

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 18 December 2013 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Chris Best, Janet Daby, Damien Egan, Helen Klier, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank, Crada Onuegbu and Susan Wise

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Alan Hall, Councillor John Muldoon and Councillor John Paschoud

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Smith.

6. Declaration of interests

Councillor John Muldoon declared a personal interest in Item 3 as a Fellow of the RSA which had given a grant to New Cross Living.

The Mayor declared a personal interest in saving COM02 in Item 5 as a possible beneficiary of free swimming lessons.

7. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of Mayor & Cabinet held on December 4 2013 and the minutes of the meeting of the Mayor acting alone held on December 5 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8. Matters Raised by Scrutiny

Matters Raised by Scrutiny - Comments of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the Library and Information Service

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Chair of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, Councillor John Muldoon the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee as set out be received and the Executive Director for Community Services be asked to prepare a response.

Matters Raised by Scrutiny - Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on Sayes Court Garden.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views and recommendations of the Committee be received and the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration be asked to prepare a response.

9. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10. Savings Proposals 2014-15 and 2015-16

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Paul Maslin who highlighted measures taken to achieve savings required for what he believed to be the Government's failing austerity policy.

The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration's representative then reported and advised all savings would be fed into the Budget in February 2014.

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Public Accounts Select Committee two days previously and had promised to withdraw saving CYP12 from consideration to allow pre decision scrutiny by the Children and Young People Select Committee.

Councillor Alan Hall then addressed the Mayor as Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and on behalf of the Labour Group. He commented on specific savings as follows:

COM03	He advised future increases in voluntary sector funding might be required as part of a restructuring of public services.
CUS07	He said the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would examine the saving in greater detail the following evening.
CY05	Staff consultation would be welcomed.
CYP12	Further pre decision scrutiny was supported.
CYP13	He believed the saving was premature.
CUS03	Further discussion on improvements to recycling collection was required.
R&R02	Benchmarking results should be subject to the scrutiny process.
COM01	A large piece of work should be addressed in the round in the Lewisham Futures programme.

The Mayor then considered each saving individually as follows:

CYP01	Approved
CYP03	Approved
CYP04	Approved
CYP05	Approved, with the Mayor expressing concern that consultation with staff had not been completed and stated if issues emerged they should be reported to him.
CYP06	Approved
CYP07	Approved
CYP08	Approved
CYP09	Approved
CYP10	Approved
CYP11	Approved
CYP12	Deferred
CYP13	Rejected, as the Mayor was not persuaded it was sensible to take a saving from a service recently restructured and still bedding down.
CYP14	Approved
CYP15	Approved
COM01	Approved and the comments of the Chair of Overview &

	Scrutiny be noted for future years.
COM02	Approved, with the Mayor noting this effectively represented a grant substitution.
COM03	Approved
COM04	Approved
CUS01	Approved
CUS02	Approved
CUS03	Approved, with the Mayor receiving an assurance from the Executive Director for Customer Services that he would discuss the issues involved with the chief executives of Registered Social Landlords.
CUS04	Approved
CUS05	Approved
CUS06	Approved
CUS07	Approved, with the Mayor noting representations received from the Housing Select Committee and Unison and asking for reassurance that the saving was possible and about the capacity of current providers.
CUS08	Approved, with the Mayor expressing concern that consultation with staff had not been completed and stated if issues emerged they should be reported to him.
R&R01	Approved
R&R02	Approved, with the Mayor receiving a tabled paper from the Public Accounts on comparative charges made by other boroughs and receiving an undertaking from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration that the methodology in determining supermajor costings would be provided subsequent to the meeting.
R&R03	Approved
R&R04	Approved

Having considered an officer report, and presentations by the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Alan Hall and by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report ,subject to the variations outlined above, agreed that

(i) the comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee of 16 December 2013, incorporating the views of the respective Select Committees be received;

(ii) the previously agreed savings package of £17.0m be amended and referred to Council following an officer review which identified that circa £0.7m of these proposals were no longer achievable, meaning that the previously agreed package of savings for 2014/15 is revised down to just over £16.2m as detailed in Appendix A;

(iii) revenue budget savings of £6.258m be approved, of which £5.658m relates to 2014/15 and £0.6m relates to 2015/16, as detailed in Appendix E; subject to saving CYP13 being rejected and saving CYP12 being deferred;

(iv) the supporting report and recommendations for CYP12, the

Attendance and Welfare service be deferred to the February 12 meeting to allow pre-decision scrutiny by the Children & Young People Select Committee on January 29 2014; and

(v) additional efficiency savings of £2.5m, as set out in section 6.2 be approved.

11. Matters referred by Public Accounts Select Committee - Funding and Financial Management of Adult Social Care Review

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views and recommendations of the Committee be received and the Executive Director for Community Services be asked to prepare a response to the Review's recommendations.

12. Matters referred by the Children and Young People Select Committee - Nursery Education and Childcare Review

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Chair of the Children and Young People Select Committee, Councillor John Paschoud, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee as set out be received and the Executive Director for Children and Young People be asked to prepare a response.

13. Call-in of Decision - Highways Maintenance and Planned Works Contract 2014 to 2019) Award of Contract

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

RESOLVED that:

(i) the decisions taken on December 4 be confirmed; and

(ii) the Mayor's decision to amend the Mayoral Scheme of Delegation so that all Public Realm Highways Contracts over £100,000 are determined by the Mayor & Cabinet Contracts Committee, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.03pm