" for Local London as set out in section 4 of the Officer report below and in the Local London IAA at Appendix A.
6. Agree to the insertion of the Local London Partnership at Part 2, Article 7, Para 2.8 of the Constitution

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3.2 Executive Functions

The Leader of the Council is responsible for arranging for the exercise of all executive functions and may by way of written notice delegate Executive functions to:

5. Joint Committees

Part 2 - Article 7: Joint arrangements

7.01 Joint arrangements for the exercise of functions

(b) The Leader may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities to exercise functions which are executive functions. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of joint committees with these other local authorities.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- A. At the Local London Joint Committee meeting of 13th September 2022, it was agreed to admit the London Borough of Bromley into the Local London Partnership. The admission of a new member legally requires that the Joint Committee is reconstituted. This provides Local London members with an opportunity to refresh and update the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) entered into in 2016.
- B. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012), a Joint Committee may only be established, and have functions delegated to it, by the Leader, Cabinet, a Cabinet member or a Cabinet Committee. This is also contained in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution. Accordingly, the Leader is asked to approve the arrangements set out in the Local London Inter Authority Agreement in order to establish joint arrangements with the Local London Partnership Members including the formation of a Joint Committee and for Local London Members to collaborate on and coordinate a range of activities and opportunities that arise through a greater devolution of funding from Central Government and the Greater London Authority.

1. Background

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

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with revised membership. The IAA is being formally submitted for approval by the executive bodies of each Local London Member.

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

2. Local London Inter Authority Agreement

- 2.1 The proposed Local London Inter Authority Agreement, which the Leader of the Council is asked to approve, is attached at Appendix A to this report.

3. Joint Committee

- 3.1 The Local London Joint Committee will discharge executive functions, as outlined in terms of reference in Schedule 2 to the IAA, on the collective behalf of all Local London Members in so far as they relate to joint activities or areas of common concern in relation to the delivery of the partnership. The Joint Committee is free to agree that one or more but less than all Local London members participate in a particular project or programme of work. As stated in the proposed terms of reference of the Joint Committee, contained in Appendix A to this report, each
- 3.2 Each Local London Member will nominate one representative to the Joint Committee and each representative will have one vote. A nominated substitute may attend in the absence of the Local London Member. By agreeing to the proposals the Leader of the Council will approve the Joint Committee exercising executive functions on behalf of the London Borough of Havering.
- 3.3 Each Local London Member will pay an annual contribution of £50,000 or such other sum as shall be agreed. Payments will be made on or before the 30 April in each year until termination of the IAA. The annual contribution made may be increased in line with the rate of inflation in accordance with the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) provided a majority of the Local London Members agree. 3.4 If the total spend in any year is above the total annual contributions of all the Local London Members, then each Local London Member will be required to make an equal contribution in respect of the overspend.

4. Accountable Body

- 4.1 The detailed responsibilities for Redbridge as the Accountable Body for Local London are set out at Section 7 of Appendix A and include;
- Budget hosting - this includes the annual financial contribution of £50k by each Local London Member

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- The employment and hosting of staff. This relates to the Director of Local London and any subsequent staff they may appoint
- Ensuring that the annual budget is set and monitored in an open and transparent way
- Ensuring revenue is spent appropriately and promotes the agenda of Local London and its members

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

5. Director of Local London

5.1 Local London Members have previously agreed to the appointment of a Director of Local London, who oversees Local London's programme of devolved work by managing the Local London Partnership Unit. The Director provides strategic leadership to the Local London sub-region in developing joint programmes of work and identifying opportunities and developing a case for greater devolution to Local London. The Director works closely with London's other sub-regional partnerships to negotiate effective and meaningful devolution deals with Central Government to transfer further powers and responsibilities.

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

6. Next Steps

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

6.2 Local London Members will continue to work on the devolved areas as set out in the Local London 3 year plan which is due to be finalised at the March Joint Committee (skills, employment support, digital and transport).

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

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not to re-confirm membership to Local London

A decision to forego membership to Local London was rejected on the basis that the combined authority holds more influence and potential lobbying power than a single authority alone. The Local London partnership may play a key role in tackling common issues, and provide financial benefits greater than the £50,000 per annum investment.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

Local London Partners, OneSource Business Partners, SLT, Themed Board

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Howard Swift

Designation: Head of Inclusive Growth

Signature:



Date: 28/03/2023

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has powers under Section 101 (5) and 113 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 1 (1) (b) of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, and Sections 9EA and 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 to enter into the arrangements as recommended in the report.

Further, the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 enable arrangements for the discharge of executive functions to be made as specified under the Regulations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Membership to the Local London partnership requires an annual subscription of £50,000, which brings the opportunity to bid jointly for resources and lobby across wider geography with potentially greater financial benefits.

Funding shall be provided corporately.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

No additional staffing by Havering nor job losses are anticipated. Collaboration does however bring resource demand which will be managed alongside other priorities within existing staff resources.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

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Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

It is considered that an Equalities Assessment is not necessary at this stage although one may be necessary for future projects pursued in concert with Local London and its membership.

In general, impacts are expected to be positive and expected to be experienced no less beneficially by those with protected characteristics.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no direct Health and Wellbeing implications of accepting the recommendation although there may be so for future projects pursued in concert with Local London and its membership. Such implications will be considered in accordance with the Council's constitution and other applicable protocols.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The recommendation to note the report does not consequentially bring additional direct environmental or climate change impact.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Local London Inter-Authority Agreement

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed

Name: Councillor Ray Morgon, Leader of the Council

Date:

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____