

**Report for:** Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Item number:** 11

**Title:** Appointment of Cabinet Committees 2016/17

**Report authorised by :** Bernie Ryan- Assistant Director for Corporate Governance

**Lead Officer:** Ayshe Simsek – Principal Committee Co-ordinator

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

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

### **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

To appoint Members to serve on the sub committees set out below for the new municipal year 2016/17 and to confirm the terms of reference of these committees:

- Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
- LHC Joint Committee.

### **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. They seek to ensure that the health, education and access to employment of children in care is maximised, monitor the quality of care provided, and also 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. It is proposed that such an arrangement continues.

### **3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that for 2016/17 municipal year:

- i) Cabinet establish the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, and the LHC and that the terms of reference for these bodies be noted;

- ii) Cabinet appoint the Members indicated below to serve on the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, and the LHC Joint Committee:

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families

X4 Labour positions TBC

X2 Liberal Democrat Positions TBC

LHC

Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

X1 Labour position - Cllr Bevan

**4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 To keep an overview of the councillors statutory role as a corporate parent to children in care and young people leaving care .
- 4.2 The Council currently uses LHC frameworks as an efficient way of procuring technically complex products and services for its building refurbishment and maintenance programmes.
- 4.3 By becoming 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.  
Share of the LHC annual surplus.

**5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 The Constitution advises that all Advisory or Consultative Committees will continue in operation only until the first meeting of the Cabinet ,in the next municipal year following their establishment when they must be expressly renewed or they cease to exist. Therefore, 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.
- 5.2 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.

## **6. Background information**

- 6.1 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 on an interest in the well being and development of these children who are one of the most vulnerable groups in society.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The LHC is comprised of nine Local Authorities, to include 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 C 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

## **7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 7.1 Priority 1 – Enabling every child to have the best start in life – this includes closing the attainment gap for groups of children who typically do not achieve as highly as others, including looked after children and different ethnic groups. 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 Priority 4 - Create homes and communities where people choose to live and are able to thrive. Having access to expert support in building procurement will assist with the council's home building projects.

## **8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### **Finance and Procurement**

- 8.1 The service manager confirms that 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.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 The establishment of a Joint Committee should not affect the current VfM test that is applied at a programme or project level.

## **Legal**

- 8.5 The Assistant Director Corporate Governance has been consulted on the contents of this Report.
- 8.6 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.

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.”

## **Equality**

- 8.7 There are no specific equalities and cohesion implications of the proposal made in this report.

## **9. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A - Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Terms of Reference  
Appendix B - LHC Constitution

## **10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

London Housing Consortium - Cabinet Report - 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Appointment of Cabinet Committees 2015/16 – Cabinet 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**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 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 health, 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 are identified and provided for;
5. To monitor the quality of care provided by the Council to Children in Care;
6. To ensure that children leaving care have sustainable arrangements for their future wellbeing; and
7. To make recommendations on these matters to the Cabinet or Cabinet Member for Children and Director of Children and Young People's Service.

