

SECTION 6

EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY BY JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

Pursuant to agreements dated 15th January 1998 and 1st April 2000 made between all the London Boroughs and the City of London, the functions summarised below are undertaken jointly by all those Councils under section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972:-

Employment

Advice in relation to:-

- (a) national and provincial agreements regulating the employment of staff;
- (b) the training of staff;
- (c) information generally affecting human resources issues;
- (d) health, safety and welfare matters.;
- (e) representation on national negotiating bodies dealing with pay and conditions of employment of staff;
- (f) provide a conciliation and arbitration service in the resolution of staffing disputes;
- (g) liaise with relevant employers' associations in relation to staffing matters.

Road Traffic

1. Appointment of parking adjudicators for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act 1991; fixing penalty charge levels for infraction of parking orders; agreeing arrangements in connection with the clamping and recovery of vehicles including charges and penalties; formulation of common practices throughout greater London in respect of vehicle parking penalties; any ancillary matters associated therewith.
2. The administration, modification and enforcement of traffic orders controlling the use of heavy lorries in greater London at night and during week-ends.
3. The arrangements, including those with transport operators under section 50 of the London Regional Transport Act 1984, for concessionary fares for the elderly and disabled entitling them to use public transport in greater London free of charge during prescribed hours and the use of taxis at reduced rates of charge and all ancillary matters in relation thereto.

General Functions as set out in Schedule 2 of the 1 April 2000 agreement, including provide services to and represent and consult on the (common) interests of the London Local Authorities; provide forums for the discussion of matters of common concern; formulate policies for the development of democratic and effectively managed local government; and provide information on local government issues relevant to London.

The joint-committee administering the above-recited functions is known as the **London Councils** and the conduct and proceedings of meetings are as set out in Schedule 6 to the said agreement dated 1st April 2000. This provides that the representative of each member Council on that committee shall be the Leader of that Council or a deputy appointed by him, that meetings shall be quorate when at least

25% of the eligible membership is present and for each member to have one vote and with the Chairman having a casting vote. The provisions of the said Schedule 6 also regulate speeches at meetings, the proposing and seconding of motions, maintenance of good order and other ancillary matters.

Emergency Planning

In accordance with section 138 Local Government Act 1972, section 101 Local Government Act 1972, section 155 Local Government and Housing Act 1989, section 19 Local Government Act 2000, Regulations 7 and 10 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) Regulations 2000 and all other enabling powers:

The Council's functions under section 138(1) Local Government Act 1972 (Powers of principal councils with respect to emergencies or disasters) are delegated to the Head of Paid Service in the event of a Catastrophic Incident in Greater London [the Head of Paid Service being the person appointed by one of the Councils [the 32 London Borough Councils and the Common Council of the City of London] who has agreed to discharge the functions under section 138(1) Local Government Act 1972 on behalf of the Councils; a Catastrophic Incident being an incident declared as such by the Minister of State for London Resilience where destruction of or danger to life or property in Greater London has occurred or is imminent or is apprehended by the Minister].

NB The formal resolution was made by the Cabinet on 24 February 2004 and vests the "Gold" Head of Paid Service with the power to incur expenditure on behalf of the Councils once the Minister has confirmed that expenditure reasonably incurred in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience will be reimbursed by the Government.

Parking

Centralised procurement relating to parking management and enforcement (which is dealt with under the London-wide "Partnership in Parking")

The following functions are also exercised jointly:

Grant-giving via London Boroughs Grants (which is dealt with by the ALG under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985)

Crematoria Services (which are administered under Private Acts)

Coroner's Services (which are dealt with the London Boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham, Kingston, Hounslow, Ealing and Hillingdon, under the Coroner's Districts (Designation of Relevant Councils) Order 1985)