

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee	12 April 2018
Subject: Pan-London Resilience Arrangements	Public
Report of: Town Clerk & Chief Executive	For Decision
Report author: Mark Sawyer, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

Since 2004, principles have been in place to ensure an enhanced collective and co-ordinated approach to resilience in London across the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London, supported by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA).

Currently funding for centralised support, which all authorities in London fund equally, is paid directly to the London Fire Brigade as the delivery arm of LFEPA. Following reviews of London local governments response to the range of large-scale incidents in London since 2016, and in recognition of the abolition of LFEPA and establishment of the Mayoral Office for Fire and Resilience, agreement was reached amongst chief executives, confirming that an alternative approach was required. To ensure greater ownership of the local authority resilience agenda, increased flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London, it was requested that local authorities accept direct responsibility for the collection and distribution of the central fund.

In seeking to address these recommendations and continue to demonstrate a leadership role on resilience, it is proposed that the City Corporation support the new funding arrangements by assuming the role of collecting and distributing the individual £30k funding contributions from each of the London Boroughs. The distribution of the central fund would be overseen by the London Local Authority Panel (LAP) which comprises nine local authority chief executives including London Councils and John Barradell, Town Clerk and Chief Executive of the City Corporation as Chair.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to approve the proposal that the City Corporation assumes responsibility, on behalf of the 32 London Boroughs, for collecting and distributing

the individual £30k funding contributions towards the pan-London resilience arrangements, on behalf of the Local Authorities' Panel.

Main Report

Background

1. In 2004, principles, including the London Local Authority Gold (LLAG) resolution and the involvement of all chief executives in the Gold rota, were established to support a more collective and co-ordinated approach to resilience by the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London.
2. Since then, these arrangements have been supported by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA). This is outlined in a joint business plan between the Local Authorities Panel (LAP) of the London Resilience Forum (LRF) a forum stipulated in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, to enable multi-agency strategic level representatives to consult, collaborate and disclose information with each other to facilitate planning and response to emergencies, and produce a Community Risk Register. Support from LFEPA extends to maintaining the LLAG arrangements, the London Local Authority Coordination Centre, provision of training to support pan-London arrangements and the exercising of pan-London arrangements, plus administration of regional local authority resilience related governance arrangements.
3. The support provided by the LFEPA has provided an effective and robust framework for compliance with statutory duties and best practice standards, including the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Chapter 9 of Emergency Planning (Cabinet Office) and the Minimum Standards for London.
4. The efficacy of these arrangements has been demonstrated in response to recent major events, such as the responses to the Croydon tram derailment in 2016, terrorist incidents in 2017 and the collective and coordinated response by all London local authorities to the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, and have formed a crucial component of emergency planning and response capability in London.
5. In a move to ensure local authority chief executives receive appropriate dedicated support on resilience related matters, the City Corporation has hosted a centrally funded chief executive liaison officer post, since April 2017.

Current Position

6. Under the current arrangements, the work of LFEPA is commissioned by LAP, and jointly funded by all London local authorities. Each of the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London contribute £15k to a central fund, paid directly to LFEPA. The current arrangements are underpinned by a service level agreement between LFEPA, the 32 London Boroughs and City Corporation.

7. On reviewing London local governments response to the range of incidents seen since late 2016, chief executives on LAP recommended that London local authorities seek to enhance control over the pan-London resilience agenda, including having greater control over how the central fund is used. It is proposed that LAP will assume responsibility for the allocation of this funding, with LFB, whilst remaining a key partner, adopting more of a service provider function.
8. Going forward, individual Borough and City of London contributions will also increase from £15k to £30k, in recognition of the growing and increasingly complex resilience challenges faced across London.
9. Chief executives, when agreeing the enhanced level of funding, recognised the additional monies should be found from central budgets and not emergency planning budgets. This is because the increase in money is designed to bolster services delivered at the local and regional levels and should not adversely affect local teams.
10. It is expected that the enhanced funding should be used for commissioning central contracts where there is a sound business case, the delivery of third party services, commissioning of consultants and contribute to the cost of additional training. Chief executives recognise that the burden of administering the enhanced arrangements should not fall to one authority and through enhancing collaboration at sub-regional and regions levels it is expected that this will be shared. Any additional commitment by the City Corporation above and beyond hosting the London Local Authority Chief Executive Liaison (Resilience) post would be based on full cost recovery, including full employment associated costs where relevant.

Proposals

11. In seeking to meet the recommendations of this review, it is proposed that the City Corporation assume the role of receiving and distributing the individual funding contributions of £30k from each of the London Boroughs on behalf of LAP. This support will be purely transactional, with the service remaining under the collective ownership of the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London, and responsibility for issuing reminders and determining funding allocations remaining with LAP. LAP will also look to other boroughs to host contracts.
12. In assuming this role, the City Corporation will be supporting the increased control of LAP over the pan-London resilience agenda and the potential benefits this may bring for London resilience in terms of greater flexibility and greater responsiveness to the needs of individual boroughs.
13. The City of London Corporation has consistently demonstrated a leadership role in supporting the pan-London resilience arrangements, including, for example, the Town Clerk & Chief Executive, John Barradell, serving as Chair of LAP and Deputy Chair of LRF, support for the delivery of events, such as conferences, workshops, and exercises, through the provision of event space,

and the hosting of the London Local Authority Chief Executive Liaison Officer at Guildhall. The approval of this proposal will be a continued demonstration of this leadership and City Corporation support for wider London resilience.

14. The proposed arrangement will entail a small administrative commitment in the form of staff time from the Chamberlain's Department. This is anticipated to be roughly equivalent to < 0.1 FTE.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. The support offered by the City Corporation is purely transactional with no liability associated to it. Distribution of funds will be at the request of LAP and based on the LAP business plan. Employment of additional resource to support long term initiatives, centralised contracts and consultancies will be subject to the receipt of the appropriate level of funding. Commitment for a revised approach was endorsed by LAP on 7th February 2018 and all chief executives and LFB consulted.
16. The approval of this proposal will support the City Corporation in meeting its aim of '*contributing to a flourishing community*', as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023, and the associated outcome that '*people are safe and feel safe*'.

Conclusion

17. To support the continued efficacy of the pan-London resilience arrangements, and continuing to demonstrate leadership on resilience issues, it is proposed the City Corporation assumes responsibility, on behalf of the 32 London Boroughs, for collecting and distributing the individual £30k funding contributions towards the pan-London resilience arrangements.
18. The intent is that the City Corporation will not be burdened with additional expense other than meeting its 30k commitment to the central fund and low-level FTE costs associated with administering the process.
19. Members are asked to approve the proposal.

Mark Sawyer

London Local Authority Chief Executive Liaison (Resilience)

T: 020 7332 3512

E: mark.sawyer@cityoflondon.gov.uk]