

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THE LONDON HOUSING CONSORTIUM

Cabinet Members	Councillor Ray Puddifoot MBE Councillor Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolios	Leader of the Council Social Services, Housing, Health & Wellbeing
Officer Contact	Mark Braddock – Chief Executive’s Office
Papers with report	Appendix A: Extract of the Constitution for the Joint Committee

HEADLINES

Purpose of Report	To seek Cabinet approval for the appointment of Councillor Philip Corthorne and Councillor Jane Palmer to the London Housing Consortium. To note that as of June 2018, Councillors are now appointed to the LHC Committee of Elected Members (the LHC Board) for a term of four years.
Putting our residents First	This report contributes to the Council’s objective of “our built environment”.
Financial Cost	None.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Social Care, Housing & Public Health
Ward(s) affected	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- 1) **Appoints Councillor Philip Corthorne and Councillor Jane Palmer as the London Borough of Hillingdon’s representatives to the Joint Committee of the London Housing Consortium;**
- 2) **Notes that, as of June 2018, Councillors are appointed to the London Housing Consortium Joint Committee of Elected Members (the LHC Board) for a term of four years.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendations

To ensure Hillingdon representation on the London Housing Consortium and the effective and lawful operation of the LHC.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Council could consider withdrawing from the LHC but there are tangible benefits for continuing its participation in it. The Council would also lose a share of the annual surplus generated by the LHC if it were to withdraw from it.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee

Not applicable at this stage.

Supporting Information

Historical Context

1. The London Housing Consortium [LHC] was established in 1966 by a group of London Boroughs, known as the LHC Founder Members. These Boroughs are Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hillingdon, Islington and Tower Hamlets.
2. Members and officers from these London Boroughs agreed to create what they described as 'a voluntary association' concerned primarily with an architectural focus and 'industrialised forms of building'. Over the years, three other London Boroughs, namely Hackney, Haringey and Lambeth, have joined the Consortium as LHC Full Members. Additionally, Buckinghamshire County Council and a Registered Social Landlord, the Anchor Trust, are also LHC Full Members. There are therefore 12 current Members of the LHC.
3. The objectives have evolved and changed over time so that the LHC now very successfully supports large numbers of local authorities, arms length management organisations and registered housing providers and has the following aims:
 - To provide specialist technical and procurement services related to building programmes undertaken by LHC constituent authorities and other public sector bodies.
 - To establish, develop and manage framework agreements for the procurement of building components and services for the use and benefit of all constituent authorities and other public sector bodies.

Current Operations of the LHC

4. The LHC is governed by a Board of Elected Members which comprises one voting Councillor representative from the eleven local authority members. In 2017/18, the Chairman was the Cabinet Member for Housing from the London Borough of Haringey and the Vice Chairman was the Cabinet Member for Social Services, Housing, Health and Wellbeing from the London Borough of Hillingdon. An officer from the London Borough of Hillingdon Democratic Services Team undertakes the Honorary Clerk duties and the Council's Corporate Director of Finance is the Honorary Treasurer.
5. The day to day activities of the LHC are carried out by the LHC Operations Group, a team of 17 professional staff who have, from the inception of the LHC, been employed by the London Borough of Hillingdon. Taking direction from the LHC Board, the Senior Management Team of the LHC Operations Group prepares an annual Business Plan which aims to generate a surplus of income over operating costs. In this way, the work of the LHC is self-financing and it has not required any financial support from any of the LHC members. In fact, the surplus is redistributed to all the LHC members who realise a financial gain. Over the past five years, a total sum of £5m has been redistributed.
6. The LHC Operations Group occupies premises in Uxbridge, leased by the London Borough of Hillingdon and financed out of LHC income.
7. In addition to the Full LHC Members, the LHC also currently accepts Associate Members. They have no voting rights but are entitled to a share of the LHC surplus in accordance with a committed level of business procured by them. There are currently 51 LHC Associate Members. The LHC also offers its services to the wider public sector community. There are currently approximately 100 public sector authorities using the LHC as non-members.

Governance Arrangements and Appointments

8. At its meeting in January 2012, Cabinet agreed that the LHC was to be formally established as a Joint Committee pursuant to section 101[5] of the Local Government Act 1972, and that the London Borough of Hillingdon was to be a member of it.
9. Appointment to the Joint Committee is treated in exactly the same way as an appointment to any other local authority joint committee. The Members will be collectively responsible, with the other members of the joint committee, for decision making and in this way they will avoid any personal liability arising.
10. Article 11.02 of Hillingdon's Constitution sets out the position regarding joint arrangements and it specifically provides that:
 - The Cabinet may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities to exercise functions in any of the participating authorities - such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with those other local authorities.

- The Cabinet may appoint members to a Joint Committee from outside the Cabinet where the Joint Committee is discharging a function in relation to five or more local authorities. In this case, the Cabinet may appoint to the Joint Committee any member of the Council and the political balance requirements do not apply to such appointments.
11. Under the LHC constitution, the Council is required to appoint 2 Elected Members (for a period of 4 years). One is required to be a Cabinet Member, the other a non-Cabinet Member. An extract of the Constitution is attached in Appendix A.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommended appointment of Members to serve as the Council's representatives on the Joint Committee of the London Housing Consortium.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

There will be no effect on the residents, service users or communities of Hillingdon.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

No consultation has been carried out at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial implications set out above.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor has reviewed the report and can confirm that it is necessary for it to be brought before Cabinet, with a recommendation that two Hillingdon Councillors should be appointed as Hillingdon representatives to the Joint Committee of the London Housing Consortium, in order to satisfy the requirements of paragraph 1.3 of the Consortium's Constitution.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Appendix A

[Extract]



Trusted procurement for
better buildings and homes

LHC Constitution

This Constitution had been approved by each of the Authorities as the Constitution of the LHC Joint Committee.

1. Establishment of the Joint Committee

- 1.1 The Joint Committee shall be the "LHC Joint Committee"
- 1.2 The Joint Committee is 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.
- 1.3 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 serve for a term of four years. One member shall be an executive member and one a non-executive member.