



**Report of: Executive Member for Finance and Performance**

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ward(s):</b>
Executive	10 February 2022	N/A

<b>Delete as appropriate:</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Non-exempt</b>
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## **SUBJECT: Approval to withdraw from the LHC**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 Since 2012, the LHC has been governed by a Joint Members' Committee comprised of elected members drawn from Local Authorities across London. It provides procurement services relating to the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of public sector buildings throughout the UK. Islington has two elected members on the Joint Members' Committee, Councillor Diarmaid Ward and Councillor Mick O'Sullivan.
- 1.2 The LHC Joint Member's Committee met on Friday 3 December 2021 and agreed to disband the LHC Joint Committee in favour of creating a new form of corporate entity for LHC, which will involve one Local Authority to act as lead authority. This report is therefore seeking approval for Islington Council to withdraw from the LHC Joint Committee.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve the withdrawal of the Council from the LHC.
- 2.2 To authorise the Head of Democratic Services and Governance to notify the LHC of the Executive's decision by Friday 25 February 2022.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The LHC, previously known as the London Housing Consortium, has existed since 1965 and was established as a Joint Committee in 2012 under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. The LHC is a self-financing organisation which provides specialist technical and procurement services for building programmes undertaken by its constituent local authorities and other public sector bodies.

- 3.2 The LHC has been governed by a Joint Members' Committee which comprises two voting Councillor representatives from each of the local authority members. The appointment of members to the LHC has been made by the Executive. Two elected member representatives are comprised of one Executive Member and one non-Executive Member. The non-Executive member is appointed under section 102(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, which allows non-Executive Members to be members of Joint Committees which are comprised of five or more relevant authorities.
- 3.3 As the appointment of members to the LHC Joint Members' Committee is an Executive function, the Executive are also required to approve the disbanding of the Joint Members' Committee.
- 3.4 Councillor Diarmaid Ward and Cllr Mick O'Sullivan, the current members appointed to the LHC Joint Members' Committee, were party to and support the LHC decision to change to a new form of corporate entity and support the disbanding of the Joint Members' Committee. The Corporate Director of Homes and Neighbourhoods and the Corporate Director of Community Wealth building have also been consulted and have no objections. Islington does not wish to act as the lead authority in the future governance of the LHC.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial implications:**

There are no financial implications arising from this decision.

### **4.2 Legal Implications:**

There are no legal implications for the Council arising from this decision.

### **4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:**

There are no environmental implications and no direct contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington arising from this decision.

### **4.4 Equality Impact Assessment:**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

Initial screening for equalities impacts has been undertaken and there are no impacts on equalities or residents arising from this decision.

## 5. Reason for recommendations

- 5.1 The LHC Joint Member's Committee met on Friday 3 December 2021 and agreed to disband the LHC Joint Committee in favour of creating a new form of corporate entity for LHC. Executive approval of the decision to withdraw from the LHC is required by legislation, to enable the LHC to establish a new form of governance.

### Appendices

None.

### Background papers:

None.

Final report clearance:

### Signed by:



26 January 2022

Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance and  
Performance

Date

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