

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 13 November 2013 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Councillors Chris Best, Janet Daby, Damien Egan, Paul Maslin, Crada Onuegbu, Alan Smith and Susan Wise.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Julia Fletcher and Councillor Alan Hall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Helen Klier and Councillor Joan Millbank

50. Declaration of interests

Councillor Crada Onuegbu declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9 as an Independent Trustee of an organisation based in Parker House and she withdrew from the meeting during consideration of that item.

51. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on October 23 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

52. Matters Raised by Scrutiny

There were none.

53. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

54. Young Mayor Budget

The Young Mayor of Lewisham Jamel Higgins and his advisers presented proposals for the spend of the annual Young Mayor's budget of £30,000 centred around supporting young people to find employment through a mentoring and work experience programme and he answered questions from the Mayor and members of the Cabinet. The proposal was put together following consultation with schools, youth projects and other young people across the borough. This programme would encourage and identify mentors from existing local businesses who provide work experience to young people in the borough.

In agreeing the proposals, the Mayor congratulated the Young Mayor on the work he and his advisers had undertaken during the course of the year. The Mayor added that he hoped they had enjoyed their term.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Young Mayor, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the Young Mayor's budget proposals be approved as follows:

Publicity and promotion	£3,000
Launch event and inspirational workshops	£2,000
Outreach to youth and community organisations and inspirational workshops to recruit mentees	£5,000
Coordination and partner finding	£10,500
Partnership and team building activities with mentors and mentees	£4,500
Mentoring training and supervision	£2,000
Travel and/or expenses for mentees	£1,500
Evaluation	£1,500
TOTAL	£30,000

55. Financial Monitoring

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the financial forecasts for the year ending 31 March 2014 be noted.

56. Strategic Financial Review Update

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Paul Maslin who outlined a new strategy which was being proposed in response to the extreme financial pressures which the Council faced. In response, the Mayor observed that detailed proposals would be considered in the coming weeks.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, for the reasons set out in the report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that

- (i) the updated strategic financial position be noted;
- (ii) the approach to the Lewisham Future Programme, be approved as a strategic response to the longer term financial challenges the council faces; and
- (iii) the process for finalising the 2014/15 budget be approved.

57. Rewiring Public Services

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Communication, Councillor Damien Egan the Mayor agreed to support the LGA Rewiring Public Services campaign and proposed that the LGA's model council resolution be debated at the Council meeting on November 27.

58. Referral from Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee - Councillor Call for Action - Parker House

In the absence of a representative from the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, the report was introduced by the Head of Law. She set out the Councillor Call for Action which had been received and the officer response to it. She confirmed no further representations had been received from Councillor Owolabi-Oluyole. She reported judicial review proceedings had been issued and that the Council would be seeking to have these struck out. She advised the Mayor it would only be appropriate to consider a further report on Parker House once the legal position had been clarified.

Councillor Susan Wise observed she was mentioned in paragraph 2 on Page 120 of the agenda. She stated she could not recall any conversation about Parker House and pointed out it was not in her ward and formed no part of her current portfolio as Cabinet Member for Customer Services or any previous portfolio she had held. She refuted any claims that she had commented or expressed any opinion about Parker House.

The Mayor observed the Councillor Call for Action was a rarely used but legitimate last resort solution for an elected local government representative. He expressed surprise that it had been used in respect of Parker House and recounted his periodic involvement with the issues arising there over a protracted period which included a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund which was then not able to be used. The Mayor said having read this Councillor Call for Action he believed some of its references made invalid comparisons and that it was not generally informative. He concluded in the absence of any viable scheme, he had no option but to note the reference from the Select Committee; to reject the Councillor Call for Action and to accept the officer advice that he considers a further report once the legal position has been clarified.

Having considered an officer report including equalities advice in a supplementary agenda, the text of a Councillor Call for Action submitted by Councillor Owolabi-Oluyole, and legal advice from the Head of Law, the Mayor for the reasons stated:

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the reference from the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee be noted;

- (ii) the Councillor Call for Action be not accepted; and
- (iii) officers report back to him once the legal position has been clarified.

59. Asset Rationalisation Programme - Update

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, the Mayor for the reasons set out

RESOLVED that:

- (i) progress made in the delivery of the first phase of the asset rationalisation programme between April 2012 and September 2013 be noted;
- (ii) the Town Hall building be declared surplus to operational requirements;
- (iii) the options considered for the Town Hall be noted and the interim use Approach be approved;
- (iv) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to agree the final terms of any leasing arrangements relating to the Town Hall building;
- (v) developments in relation to 28 Deptford High Street and 144 Evelyn Street (Parker House) be noted;
- (vi) developments in relation to 98 Northover be noted.

60. Excalibur Phase 3 CPO

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Councillor Susan Wise, the Mayor, for the reasons set out:

RESOLVED that:

- (i) a Compulsory Purchase Order be made in accordance with Section 17 of Part II of the Housing Act 1985 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981, for the compulsory acquisition of all interests in the land and buildings known as Excalibur Phase 3, as shown on an attached plan, other than those interests already in the ownership of the Council;
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Law, to determine the final extent of the land to be included within the Compulsory Purchase Order provided that the Compulsory Purchase Order shall not include any additional land outside the area shown on the plan attached;

(iii) the appropriate Chief Officers be authorised to take such other action as may be necessary to make, obtain confirmation and effect the Compulsory Purchase Order and to acquire all interests under it; and

(iv) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration (in the event that the Secretary of State notifies the Council that it has been given the power to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order) to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order if the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so.

61. Edmund Waller PS Instrument of Government

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor for the reasons set out:

RESOLVED that:

(i) the Instrument of Government for Edmund Waller Primary School be made by Local Authority order dated 27 November 2013; and

(ii) the nomination of Gail Exon, as the Local Authority governor be approved for appointment by the governing body.

62. Appointment of LA Governors

Having considered information supplied in respect of the nominees proposed for appointment, the Mayor agreed that the following persons be appointed as a Local Authority governor;

Mrs. Sharon Farnley	Holbeach Primary
Ms. Rebecca Packwood	Rushey Green
Ms. Ruth Jenkins	Dalmain Primary
Ms. Catherine Farmer	St Winifred's Catholic Junior School

63. Response to SSC Referral on Transforming Rehabilitation

Having considered an Officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor Janet Daby, the Mayor

RESOLVED that the response prepared by the Executive Director for Community Services be approved for submission to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee.

64. Response to OSBP Works and Skills Strategy

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the response be reported to the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel.

65. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Referral - Emergency Services Review

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Alan Hall, the Mayor

RESOLVED that the views and recommendations of the Committee set out in the main report be received and the appropriate Executive Directors be asked to respond to the Review's recommendations.