MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET
Wednesday, 19 February 2014 at 6.00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall and John Muldoon.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Crada Onuegbu.

38. Declaration of interests

The Mayor declared a prejudicial interest in Item 14 as a nearby property owner and he withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Muldoon declared a personal interest in Item 6 as a Fellow of the RSA which had given grant aid to New Cross Living.

39. Matters Raised by Scrutiny

Councillor Alan Hall presented a written report which raised the following issues.

Education Attendance & Welfare Service

The Mayor responded by confirming he would expect a report from Officers to be provided to both Mayor & Cabinet, and the Children and Young People Select Committee with information on the expressions of interest from schools to buy into the Council’s SLA provision subsequent to the deadline in April.

The Mayor asked Officers to report directly to him on the interesting idea to put in place a marketing strategy to attract schools within, and outside the borough.

Out of Hours Service

The mayor agreed Officers be requested to circulate Business Panel Members with the specification before it is tested in the market.

Catford Town Centre – CRPL 2014/15 Business Plan

The Mayor agreed that operating a company with either 1 or 2 directors seemed odd and he concurred there should be a note from the Head of Law justifying the governance arrangements of a company with only two directors and examining if appointing three Directors might lead to a more robust arrangement.

RESOLVED that the responses of the Mayor be reported to the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel
40. **Outstanding Scrutiny Matters**

The Mayor noted there had been one positive change since the last report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

41. **Budget 2014-15 Update**

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

RESOLVED that.

| (i) the Section 25 Statement from the Chief Financial Officer attached at Appendix A be approved; |
| (ii) Council Tax for 2014/15 of £1,060.35 be recommended for the Council’s element. This is an increase of 0%, based on a General Fund Budget Requirement of £268.062m for 2014/15; |
| (iii) an overall decrease in Council Tax for 2014/15 of 0.29%, be noted which includes the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept being reduced by £4.00 to £299.00, which represents a 1.3% decrease from its 2013/14 level, as confirmed at the GLA meeting on 14 February 2014; |
| (iv) the statutory calculation for the ‘relevant basic’ amount of Council Tax for Lewisham for 2014/15, attached at Appendix B; be noted |
| (v) Council be recommended to approve on 26 February 2014, the statutory calculation of the Budget Requirement for Lewisham for 2014/15, attached at Appendix C; and |
| (vi) Council be recommended to approve on 26 February 2014, the motion on the budget, attached at Appendix D. |

42. **Response to Overview & Scrutiny Committee Emergency Services Review**

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

RESOLVED that the response from the Executive Directors for Community Services and Customer Services, and those from the Council’s Health, Fire and Police partners be approved for reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

43. **Response to Healthier Communities SC - Libraries**

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Community Services & Older People, Councillor Chris Best, and the Chair of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, Councillor John
Muldoon, the Mayor

RESOLVED that the response from the Executive Director for Community Services be approved and reported to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

44. **Response to Housing SC and Sustainable Development SC - Regeneration and Housing in Deptford**

The Mayor indicated there were issues raised in the report not specific to Convoys Wharf which merited a letter to the Mayor of London. He specifically voiced concern that the way in which affordable housing was framed was not transparent.

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

RESOLVED that the responses from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to the Housing and Sustainable Development Select Committees be approved and reported to the Housing and Sustainable Development Select Committees.

45. **Response to Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel Central Lewisham Opportunity Site**

Having considered an officer report, and presentations by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, and the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Alan Hall, the Mayor

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

46. **Response to Recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel - Asset Rationalisation Programme**

Having considered an officer report, and presentations by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, and the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Alan Hall, the Mayor:

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

47. **Appointment of LA Governors**

Having considered information supplied in respect of the nominees proposed for appointment, and advice from the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Helen Klier, the Mayor

RESOLVED that the following persons be appointed as a Local Authority governor:

Miss Kim Taylor    Addey and Stanhope
Ms. Hannah Cerys Nicholls  Ashmead Yes
Mr. John Harrington   Downderry
Miss Jacinta-Marie Fernandes  St. Augustine’s

48. **Referral from the Housing Select Committee on landlord licensing schemes**

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor

RESOLVED that the views of the Housing Select Committee be received and the Executive Director for Customer Services be asked to respond.

49. **Matters referred by the Children and Young People Select Committee - Early Intervention**

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee be received and the Executive Director for Children and Young People and Executive Director for Customer Services be asked to respond.

50. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED that that in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs [3, 4 and 5] of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information:

14. **Housing Property Acquisition**

51. **Housing Property Acquisition**

Consideration of this item was Chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, in the absence of the Mayor.

Counsel’s opinion on the legality of the acquisition of was tabled at the meeting.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Councillor Susan Wise, the Cabinet, in the absence of the Mayor,

RESOLVED that:

(i) the business case that sets out the financial and operational benefits from increasing the stock of temporary accommodation be noted;

(ii) officers should purchase the freehold interests in: two properties in the
Forest Hill ward for stated maximum values;

(iii) the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be granted delegated authority to finalise negotiations and complete either or both purchases, within the values stated;

(iv) officers be authorised to bid for GLA funding towards the cost of the purchase and repair of both properties;

(v) prudential borrowing be used to fund the balance of cost not met by GLA funding;

(vi) these purchases are intended to provide a temporary solution to the current housing supply constraints, and

(vii) officers should keep under review alternative future uses for both buildings, including disposal, at an appropriate time in the future.

The meeting closed at 6.58pm