

# MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 17 December 2014 at 11.45 am

PRESENT: Councillors Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Kevin Bonavia, Janet Daby, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank and Rachel Onikosi

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor John Muldoon

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Smith and Councillor Chris Best

## 103. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Muldoon declared a personal interest a Governor of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

## 104. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

The Mayor received two referrals from the Healthier Communities Select Committee, relating to Public Health and Autism Spectrum Housing. The report was introduced by the Chair of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, Councillor John Muldoon.

RESOLVED that the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee be noted, and that the Executive Director for Community Services be asked to respond.

## 105. Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, who outlined an update to Lewisham's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2015/16.

On 1 April 2013 the Council implemented a local CTRS which passed on the government cut in grant of £3.28m in full to 24,648 working age households previously in receipt of Council Tax Benefit. Lewisham agreed a Discretionary Hardship fund of £100,000 to help those suffering exceptional financial hardship meet some of the shortfall in the Council Tax Reduction awards.

Councillor Bonavia highlighted the recent Haringey Supreme Court decision, and commented that the Council needed to ensure that any public consultation undertaken in relation to CTRS revisions would have to be proportionate. It was considered that the representations received during the November 2014 supplementary consultation were valid, and the Council was right to undertake this consultation, which related to technical changes to the CTRS. In light of the Haringey Supreme Court decision, the Head of Law commented that all local authorities would need to be mindful of alternative options of administering the CTRS.

Having considered the officer report, and received the presentation from the Cabinet Member for Resources, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that

- (1) the outcomes of the two consultations set out in appendices 1 to 7 be received;
- (2) a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme be retained from 1 April 2015 that passes on any shortfall in government funding, as set out in section 10; and
- (3) additional support be delivered to the most vulnerable residents, through use of the existing provision within Section 13A(1)(c) of the 1992 Local Government Finance Act.

The meeting ended at 11.59 a.m.