

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 18 February 2015 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Councillors Alan Smith, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank and Rachel Onikosi.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Alan Hall and Councillor John Muldoon.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Janet Daby

145. Declaration of Interests

None were made.

146. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

Submissions agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel were considered as part of Item 10.

147. Response to Healthier Communities Select Committee Autism Spectrum Housing

The report was introduced by Councillor Chris Best and a representative of the Executive Director for Customer Services. The Mayor was also addressed by Councillor John Muldoon who said he was very pleased with the proposed response.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Health, Well-Being and Older People, Councillor Chris Best, and the Chair of the Select Committee, Councillor John Muldoon, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the proposed response be approved for submission to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

148. Response to Healthier Communities Select Committee Public Health

The report was introduced by Councillor Chris Best and a representative of the Executive Director for Community Services. The Mayor was also addressed by Councillor John Muldoon who said he was delighted with the proposed response.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Health, Well-Being and Older People, Councillor Chris Best, and the Chair of the Select Committee, Councillor John Muldoon, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the proposed response be approved for submission to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

149. Response to CYP Select Committee Raising the Participation Age

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the proposed response be approved for submission to the Children & Young People Select Committee.

150. Public Accounts Select Committee's Review into No Recourse to Public Funds

Councillor Kevin Bonavia welcomed the report adding that it was very timely given that no recourse to public funds was a significant budget pressure.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views of the Public Accounts Select Committee be received and the Executive Director for Customer Services be asked to provide a response.

151. Children and Young People Select Committee's review into Young People's Mental Health

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views of the Children & Young People Select Committee be received and the Executive Director for Children & Young People be asked to provide a response.

152. Comments of the Children and Young People Select Committee on Sedgehill School

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views of the Children & Young People Select Committee be received and the Executive Director for Children & Young People be asked to provide a response.

153. 2015 16 Budget Update

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

RESOLVED that:

(i) a Council Tax for 2015/16 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 £246.224m for 2015/16.

- (ii) Council be asked to note an overall reduction in the total Council Tax for 2015/16 of 0.29% to include the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept being reduced by £4 to £295, a 1.3% reduction from its 2014/15 level as proposed;
- (iii) Council be asked to approve the statutory calculation of the Budget Requirement for Lewisham for 2015/16, attached at Appendix A;
- (iv) the Council be asked to approve the motion on the budget, attached at Appendix B;
- (v) the provisional and estimated precept and levies from the GLA and other bodies be noted;
- (vi) the final settlement figure of £160.017m announced on the 3 February be which is an increase of £0.677m on the provisional settlement figure be noted;
- (vii) the impact on the budget gap of savings decisions taken by Mayor and Cabinet on 11 February 2015 as detailed be noted;
- (viii) the overall implications of the increased settlement figure and the savings decisions which resulted in a net revised Budget requirement figure of £246.224m, and a revised savings gap of £9.960 (to be met from the New Homes Bonus reserve and General Reserves) creating a net decrease of £0.477m in the amount of reserves required to fill the potential budget gap as reported in the Budget report on the 11 February and as detailed be noted;
- (ix) the absence of responses from Business rate payers to the consultation on the draft Budget which took place from 20 January 2015 to 3 February 2015 be noted;
- (x) the Section 25 Statement from the Chief Financial Officer attached at Appendix D be received.

154. 2015/16 Revenue Budget Savings Update

The Mayor was addressed by Councillor Alan Hall who introduced the written representation on the savings package agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel the previous evening.

Councillor Hall referred to the following specific savings:

N1 Parks, Highways and Management Costs – on behalf of the Business Panel he welcomed the additional review on the non-management elements so an assessment could be made as to how this would work in practice.

O1 Discretionary Freedom Pass – the Business Panel fully supported the decision not to proceed with this saving.

A6 Breast Feeding Cafes – the Business Panel sought clarification regarding

the impact of this saving.

L4 Broadway Theatre – the Business Panel raised the following concerns:

- (i) the need to investigate alternative funding.
- (ii) provision of options for management functions and service provisions that are not too risk averse, and could yield better gains.
- (iii) a robust marketing strategy should be put in place.
- (iv) had the BME impact been fully considered.
- (v) consideration of the creation of a member led working group to investigate all options for the future of the Broadway Theatre.
- (vi) the Deputy Mayor and relevant officers be asked to explain the status of the Catford Regeneration scheme.
- (vii) a clear and comprehensive report be provided for Business Panel and the relevant Select Committees on the Catford Regeneration Scheme.

In response the Mayor indicated:

A6 Breast Feeding Cafes – The Executive Director for Children & Young People indicated UNICEF accreditation would still be achieved for the whole borough. Councillor Best added she would be meeting the Director of Public Health the next day to confirm.

L4 Broadway Theatre

- (i) the Mayor said he could accept the recommendation but until such time as alternative funding was secured, the saving would be taken and a reduced programme would have to be offered.
- (ii) & (iii) the Mayor believed these recommendations could be brought together in the formulation of any robust marketing strategy.
- (iv) the Mayor stated this had been fully considered but would be kept under ongoing review.
- (v) the Mayor said he believed a member group could be of some value and he would consider the best way to progress the suggestion, as long as any group created began with a complete briefing encompassing the long history of the theatre.
- (vi) the Mayor received advice from the Deputy Mayor who said TfL were to make a presentation to officers within a few days on a Masterplan for the area.
- (vii) the Mayor said the update from the Deputy Mayor would make it possible to prepare a briefing in the near future.

The Mayor next considered details of saving H1 in a supplementary agenda and a representation submitted by Unison. He sought advice from the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, and from the Executive Director for Community Services representative. They confirmed the Unison concerns about a possible inability to deliver various statutory requirements were fully addressed in the report. Councillor Rachel Onikosi raised concerns voiced to her by colleagues over a Food Standards Agency report which rated Lewisham as one of the worst performers in the country. The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration responded by indicating additional resources had been deployed to reduce a backlog.

The Mayor said he was convinced by the additional report but that very careful monitoring would be required. He said a complex restructuring exercise had been carried out and he expected fine tuning might be necessary in the future.

Having considered an officer report, a written submission from UNISON, and presentations by the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny, Councillor Alan Hall and the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the reassurances given to the Mayor regarding the restructuring of Enforcement and Regulatory services be accepted; and
- (ii) the proposal for restructuring Enforcement and Regulatory services, Saving H1, as appended be approved.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm