

Report for: Cabinet – 15 June 2021

Title: Establishment of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Appointment of Cabinet Members to Committees and Partnerships 2021-22 & Confirmation of their Terms of Reference.

Report authorised by : Fiona Alderman – Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek – Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

To re-establish the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, confirm its terms of reference and appoint Members to serve on this advisory Cabinet sub-committee.

To note the membership and terms of reference of the LHC, which is a Joint Committee of the Cabinet.

To confirm the terms of reference of the Community Safety Partnership and appoint members to this statutory partnership body.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1 The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is responsible for the Council's role as corporate parent for children and young people in care. Its purpose is to ensure that the health, education and access to employment of children in care is maximised, to monitor the quality of care provided, and also to ensure that children leaving care have sustainable arrangements for their future. It is proposed to continue with the current arrangement for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.

2.2 The LHC is a not for profit body set up to provide effective procurement solutions for public sector bodies, to include local authorities. The Council has been represented on the Joint Committee of the Consortium since it was established in December 2012.

- 2.3 The Community Safety Partnership plays an important role in ensuring that key local agencies are brought together to improve outcomes for our residents across different service areas.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 3.1.1 Re-establish the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, and that the terms of reference for this advisory sub committee, attached at appendix A be noted;
- 3.1.2 Note the Community Safety Partnership membership and terms of reference attached at Appendix B;
- 3.1.3 Note the LHC Constitution, set out in Appendix C;
- 3.1.4 Agree the membership of the LHC (1 Cabinet – Cllr Bevan and 1 non-exec – Cllr Bull). These appointments shall be for the remainder of the 4 year term, which started from 2018/19 in accordance with the LHC constitution.
- 3.1.5 Appoint the Members, indicated below, to serve on the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Community Safety Partnership

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Chair - Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families

Cllr Weston

Cllr Opoku

Cllr James

Cllr Berryman

Cllr Ogiehor

Cllr Chenot

Community Safety Partnership

Leader of the Council

Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families

Councillor Ogiehor

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1.1 Establishing a Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee ensures that there is an overview of the Councillors statutory role as a corporate parent, assisting the Council to deliver its duties to children in care and young people leaving care.
- 4.1.2 The Council currently uses LHC frameworks as an efficient way of procuring technically complex products and services for its building refurbishment and maintenance programmes.
- 4.1.3 Continuing as a Constituent Member of LHC the Council will benefit from: influencing the future direction of LHC including the identification of new products and services which could be beneficial to the Council; increased learning of procurement practices and technical know-how for use by the

Council's officers in carrying out its own procurement programmes, and share of the LHC annual surplus.

4.1.4 The LHC Committee agreed, in June 2016, to amend their constitution to allow members to nominate for a term of office of four years duration, from 2018, to coincide with the local council elections. They agreed that the Joint Committee shall comprise two members from each of the Authorities. Each Authority's representatives on the Joint Committee shall be appointed by the Authority's executive, a member of the executive or a committee of the executive, as appropriate and be appointed to serve for a term of four years.

4.1.5 The LHC agreed that the Joint Committee shall elect a chairperson of the Joint Committee and a Vice Chairperson of the Joint Committee from among the members of the Joint Committee to serve for a term of four years.

4.1.6 Appointments from Cabinet are required to the Community Safety Partnership to reflect statutory duties and enable high level, accountable, strategic, oversight of issues relating community safety.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1.1 The alternative option would be for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee to cease and this would mean that there is not a scheduled opportunity for members and officers to meet and discuss the wellbeing of children in care and to ensure that the Council is meeting its corporate parenting obligations. This Committee is different to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel as it concentrates on Looked After Children and care leavers and reports directly to the Cabinet.

5.1.2 Haringey has been a member of the LHC, formerly the London Housing Consortium, for forty years. In February 2012 the Haringey Cabinet approved a recommendation to remain in the LHC Joint Committee and leaving this consortium would affect accessing some shared procurement expertise and support on compliance.

5.1.3 The Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership body and therefore not appointing Cabinet Members to this body is not an option.

6. Background information

6.1.1 All Councillors, when they are elected, take on the responsibility of corporate parents to children that are looked after by their local authority. This means that they have a duty to take an interest in the well being and development of these children who are one of the most vulnerable groups in society.

6.1.2 The Corporate Parenting Committee has an overview of the Council's role as Corporate Parent for children and young people who are in care. It is responsible for ensuring that the life chances of children in care are maximized in terms of health, educational attainment and access to training and employment, in order to aid the transition to a secure and fulfilling adulthood.

6.1.3 The LHC Joint Committee was established under Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as applied by Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and Part 4 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 by the Executives of each of the Councils.

6.1.4 The LHC is comprised of ten Local Authorities, including representatives from other London boroughs, and other boroughs outside London. It discharges the executive functions of the participating Consortium Local Authorities. Members of the Joint Committee must be appointed by the Cabinets of those authorities. Where five or more authorities form a joint Committee, Regulations provide that the membership of the joint Committee need not be entirely comprised of Cabinet members and where that is the case, other Regulations concerning publicity prior to and following the making of key decisions do not apply. To minimise the administration surrounding the Joint Committee it is written into its Constitution – see Appendix B to this report at page 1, sub paragraph 1.3 - that each participating Local Authority should appoint one Cabinet Member and one non Cabinet Member. The Council's nominees fulfil these criteria. The benefits of participating in this Committee are:

Expert support in four critical areas of building procurement:

- Quality - The LHC employs technical experts to research, specify and monitor the quality of building products and services to help maintain the maximum long term value of assets.
- Efficiency - As a collaborative purchasing organisation, the LHC can gain benefits from bulk buying leading to greater efficiency savings.
- Sustainability - The LHC develops an intimate knowledge with the supply chain and engages with it, on behalf of users, to drive up the green credentials of all supply companies.
- Compliance - As public procurement legislation has grown increasingly complex and local authorities and other registered social landlords have found themselves at greater risk of challenge and litigation in relation to their procurement activities, the LHC has been able to provide valuable assistance through the provision of its regulatory compliant framework arrangements.

6.1.5 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body established pursuant to sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CSP fulfils the duty placed on local authorities to address community safety in partnership with the Police and other partners.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1 Borough Plan Objective - Reducing Inequality and making Haringey a fairer place. The Virtual School Team was established in 2009 and is a small multi-disciplinary team based in the Council and working to raise the educational attainment and attendance of children and young people. It works in close

collaboration with colleagues across the authority, but also in partnership with the third sector (voluntary / community). It tracks educational progress, and monitors work with children and young people in care to help them achieve their full potential, and supports and advises those who care and work with them. The Head of the Virtual School is a regular attendee of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and reports to this Committee.

7.2 Borough Plan Objective – Housing Haringey’s People. Having access to expert support in building procurement will assist with the Council’s home building projects.

7.3 The Community Safety Partnership supports meeting the requirements of the Borough Plan objective of tackling serious violent crime.

8. Statutory Officers comments

8.1 Finance

8.1.1 These Committees can be serviced from within existing business unit resources. Members should note that these Committees do not have the authority to incur expenditure or make budgetary decisions.

8.1.2 There is no direct cost of becoming a Constituent Member of LHC. There may be an indirect cost of the Councillors attending the meeting of the Board of LHC Elected Members in London which takes place twice a year. The Council will receive a share of the annual surplus generated by the LHC. There are no other financial implications arising from this report.

8.2 Procurement

8.2.1 Haringey Council is not obliged to use the services or framework agreements of the LHC unless these demonstrably provide better Value for Money when compared to other options.

8.2.2 The establishment of a Joint Committee should not affect the current VfM test that is applied at a programme or project level.

8.3 Legal

8.3.1 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted on the contents of this report.

8.3.2 The Council's Constitution sets out the relevant Cabinet arrangements at Part Three, Section C and confirms that the Cabinet may establish advisory Committees the membership of which does not have to be limited to Cabinet Members. The Cabinet may change them, abolish them, or create further ones, at its own discretion. These powers must be exercised with the agreement of the Leader and may be exercised by the Leader personally.

8.3.3 The legal and constitutional requirements relating to appointment of members to the LHC Joint Committee are referred to in paragraph 6.1.4: the proposed appointments comply with those requirements.

8.3.4 The Council would be liable, jointly with the other LHC Constituent Members, to cover any losses incurred by LHC. This is thought to be minimal and manageable through participation on the LHC Joint Committee.

8.3.5 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body established pursuant to sections 5 -7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CSP fulfils the duty placed on local authorities to address community safety in partnership with the Police and other partners.

8.4 Equality

8.4.1 There are no specific equalities and cohesion implications to the proposals made in this report.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix A - Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix B Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference

Appendix C - LHC Constitution

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

London Housing Consortium - Cabinet Report - 7th February 2012

Appointment of Cabinet Committees 2019/20 - July 2020

Appendix A

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

1. To be responsible for the Council's role as Corporate parent for those children and young people who are in care;
2. To ensure the voice and views of children in care are heard;
3. To seek to ensure that the life chances of children in care are maximized in terms of their safety, health and well-being, housing, educational attainment and access to training and employment to aid the transition to a secure and fulfilling adulthood;
4. To ensure that the voice and needs of disabled children in care are identified and provided for;
5. To monitor the quality of care provided by the Council to Children in Care;
6. To ensure that young people leaving care have sustainable arrangements for their future wellbeing; and

To make recommendations on these matters to the Cabinet or Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families and Director for Children's Services.