

## Chief Executives' Circular

**To:** Borough Chief Executives **Cc:** Emergency Planning Officers.  
LFB-EP

**Date:** 15 July 2010 **Ref.**

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### Summary

London Councils Leaders' Committee is calling on all London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London to:

1. Formally approve an Addendum to the Local Authority 'Gold' Resolution;
2. Consider participating in common Mutual aid arrangements by adopting a Memorandum on Mutual Aid.

These documents have been developed to clarify and improve the pan London resilience arrangements. This work has been led by the London Resilience Local Authority Panel, chaired by Chris Duffield.

It will be necessary for all 33 authorities to formally agree and accept the Addendum before it can take effect.

### Clarifications to the Gold Resolution and Arrangements for Mutual Aid.

Following practical experience in exercises and recent serious incidents, the Gold Resolution has been reviewed and additions identified which will ensure it is fit for purpose in the future.

The proposed improvements can be accommodated in an Addendum to the existing Resolution, set out in Appendix B.

The substance of the proposed changes can be summarised as:

1. To formalise the role of Local Authority Gold in lower-impact, emerging incidents (such as influenza pandemic), enabling them to coordinate any local authority response as necessary. *(LA Gold would not have power to either direct Councils or incur any expenditure).*

2. To update the trigger for empowering Local Authority Gold, including provision for LA Gold to respond to incidents and exercise delegated powers where Gold Command has not been convened, for example in the event of extreme and disruptive weather. This could only happen where detailed safeguards are complied with and where absolutely necessary.
3. In extreme and rapidly developing situations Local Authority Gold may need to take immediate action. It is proposed that, where this is absolutely essential, they should be able to exercise their delegated powers swiftly, including incurring minimum levels of expenditure up to a sum not exceeding £1m in total.

A separate Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Aid has also been developed for adoption by those London Local Authorities wishing to participate. It is not intended for the Memorandum to be a legally-binding contract, but rather an accepted set of guidelines for providing mutual aid between participating boroughs. A copy of the Memorandum is attached at Appendix C.

London Councils Leaders Committee endorsed the LA Gold Addendum and the Memorandum at its meeting on 13 July 2010. A copy of the committee report, which provides further background information, is attached as Appendix A.

Leaders' Committee went on to call on all London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London to:

1. Formally approve an Addendum to the Local Authority 'Gold' Resolution;
2. Consider participating in common Mutual aid arrangements by adopting a Memorandum on Mutual Aid.

I would be grateful if you could advise us when your authority has approved the **Addendum**. Please arrange for confirmation to be sent to [Doug.flight@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Doug.flight@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

A separate register of authorities which have adopted the Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Aid is being maintained by the Local Authorities Panel Secretariat. Please arrange for confirmation relating to the **Memorandum** to be sent to: [toby.gould@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:toby.gould@london-fire.gov.uk). T: 020 8555 1200 ext 51901

**John O'Brien**  
Chief Executive

**Attachments:**

- A) Leaders Committee Report
- B) Addendum to the Local Authority 'Gold' Resolution
- C) Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Mutual Aid