
TERMS OF REFERENCE

BETTER PLACED JOINT COMMITTEE

Joint Committee of the London Boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark

Role and functions

The London Boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark have established a joint committee to discharge executive functions on behalf of the three boroughs, in so far as they relate to joint activities or areas of common concern in relation to growth, economic development and skills. Over time the committee may consider other areas.

The committee will:

1. Provide oversight and decision-making of the Pathways to Employment pilot
2. Work together to transform local public services in employment support
3. Work collectively with employers, colleges and other stakeholders on jobs and skills, where appropriate
4. Represent the collective interests of the constituent boroughs to national and local government and other bodies, where appropriate
5. Jointly bid for funding, training and employment programmes e.g. EU funding and oversight of that funding
6. Manage and allocate spending of funding and other financial resources within its remit
7. Take on additional responsibilities and funding delegated from government where the committee judges this to be in the best interest.

The governance arrangements provide flexibility so that these functions can be added to or amended over time.

The joint committee does not have power to exercise non-executive functions on behalf of the three boroughs.

Matters reserved for decision

The matters reserved for decision are set out in the roles and functions of the joint committee.

APPLICATION OF CONSTITUTION AND PROCEDURE RULES TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Membership

1. Each council shall appoint its Leader / Mayor to sit on the joint committee. Each council should also appoint a named substitute (to be an executive member for those operating executive governance arrangements) to attend in the Leader / Mayor's absence.
2. Partners and stakeholders will be invited to be part of/or send representatives to the meetings of the joint committee as appropriate; they will attend in an advisory capacity only.

Quorum

3. The quorum for meetings will be at least one member from each of the boroughs.

Voting

4. Each member of the joint committee will have one vote and all business coming or arising before the joint committee shall be decided by a majority of the members of the joint committee present and voting (in accordance with paragraph 39 of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972).

Overview and scrutiny

5. Decisions of the joint committee are subject to scrutiny and 'call in' by each or any of the three boroughs.
6. Each of the three boroughs has established overview and scrutiny arrangements for the joint committee.
7. In the event that a decision of the joint committee or any sub-committee is 'called in' the chief executive (or an officer designated by the chief executive) for the relevant borough will attend the relevant scrutiny committee together with the member or their substitute nominated from that borough to be on the joint committee.

Administration

8. Administrative support for the meetings of the joint committee will be provided by Southwark Council and the chief executive of Southwark Council will be formally designated as clerk to the joint committee with responsibility for the provision of administrative support.

Lead borough / Accountable body arrangements

9. Where necessary a lead borough shall be identified from amongst the parties to implement any necessary activities. Subject to any change from joint committee members, below details the initial roles and responsibilities of joint committee members:

London Borough of Lambeth – lead accountable body for procuring and contracting with third parties

London Borough of Southwark – lead accountable body for administering the joint committee

London Borough of Lewisham – lead accountable body for bidding for and holding grant funding and managing community budget staff.

10. Any changes to this will be accepted by unanimous agreement by voting members.