

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/2016 REPORT NO. 196

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet – 15th March 2016

REPORT OF:

Chief Executive

Contact officer and telephone number:

Alison Trew Tel: 020 8379 3186

E mail: alisontrew@hotmail.com

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 9

Subject: Establishment of Local London

Wards: All

Cabinet Member consulted:

Cllr Doug Taylor

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The boroughs of east and north east London have been working together over the past year to develop a vision for devolution for the sub-region. Seven of the boroughs, Barking and Dagenham, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest have agreed that formal governance arrangements need to be put in place to bring Local London in line with the other sub-regions in London.
- 1.2 To avoid duplication, the North East London Strategic Alliance (NELSA) of which Enfield was a member has been formally dissolved.
- 1.3 Under current legislation, combined authorities are not permitted to be formed in London. Therefore it is proposed that the seven boroughs work under a joint committee arrangement.
- 1.4 The report sets out how Local London will operate and asks Cabinet to agree to Enfield joining Local London.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the dissolution of the North East London Strategic Alliance
- 2.2 Agree to Enfield Council joining Local London.
- 2.3 Authorise the Council Leader, Cllr. Doug Taylor, to sign the Joint Committee Agreement for Local London, subject to due diligence by Legal Services

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The boroughs of east and north east London have been working together over the past year, building on the Local London prospectus, published in February 2015, that set out a set of principles and a vision for devolution for the sub-region.
- 3.2 Seven of the boroughs, Barking and Dagenham, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest have agreed that formal governance arrangements need to be put in place to bring Local London in line with the other sub-regions in London, all of which have formal governance structures, funding and dedicated staff. It will also ensure that there is the capacity to provide effective commissioning, contract management and oversight to enable effective delivery of any devolution arrangements.
- 3.3 Local London is a politically led organisation whose key purpose is to collaborate and coordinate a range of activities that come from greater devolution of powers from government and to generate sustainable growth and long-term benefits for the sub-region.
- 3.4 Local London will replace the North East London Strategic Alliance (NELSA) of which Enfield was a member. NELSA was formally dissolved at the Local London Leaders, Mayors and Chief Executives Strategy meeting held on February 16th 2016.
- 3.5 Under current legislation, combined authorities are not permitted to be formed in London. Therefore it is proposed that the seven boroughs work under a joint committee arrangement. A formal agreement will be drawn up based on a draft constitution that has been agreed by the leaders, Mayors and Chief Executive of the seven boroughs.
- 3.6 The Joint Committee will comprise the Leaders, Mayors and Chief Executives of the seven boroughs. Agreement will be by consensus of the seven boroughs. The quorum will be a minimum of one member from each borough. In addition, the Chief Executive's Board will meet regularly to review the operation of the agreement.
- 3.7 The seven boroughs have agreed that Local London will appoint a Director for Local London to lead the partnership. The Director will establish a Local London Partnership Unit (LLPU) that will develop and manage the Local London programme of work.
- 3.8 It has been agreed that each borough will make an annual contribution of £50,000 to fund the Director and LLPU and the work programme agreed by the Joint Committee. Redbridge Council has been nominated as the Accountable Body and will manage the partnership's finances.

3.9 There are a number of adjacent London boroughs who are currently not members of any of the sub-regional groups. Local London would consider applications from these boroughs should they wish to become part of Local London.

3.10 Joining Local London will not conflict with our continuing membership of other regional groupings such as London Councils or London Stansted Cambridge Consortium. Enfield will also continue to work with London boroughs outside Local London on a range of issues.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Enfield does not join a formalised Local London. It is clear from negotiations with Government that devolution to London's sub-regions will be dependent on robust governance arrangements. This would mean that not joining Local London would leave Enfield isolated, with reduced influence and the potential for missing out on valuable funding streams.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Sub-regional groupings are growing in importance as the discussions around devolution of powers from government to a more local level continue. In addition national and European funding bodies are looking at functional economic areas that are bigger than individual local authorities.

5.2 It is clear that there are some major challenges such as employment and skills, housing and health that would be more effectively addressed through a sub-regional approach.

5.3 Joining Local London would enable Enfield to participate fully in addressing these challenges and have greater influence in discussions with national and regional government.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

The annual contribution will be funded from the existing Corporate Budget for contributions to London Wide Levies and Joint Committees after allowing for budget savings resulting from dissolution of NELSA.

6.2 Legal Implications

- 6.2.1 Legal Services have not received the formal Local London agreement; therefore due diligence as to the benefits and obligations derived from the agreement has not been performed. As set out in the recommendations this will be completed by Legal Services before authority to enter into the agreement is exercised.
- 6.2.2 The agreement (and all associated documentation) must be in a form approved by the Assistant Director of Governance and Legal Services.
- 6.2.3 The Council has power under section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to Public Law principles. Creating stronger more sustainable communities and building on the local economy are key priorities for the Council. There is no express prohibition, restriction or limitation contained in a statute against use of the power in this way.
- 6.2.4 In addition, section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives a local authority power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions. The recommendations are in accordance with these powers.
- 6.2.5 It is noted that sections 103-113 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, amended by the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 provides the power to set up a combined authority, but this power does not extend to London.

7. KEY RISKS

The major risk is that, by not being part of Local London, Enfield will find itself isolated and with less much influence than those boroughs in sub-regional groupings. There is also the prospect of losing out on major funding opportunities to address our local issues.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Fairness for All, Growth and Sustainability and Strong Communities

As part of Local London, we will be able to present compelling business cases that demonstrate that local councils are best placed to design and deliver services that best meet our residents' needs and address local deprivation and inequality; deliver increased housing and encourage business growth and lobby for improved transport; and ensure that our residents feel safe and have improved health.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an agreement has been reached that an equalities impact assessment is not relevant for the approval of this report. Equalities impact assessments will be undertaken when seeking approval for the implementation of specific initiatives developed by Local London.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Performance management arrangements to ascertain the effectiveness of specific initiatives developed by Local London will be agreed as part of the approval process.

11. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Improving the health and wellbeing of all residents in North East London is one of Enfield's key priorities and work with Local London and other sub-regional health groupings will enable better promotion of the strong case to Government and other public bodies for breaking down organisational boundaries, greater collaboration and gaining more control over particular funding streams.

Background Papers

None