

# Chief Executives' Circular

**To:** Borough Chief Executives  
**Date:** 10 February 2006  
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## Summary:

Boroughs are asked to adopt a revised Local Authority "Gold" resolution, which enables the Local Authority "Gold" Chief Executive to act on behalf of all London local authorities in an emergency.



## Local Authority "Gold" Resolution

In late 2003 and early 2004, the ALG corresponded with boroughs about the need to vest the Local Authority "Gold" Chief Executive with the necessary powers to act on behalf of all local authorities in an emergency. More details can be found in ALG Chief Executives' Circulars 66/03 (19 December 2003), 03/04 (8 January 2004) and 07/04 (27 January 2004).

Boroughs were asked to adopt a resolution to delegate functions to the "Gold" Chief Executive so that she or he would be able to act on behalf of all boroughs in the event of a the Government declaring a "catastrophic" incident and when the Government had confirmed that it would reimburse expenditure. All boroughs passed the "Gold" resolution by March 2004. The fact that all boroughs adopted the "Gold" resolution was intrinsically important, but it also had symbolic significance as it reflected boroughs' collective commitment to London's resilience.

We had known that the "Gold" resolution would need to be amended to take account of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, if only because the Act changed the terminology. We have now also had "live" experience of local authority engagement at "Gold" level, most notably with the July 2005 bombings. Those events, and others, showed that boroughs needed to have a basis for working together within the "Gold" arrangements when an incident had not been declared "catastrophic".

The "live" experience also showed that boroughs would welcome greater clarity about the financial arrangements. The ALG sought reassurances from the Government. The Minister for Local Government (in his capacity as Minister for London Resilience), Phil Woolas MP, has gone some way to addressing boroughs' concerns by promising that the Government would give "urgent consideration" to reimbursing local authorities' costs when responding to any emergency. The Minister's full response and further background to this are set out in the paper considered on 7 February 2006 by the ALG's Leaders' Committee and available on the ALG website; hard copies have also been circulated to boroughs as part of the normal distribution of Leaders' Committee papers.

At that meeting, Leaders' Committee agreed to commend to boroughs the text of a revised "Gold" resolution set out in Appendix 1 to this circular. It would help very much if boroughs could move quickly to adopt this. You might wish to be reminded that in 2004 we advised that this was an issue to be dealt with as an executive function.

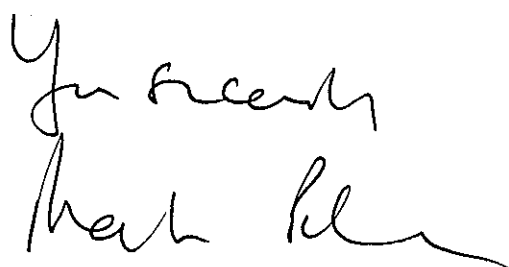
As you will see from the report to the Leaders' Committee, we are continuing to work on two areas:

- the indemnification of an individual "Gold" Chief Executive in respect of personal liabilities, to the extent that this might not be covered by an authority's existing arrangements;
- exploration of additional arrangements for pooling expenditure;

In addition, the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat has raised with us:

- whether there needs to be a resolution to cover Local Authority "Gold" engagement at Level 3, when there is a formal declaration of a decision to take special legislative measures under Part 2 (Emergency Powers) of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

These points do not detract from the need for boroughs to adopt now the attached revised resolution. As before, it only comes into effect when all councils have made the resolution. I would be grateful if you could let Doug Flight here know when your borough has done so.



Martin Pilgrim  
**Chief Executive**