

Report for: Cabinet – 21 June 2022

Title: Establishment of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Appointment of Cabinet Members to Committees and Partnerships 2022/23 & 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

- 1.1 To re-establish the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, confirm its terms of reference, and appoint Members to serve on this advisory Cabinet sub-Committee.
- 1.2 To update the membership of the LHC which is a joint executive committee which will only be continuing until March 2023, following agreement by constituent boroughs in Feb 2022 to disband.
- 1.3 To confirm the appointment of Cllr Bevan to the LHC board as he was nominated to sit on the Holding Board on 25th March as the delegated representative from the Joint Committee. This holding board will be exploring options for the new proposed corporate entity to take forward work of the LHC.
- 1.3 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 Council, as a constituent member borough of the LHC Joint Committee and need to appoint 2 members to this executive related body until March 2023 when the Joint Committee will cease following agreement to disband in

February 2022. The Cabinet Member responsible for Procurement and a deputy are proposed to these positions.

- 2.3 It is important for the Council to maintain links with the LHC Board as a previous constituent Council member and to consider plans for the new corporate entity when finalised.
- 2.4 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 To 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 To note the Community Safety Partnership membership and terms of reference attached at Appendix B;
- 3.1.3 To agree appointments to the LHC Joint Committee (1 Cabinet Member – Cllr Williams and 1 non-exec – Cllr Bevan). These appointments shall be until March 2023.
- 3.1.4 To confirm the appointment of Cllr Bevan to the LHC Holding Board following nomination by the Joint Committee on the 25th of March 2022 as the delegated representative from the Joint Committee.
- 3.1.5 To appoint the following Members to serve on the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and Community Safety Partnership:

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Chair – Cllr Brabazon Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families

Cllr Johnson

Cllr Opoku

Cllr Mahbub

Cllr Weston

Cllr Collett

Cllr Isilar-Gosling

Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Jobs, and Community Cohesion
(as Co-Chair)

Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families

Cllr da Costa

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 These appointments allow the constituent Authorities to consider participation in the new corporate entity which will help maintain the principle of collaborative working which was a core objective of the LHC when a joint Committee. Also Cllr Bevan has been a member and chair of the LHC Joint Committee for many years and will be able to continue to provide the oversight and challenge, as a Board member, to the developing plans for the new corporate entity.
- 4.1.3 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 To not appoint to the LHC Joint Committee and board would mean that the borough is not included in developing governance plans for the new corporate entity. The Council would not be able to advocate continued partnership working and maintain the principle of collaborative working which were the driving principles of the LHC.
- 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 maximised in terms of health, educational attainment and access to training and employment, in order to aid the transition to a secure and fulfilling adulthood. The
- 6.1.3 The LHC was a not-for-profit body set up to provide effective procurement solutions for public sector bodies, to include local authorities. This was previously established as a Joint Executive Committee in 2012. This was

agreed to be disbanded in February 2022, by constituent boroughs including Haringey, following the outcome of a governance review. The Joint committee is continuing until March 2023 to allow plans to be developed for a new corporate entity which will be put forward to constituent boroughs for consideration in due course. In the meantime, the LHC Joint Committee agreed to establish a new LHC Board of Directors. This board was given delegated authority from the Joint Committee to oversee the work of the LHC Management Team who are compiling the proposals on the new entity. There is a need to appoint 2 Members to the Joint Committee until March 2023 and also confirm the appointment of Cllr Bevan to the LHC board.

- 6.1.4 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 The financial implications of joining a new LHC corporate identity will be dealt with in the relevant Cabinet report at that time.

8.2 Procurement

- 8.2.1 The Council can continue to access LHC frameworks whilst any corporate restructure is being put in place. Expenditure through the LHC frameworks in 2019/20 was £123k and £125k in 2020/21.

- 8.5 Strategic Procurement supports monitoring the proposals put forward for the new entity and considering the opportunities provided by proposed new arrangement.

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 In agreeing the disbandment of the Joint Committee in February 2022, the Cabinet noted that the LHC Joint Committee had agreed to establish a new LHC Board of Directors. This was given delegated authority from the Joint Committee to oversee the work of the LHC Management Team. This is a holding board and the LHC advise that there are no legal implications for members being appointed to this holding board.
- 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 Joint Committee Terms of Reference

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

London Housing Consortium - Cabinet Report – 9 February 2022
Appointment of Cabinet Committees 2021/22 – 15 June 2021