

**Report for:** Cabinet 20 June 2017

**Item number:** 18

**Title:** Establishment of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Appointment of Cabinet Members to Committees and Partnerships 2017/18& Confirmation of their Terms of Reference.

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

**Lead Officer:** Ayshe Simsek – Committees Manager

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

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

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

To establish the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.  
To appoint Members to serve on: a Cabinet subcommittee, Joint Committees, and a statutory partnership body set out below for the new municipal year 2017/18 and to confirm the terms of reference of these Committees:

- Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
- LHC Joint Committee.
- Shared ICT and Digital Joint Committee
- Community Safety Partnership

## **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.

- 2.3 The shared ICT and Digital services was agreed in March 2016 by Camden, Haringey and Islington as an innovative approach to deliver savings while protecting critical services and supporting requirements for the Councils to transform the way they deliver services.
- 2.4 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 for 2017/18 municipal year:

- 3.1.1 Cabinet establish the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, and that the terms of reference for this sub committee, attached at appendix A, be noted;
- 3.1.2 Cabinet note the terms of reference for the LHC, Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee and Community Safety Partnership attached at appendix B, C, and D.
- 3.1.3 Cabinet appoint the Members, indicated below, to serve on the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, and the LHC Joint Committee, Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee and Community Safety Partnership.

#### Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families –  
Councillor Elin Weston  
Cllr Anne Stennett,  
Cllr Pat Berryman,  
Cllr Shelia Peacock  
Cllr Felicia Opoku  
Cllr Bob Hare  
Cllr Liz Morris

#### LHC

Cabinet Member for Housing Regeneration, and Planning  
X1 Labour position - Cllr Bevan

#### Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee.

Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources  
Cabinet Member for Finance and Health  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Culture[ Substitute Member]

#### Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Communities  
Cabinet Member for Children and Families

#### 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.
- 4.4 Participation and membership of the Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee will provide the Council with democratic oversight of the strategic delivery of the shared service.
- 4.5 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 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.
- 5.3 Not appointing Cabinet Members to the Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint was the only other option but this would not allow the Council to provide democratic oversight of key decisions affecting the joint service.

- 5.4 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 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 In March 2016, the Cabinet agreed for Haringey Council to join a Shared ICT and Digital Service with Camden and Islington. In August 2016, The Leader agreed the terms of reference for the Joint Committee, the Cabinet Member membership of this Joint Committee and gave delegated authority to the Chief Operating Officer, Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources to negotiate, agree and enter into any necessary legal arrangements that will govern and underpin the operation of the shared service and to give effect to this decision.
- 6.6 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 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.
- 7.3 Shared service allows the ICT service access to more resources, thus improving its ability to support all current corporate priority and transformation programmes.
- 7.4 The shared service approach also allows the Council to reduce the current costs of short term resources required by transformation programmes and priority outcomes.
- 7.5 The Community Safety Partnership supports meeting the requirements of Priority 2 – Enable all Adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives and Priority

5 – Creating Homes and communities where people choose to live and are able to thrive.

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

### **Finance**

- 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.

### **Procurement**

- 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.
- 8.5 Procurement does not need to comment on matters relating to terms of reference for the Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee.

### **Legal**

- 8.6 The Assistant Director Corporate Governance has been consulted on the contents of this Report.
- 8.7 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 requirement to expressly renew the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee each municipal year following its establishment is referred to in paragraph 5.1 of this report.
- 8.8 The legal and constitutional requirements relating to appointment of members to the LHC Joint Committee are referred to in paragraph 6.4: the proposed appointments comply with those requirements.

- 8.9 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.
- 8.10 The terms of reference of Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee with Camden and Islington established under the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012/1019, requires the Council to appoint two members to the Joint Committee. In addition the Council may nominate substitute members, to attend, if the appointed members are not able attend. One member appointed must be the relevant Cabinet Member responsible for ICT and the other appointment to the Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee (including nominating Substitutes) must be Cabinet members the Council. 8.110. 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.

### **Equality**

- 8.11 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 - LHC Constitution  
Appendix C - Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee Terms of reference  
Appendix D Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference

## **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

Appointment of Cabinet Committees 2016/17 – Cabinet 17 May 2016



## 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.



