

**Decision Maker:** EXECUTIVE

For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 23 January 2023.

**Date:** Wednesday 8 February 2023

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Key

**Title:** LOCAL LONDON SUB-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

**Contact Officer:** Hal Khanom, Head of Economic Development  
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**Chief Officer:** Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration

**Ward:** All Wards

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1. Reason for decision/report and options

1.1 To seek authority to join Local London sub-regional partnership

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**2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee is asked to note the report and provide comments for consideration by the Executive.

2.2 The Executive is asked to:

- Approve joining Local London and signing the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) for the Local London Sub-Regional Partnership (appendix 1) so as to establish joint arrangements with the Local London Authorities including the formation of a Joint Committee with its terms of reference as set out in the IAA;
- Approve the annual membership fee, currently £50K per annum, for the duration of Bromley's membership, noting interdependencies with UK Shared Prosperity 3-year period (3.7) and Local London's current strategy period 2022-2025 (3.5);
- Approve delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation to determine continuing membership annually, on review of value added;
- Approve authority to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation to be the Council's Member at the Local London Joint Committee and make decisions where there are no direct implications for LBB finances (3.14) and to appoint the Leader to be the Reserve Member; and,
- Note the benefits of joining Local London, as set out in paragraphs 3.8-3.13

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Significant positive impact on Vulnerable Adults
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## Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
  2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority
    - (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
    - (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
    - (3) For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
    - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
    - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £50,000
  2. Ongoing costs: Recurring cost subject to DA decision annually
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Council wide
  4. Total current budget for this head: £229.9m
  5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget
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## Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 5 staff at bi-monthly/quarterly partnership meetings
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
  2. Call-in: Applicable
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## Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: None
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## Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: A key partnership focus on sustainability across all areas of work.
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): all residents and businesses.
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### 3. COMMENTARY

#### Background

- 3.1. Sub-regional partnerships (SRPs) play a key role in supporting the delivery of inclusive growth in the capital by bringing together local authorities, businesses, anchor institutions and communities on a range of issues. London's size and diversity means subregional partnerships bridge the space between local authorities and regional government, with SRPs often described as where the 'top down' and the 'bottom up' meet.
- 3.2. London has four sub-regional partnerships: West London Alliance (west London); South London Partnership (south-west London); Central London Forward (central London) and the newest SRP, Local London (East focussed including south-east and north-east).
- 3.3. Funding in growth-related areas is often devolved and administered by SRPs, and all other London boroughs are currently members of sub-regional partnerships.

#### Local London

- 3.4. Local London is a partnership of boroughs in the north-east and south-east of the capital. The partnership is between the London Boroughs of: Bexley, Greenwich, Havering, Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge, Newham, Waltham Forest and Enfield.
- 3.5. The core areas for lobbying, bidding and delivery of programmes for the sub-region are transport, employment and skills; digital infrastructure and digital inclusion; economic recovery and green growth. A new Local London Strategy for 2022-2025 is being developed currently along these areas with sustainability a cross-cutting theme.
- 3.6. Bromley has been a nominal-member of Local London for the past several years to access devolved employment and skills programmes including the £39M Work and Health programme (WHP) and £18M Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS). Current access for our beneficiaries is limited to mandatory programmes only and not the full delivery programme of Local London.
- 3.7. Existing relationships within the subregion are strong. Key borough partner, London South East Colleges is an anchor institution for Local London, leading on two new flagship green skills programmes for the subregion. The south-east tri-borough collaboration between Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich already works together as part of the South East London CCG, with close links to Local London.



#### Reasons to join

- 3.8. Moving from a nominal-member to a full member of Local London opens-up access for Bromley's businesses and residents to the full range of funding programmes, such as UKSPF, that may be secured and commissioned at the sub-regional level. These programmes may supplement our revenue budgets as streams are closely aligned to the ambitions of the adopted Economic Development Strategy.
- 3.9. The Council has already started benefitting from the UKSPF funding that is funnelled through the subregional partnerships to boroughs. A previous report to the Executive in November

2022 set out the £1.63M due to be received by the Council in relation to the Business Support and Community and Place funding streams.

- 3.10. It allows Bromley to occupy a nimble position to seek funding at both the borough level and through the subregional funding pots where most appropriate. In the period covered by the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (2022- 2025), noted in the UKSPF Executive paper in November 2022, the £750K allocation for Bromley under 'People and Skills' is set to be accessed through Local London in year 3. As people and skills funding supports only people furthest from the labour market towards employment, all job outcomes supported by this funding will support reducing reliance on the Council's finances in statutory services.
- 3.11. The £30M open call for UKSPF business support will have opportunities for SRPs to bid for programmes, as well as individual boroughs. As scale often leads to better value for money for some programmes, having both the option of bidding individually and also choosing not to compete against SRP bids but to shape and define them to Bromley's needs, provides the best chance of securing the best grant funding deal for Bromley. For UKSPF Communities and Place funding, it may prove beneficial to remain in an agile position so as to benefit from access to SRP support should the opportunity for further funding arise within the three year period.
- 3.12. Joining Local London immediately opens-up the potential to access £1M of Strategic Investment Pot funding for digital infrastructure, subject to business case approval from the Greater London Authority. This is not guaranteed funding, but without being a full member, there is no opportunity to put a case forward for these funds, which can pump prime investment to extend full fibre reach in the borough. Initial discussions with the GLA and Local London suggest it is very likely that we will receive this £1M for digital infrastructure improvements once we are part of the sub-regional partnership which can be used to improve connectivity particularly in the south of the borough.
- 3.13. Decisions taken at Local London level impact the broader geographic context within which Bromley's residents and businesses live and work, and therefore joining as a full member provides us the ability to shape the financial decisions it makes. Already TFL has agreed to review bus routes with Local London to increase orbital links. Joining Local London can support securing funding for the borough at a time of increasing financial pressure on Councils, it can put Bromley's voice at the heart of the lobbying for areas such as transport, and ensure that our unique economic connection with the South East of England is fully understood.
- 3.14. As a member, the Council needs to delegate decisions at the Local London Joint Committee to a Member. The decisions made at Local London decision committees do not impact on the Council's resources (using only Local London's budget). It is recommended that the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation are delegated authority to take decisions at the Local London committee on behalf of LBB.

#### Inter Authority Agreement and fee

- 3.15. The IAA serves as a memorandum of understanding and does not bind the Council to involvement on any specific programmes, which are for the consideration of individual member organisations. There is no defined time-frame for the duration of membership, which is wholly voluntary and at the discretion of individual local authorities.
- 3.16. The IAA is the existing agreement between the 8 original boroughs and is being updated only to include Bromley as the 9<sup>th</sup> partner and to ensure up to date legislation references.

- 3.17. The current cost to join is £50K per financial year. This cost pays for the staff at Local London to bid, administer and evaluate all programmes on behalf of the Councils which is considered good value when compared against the large values of each individual programme.

#### **4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

- 4.1 Local London delivers substantial employment and skills programmes to those furthest from the labour market to support them towards work including those with additional health barriers. The year 3 UKSPF funding of £750K will directly benefit vulnerable adults, and by extension support children through increasing household income.

#### **5. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All five of the Making Bromley Even Better priority areas can be supported through partnership working sub-regionally, as work covers a large breadth of areas including education, transport, health and economic development.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The annual membership fee for Local London is currently £50k per annum. This can be funded from Central Contingency in 2022/23, and from revenue budget growth from 2023/24 onwards.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Executive is being requested to agree to enter into Joint Partnership arrangements with the eight other local authorities which will form the Local London Sub-Regional Partnership as set out in the Local London Inter Authority Agreement (Local London IAA) which is Appendix 1 to this report.
- 7.2 The report therefore seeks authority from the Executive to enter into the Local London IAA and to agree to form a Joint Committee with the other Authorities to exercise the functions as more particularly set out in the Terms of Reference as contained in the Local London IAA. Each Council is required under the terms of the Local London IAA to appoint a member from its Executive to the Joint Committee and for that Member to appoint a Reserve. Accordingly, the Executive is requested to appoint the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation to the Joint Committee and the Leader to be the Reserve
- 7.3 The terms and condition of the Local London IAA are not unduly onerous or unfair and should therefore be acceptable to the Council. In short the Local London IAA creates the 'Partnership' of Council Members and a form of Governance comprising of a Joint Committee who will exercise the functions (within the limits stated) of the Council jointly with the other Council Members through arrangements, being the creation of the Joint Committee with terms of reference; with a Chief Executives Board who amongst others things will control Agenda Business ; with the dedicated support of a Director , a Unit, all through the Accountable Body (LB of Redbridge ). This is all paid for through a jointly agreed Budget. It is possible to leave by giving a 12 month notice however the ramifications of that decision are managed by the Partnership but with any residual liability being met by the withdrawing Council. Suffice to say the Local London IAA is legally binding. This report is further seeking agreement to pay the annual fee and to delegate to the Portfolio Holder to annually review the Council's membership of the Partnership Arrangements on a value-added basis
- 7.4 Under the Joint Arrangements the Local London Members will join together to develop and implement a coordinated programme which will seek meaningful devolution deals with regional and national government, and effectively deliver on any responsibilities transferred to the sub-region which will form the Local London Partnership Programme (LLPP) and support the objectives of the member authorities.

- 7.5 The Joint Committee will discharge executive functions on the collective behalf of Local London Members in so far as they relate to joint activities or areas of common concern in relation to the delivery of the LLPP. Local London Members may opt out of joint activities. The LLPP Joint Committee is free to agree that one or more but less than all Local London Members participate in a particular project or programme of work.
- 7.6 The Leader has power to make arrangements under section 101(5) of the 1972 Act in accordance with Part 4 of The Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012. At Bromley this has been delegated to the Executive under our Constitution at Article 11.02 (b) which requires the Executive to decide to agree the Joint Arrangements and to delegate the relevant functions to a Joint Committee as per the Terms of reference. The Joint Committee and terms of reference should be included within our Constitution. As Article 11.02 (c) of our Constitution makes provision for the Executive to appoint an Executive Member to the Joint Committee (paragraph 7.2 above refers)
- 7.7 The business of the Joint Committee is subject to Bromley's Scrutiny Committee arrangements

**8. CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Sustainability is the cross-cutting theme of the developing Local London Strategy 2022-2025, and green recovery is a key focus area.
- 8.2 LSEC will deliver for Local London, DFE funded Local London Green Academies Partnership (2.46M) and the GLA funded Local London Green and Digital Mayoral Academy £237K.

**9. CUSTOMER IMPACT**

- 9.1 Businesses and residents stand to benefit from increased access to both business and employment and skills-related support programmes, as well as increased digital and transport infrastructure.
- 9.2 Major businesses benefit from a wider pool of talent to access from the sub-region and to increase their supply chain and business reach.

<b>Non-Applicable Headings:</b>	Personnel, Property, Procurement Implications, and Ward Councillor views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Inter Authority Agreement (Appendix 1) UKSPF - Borough Allocation (Executive 30 November 2022 – HPR2022/057)