



## **Better Placed Joint Committee (Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark)**

MINUTES of the Better Placed Joint Committee (Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark) held on Thursday 23 March 2017 at 3.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Chair for the meeting)  
Councillor Peter John OBE  
Councillor Lib Peck

**OFFICER SUPPORT:** Robyn Fairman, Head of Strategy (Lewisham)  
Stephen Gaskell, Head of Chief Executive's Office (Southwark)  
Helen Payne, Assistant Director of Welfare, Employment and Skills (Lambeth)  
Ameeta Rowland, Programme Manager (Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark)  
Tom Crisp, Senior Lawyer (Southwark)  
Everton Roberts, Principal Constitutional Officer (Southwark)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT**

There were no late items.

### **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

### **4. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

## **5. PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT PHASE 2**

The joint committee heard from Helen Payne, Assistant Director, Welfare, Employment and Skills (Lambeth), Stephen Gaskell, Head of Chief Executive's Office (Southwark), Robyn Fairman, Head of Strategy (Lewisham) and Ameeta Rowland, programme manager for the three boroughs.

In addition to the information set out in the report, officers reported that the number of people who had gained employment through the pathways to employment phase 2 programme interim grant was now 180. This was up from 128 quoted in the report (paragraph 18).

Officers also reported to members on future areas of work, advising that the intention was always to look at how the three boroughs could work on areas where there was a common interest, employment being the nucleus for the combined delivery. Members were informed that the Area Based Review of Skills had just been concluded and this had provided an opportunity to look at improving skills provision and the potential to deliver something on a sub regional basis. Through officer discussions it had been identified that there is common ground with the three boroughs on tackling low pay and helping residents to progress in work. It was explained that one of the key elements of Universal Credit Full Service was that it introduces in work conditionality for those deemed to be not working enough or in low paid positions, and individuals and those people will be required to report to their local Jobcentre. Officers advised that this is considered to be an extremely significant welfare reform and there is a big gap in terms of support for that group. The Department for Work and Pensions and others had been running a number of trials across the country around in work progression.

Officers emphasised that tackling low pay and helping residents' progression in work was a priority for the three boroughs and there was a significant opportunity to work with residents in this position that had not been possible before. Officers reported that the Jobcentre is committed to working with the three local authorities around supporting that group and thinking about what can be done to achieve this aim. Officers were seeking members' agreement to explore developing a pilot in this area with a view to funding this initiative through potential unspent monies from the Apprenticeship Levy. This would involve liaising with the GLA and London Councils. It was considered that this would be a good natural progression from the Pathways given that the 'work and health' programme would in effect be Phase 3 of the pathways to employment programme.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the three leaders write formally to London Councils expressing disappointment about the delays and the handling of the European Social Fund as referred to in paragraph 11 of the report and also write a letter of thanks to St Giles Trust for delivering the programme in the way they have despite the uncertainty.
2. That the revised value of the agreement with St Giles Trust to deliver Pathways to Employment Phase 2 be up to £1,660,900 for the reasons set out in the report.
3. That in terms of future areas of work (paragraphs 19 – 21 of the report), officers develop further the proposal regarding tackling low pay and in work progression.

The meeting ended at 3.24pm

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

**DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE SOUTHWARK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, MONDAY 3 APRIL 2017.**

**THE ABOVE DECISIONS ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO THE LAMBETH AND LEWISHAM COUNCILS SCRUTINY PROCESS. THE DECISIONS WILL THEREFORE NOT BE IMPLEMENTABLE UNTIL THE END OF THE CALL-IN PROCESS FOR THE THREE BOROUGHES. SHOULD A DECISION OF THE BETTER PLACED JOINT COMMITTEE BE CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY, THEN THE RELEVANT DECISION WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE OUTCOME OF SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION.**