

<b>Mayor and Cabinet</b>			
<b>Title</b>	Response to the comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee on Cross-borough Working		
<b>Wards</b>	All	<b>Item</b>	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration		
<b>Class</b>	<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Date</b>	23 October 2013

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 On 13 June 2013, the Public Accounts Select Committee considered a report entitled Cross-borough working.
- 1.2 The Committee recommended that the Mayor and Cabinet should take note of the Local Government Association report and the Tri-borough report that the Public Accounts Select Committee received at the meeting.
- 1.3 The Mayor was asked to agree that the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration should provide a response to the Committee's recommendation. This report sets out the proposed response.

## **2. Recommendation**

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the LGA report and the Tri-borough report and approve this response for submission to the Public Accounts Select Committee.

## **3. Background and policy context**

- 3.1 As a public body the challenge facing the Council over the coming years is to be more adaptive and flexible, whilst retaining a relentless focus on, and commitment to, improving life chances for citizens. The broad policy framework for the Council's work is the borough's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-20.
- 3.2 The public spending reductions that face local government through to 2018 will mean that even greater innovation and collaboration will be needed in order to protect services to the greatest extent possible.
- 3.3 Sharing services across local authorities is a mechanism that has been shown to deliver cashable efficiencies. The majority of examples of sharing services are shared procurement activity between one or two individual authorities, or sub-regional groups such as the West London Alliance, or East London Solutions.
- 3.4 A smaller number of authorities, although still significant numbers, share management structures and teams (from the Chief Executive to whole

management teams as in Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea).

- 3.5 A smaller number still share direct service provision across Boroughs- Tri-Borough in London being the most high profile example of sharing a large range of services.

#### **4. Response to Public Accounts Select Committee on Cross-borough working**

4.1 The Council is continually looking for ways to be more efficient, effective and deliver better outcomes for the residents of Lewisham. Cross-Borough working is one of the ways that the council looks to reduce costs, and improve services. The Public Accounts Committee looked at examples of the innovative work the council is already doing in agreeing cross council frameworks contracts, shared procurements between councils, and sharing services.

4.2 The council is already involved in a number of cross Borough initiatives. These arise as pragmatic solutions to procurement or commissioning challenges. This means that there are no 'common' partner arrangements as have occurred in other Boroughs. Lewisham is currently sharing procurement activity/ contracts on:

- IT contract across Lewisham, Croydon, Lambeth, Barking and Dagenham, Brent and Havering
- Bromley/ Lewisham IT support contract
- Croydon/Lewisham street lighting PFI and clienting
- Learning and development – Southwark/Greenwich/ Lewisham
- Libraries pan London procurement
- Supporting People - Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Bromley
- Welfare catering- Southwark, Lewisham and Lambeth

4.3 The council is also sharing procurement across local partner agencies, for instance through integrated commissioning with local Health partners

4.4 The need for constant vigilance for new opportunities for sharing services and contracts is stark given the reductions in public spending planned for the next three years, and the documents highlighted by the committee are a useful summary of work in this area for far.

#### **5. Legal implications**

There are no specific legal implications.

#### **6. Financial implications**

There are no financial implications.

#### **7. Equalities implications**

There are no equalities implications.

**8. Crime and disorder implications**

There are no crime and disorder implications.

**9. Environmental implications**

There are no environmental implications.

**10. Background Documents and Report Author**

10.1 Public Accounts Committee Cross Borough Working 13 June 2013

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s22829/03CrossBoroughWorking13062013.pdf>

10.2 If you require further information regarding this report please contact Robyn Fairman on 020 8314 6635.