

## Report of Interim Managing Director

### Request from LB Enfield to waive Joint Committee attendance criteria for 21/22

#### 1. Recommendations

- To **reject** the request from LB Enfield to waive the attendance criteria for 2021 and continue 'as-is' with the agreed allocation of £75k to be paid during 22/23 financial year.

#### 2. Details of the request made

- The request was raised by Housing & Regeneration Director of LB Enfield on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, following confirmation of the Cabinet meeting scheduled to consider the disbanding of the Joint Committee.
- The request is to waive attendance criteria for the community benefit (CB) fund allowance scheme for 2021 and that London Borough of Enfield receives this award. The grounds on which this request is made is due to "the difficult year with the impact of the pandemic affecting availability for meetings."

#### 3. Background

- Member attendance at Joint Committee is the only mechanism to support decisions for LHC to move forward with its business objectives.
- During Covid 2020 lockdown, attendance was acceptable via teams (as online votes/comments were permitted) and this counted towards the CB allowance scheme.
- Since the High Court judgement of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021, ruling that council meetings in England must take place "in person", the Joint Committee was required to resume attendance in person and to meet the qualification criteria to receive the fund.
  - This was communicated to all Councillors on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
- LB Enfield have been a constituent member since 2016 and have qualified once to receive the fund of £10k for attendance, during 2020, paid in 2021.
  - This was the period where it was permitted to attend meetings remotely.
- Joint Committee meetings for 2021 were held on June 25<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, during which regulations required 'in person' meetings at a single specified geographical location. LB Enfield was represented at 1 out of 4 attendances during 2021.
- As Members will be aware, qualification criteria for receiving the fund is 2 out of 4 attendances.
- Out of the 10 constituent members, 7 will receive the fund for 2021 – payable in 2022. This equates to £75k being allocated to the fund via Locality, who
- independently manage this. This value is equivalent to pre-pandemic values, which were:

- 2017      £75k
- 2018      £55k
- 2019      £75k
- 2020      £85k (Remote attendance permitted)

#### 4. Options considered

- 4.1 To agree to waive attendance criteria and extend awarding of the fund to those attending remotely, where no comments or votes can be recorded.  
The total cost would be **£85k** and would only be applicable to LB Enfield, who did not meet the criteria.
- 4.2 To agree to waive attendance requirement in its entirety for 2021 and award the fund to all members whether meetings were attended or not.  
The total cost would be **£105k** and would allocate £10k each to LB Ealing and LB Tower Hamlets who have not attended any meetings since June 2020 and June 2019 respectively.
- 4.3 To reject the proposal of waiving attendance criteria for 2021 and continue 'as-is' with the agreed allocation of **£75k**, which will be paid during 22/23 financial year.
- 4.4 These options were discussed with the Chair of the Joint Committee, Cllr. Bevan, and the recommendation made above reflects that consultation.