

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 9 December 2015 at 6.00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor John Coughlin and Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin.

306. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Millbank declared a personal interest in Item 17 as a member of a Working Group for the New Cross Gate Trust.

307. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on November 11 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

308. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

None were raised.

309. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

310. Revenue Budget Savings

The report was introduced by Councillor Kevin Bonavia who outlined the overall enormous financial pressures the Council continued to face and he explained how the measures announced in the government's Comprehensive Spending Review would not offer any relief.

The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration's representative reported no new proposals were being made and the list of savings were as those advised to the September meeting of Mayor & Cabinet.

Councillor Chris Best introduced the libraries element of the savings report and said the very detailed report illustrated the value which the authority continued to place on libraries. She pointed out the feedback received from extensive consultation had led to modifications of the original proposals.

The Executive Director for Community Services acknowledged that the overwhelming majority of consultation responses opposed change but she believed that the amended proposals presented an evolutionary

offer within a diminished financial envelope and would remain attractive to users.

Peter Richardson spoke on behalf of the users and friends of Manor House Library and drew the Mayor's attention to the high levels of feedback which had been received opposing change. He claimed the existing community library model was not a success, with book issues in such libraries plummeting since their creation.

Sue Widnall made a presentation calling for the retention of Catford Library and expressed severe reservations about the proposed integration of the library with other ground floor services in Laurence House. She perceived a general decline of facilities in Catford and urged the Mayor to ensure a library at the base of the Town Hall remained a source of civic pride.

Peter Ridpath of the Defend Torricon Library campaign urged the Mayor to withdraw all the proposals. He believed the results of the consultation and the overwhelming opposition had been ignored and that a library facility without professional staffing would not work.

Michael Abrahams the Chair of the Forest Hill Society, said community libraries had been an interesting experiment but figures seemed to show massive reductions in book borrowing. He suggested that the Mayor consider the option in paragraph 7.6 to deploy some volunteers in every library so that professional support could be maintained in the libraries proposed for reorganisation.

Councillor Jim Mallory tabled a paper for the Mayor and cabinet reporting that Lee Green Assembly had agreed to set up a Manor House Working Group to respond to the Council's proposal to convert some of its libraries and specifically Manor House Library, into a community library. Councillor Mallory further reported the first meeting of the Group agreed to sustain and enhance Manor House as a viable community facility that would include a trained library resource. The Group hoped to meet with officers in the New Year with a view to ensuring Assembly input to the contract specification and monitoring conditions.

Tim Parkin of UNISON stated he believed Government cuts were the sole driver for the library proposals and regarded the community library model as inferior, as evidenced by a 74% fall in book borrowing. He called on Councillors to take a robust stand against all cuts.

The Executive Director for Community Services pointed out to the Mayor that all community library volunteers received training by the Council and that book issues were down by 24% which was in line with national trends. She further stated overall visitor numbers to community libraries were up which went against national trends.

Councillor Millbank, the Cabinet Member for the Third Sector, said it was unfair to say community libraries were not a success, especially as their offer

was different to traditional libraries. She believed that both models were able to offer good levels of service.

In conclusion, the Mayor thanked everyone for their contributions and stressed his continuing appreciation of the library service. The Mayor went on to point out the dilemmas posed by the current Local Government Funding regime. Essentially there were three pots of money, one reserved for Housing, one reserved for Education and a third which was for everything else but was increasingly becoming dominated by the requirements for Adult Social Care. The Mayor observed that the cuts imposed by Central Government created enormous stresses on all Council budgets and that if he failed to act on libraries now, he feared they would otherwise have to be closed in their entirety in a few years time. The Mayor went on to state different choices could have been made in different circumstances but that only the best available decisions had been taken.

The Mayor then went on to consider each savings proposal individually and reached the conclusions shown in the recommendations shown below. In his consideration of saving L6, the Mayor stated he believed Catford Library was different to other libraries as it was at the civic heart of the borough and that he still needed to be convinced that the proposed different style of working would be effective. He said there was a huge amount of work still to be done and he expected to return to the issue for further consideration.

Having considered an officer report, and presentations by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia and from the Cabinet Member for Health, Well Being and Older People, Councillor Chris Best and 5 members of the public and a Ward Councillor on the library proposals, the Mayor from the options available, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the actions taken since the 30 September on the proposals presented in section 7 and set out in Appendices i to viii be noted;

(2) For saving L6 – Libraries and Information Services the recommendations set out in the separate full report and appendices at Appendix 1 be approved; namely:

the results of the consultation set out in sections 6 and 7 of the report and in appendix 1 be noted;

the proposed saving of £1million from the Library and Information Service budget be approved;

the retention of three hub libraries at Deptford Lounge, Lewisham and Downham Health and Leisure Centre as set out at paragraph 5.1 be approved;

the Lewisham Community Library model as described in paragraph

5.1 be extended to Forest Hill, Torrington and Manor House libraries and for a formal tender process to be undertaken to identify partner organisations to work with the council to deliver this. The council will work with local stakeholders as part of this process;

□ the development of detailed plans for the reconfiguration of the library and public reception area at the ground floor of Laurence House in Catford as set out at para 5.1 and 6.10 be approved;

(3) For saving Q3 a, b, c & e – Sensory teachers, education psychologists, and carers funding;

(a) any feedback from the scrutiny process since September be noted,

(b) the proposal be approved and the Executive Director for Children's & Young People be authorised to implement, subject to completion of any consultation (public, stakeholder or staff) necessary in relation to the proposal.

(4) For saving Q5 – Youth Service

(a) the Mayor's agreement to take £1.4m in February 2015 and any feedback from the scrutiny process since September be noted;

(b) subject to agreement to the recommendations in the separate report on the Youth Service mutual appearing on the same agenda; agree the proposal to taper funding by £0.3m and authorise the Executive Director for Children's & Young People to implement, subject to completion of any consultation (public, stakeholder or staff) necessary in relation to the proposal;

(5) For saving A11 – Managing and improving transition plans

(a) any feedback from the scrutiny process since September be noted;

(b) the proposal be approved and the Executive Director for Community Services be authorised to implement, subject to completion of any consultation (public, stakeholder or staff) necessary in relation to the proposal.

(6) For saving A14 – Achieving best value in care packages

(a) any feedback from the scrutiny process since September be noted;

(b) the proposal be approved and the Executive Director for Community Services be authorised to implement, subject to completion of any consultation (public, stakeholder or staff) necessary in relation to the proposal.

(7) For saving I9b – Trade Union secondments

(a) the results of engagement work undertaken by officers since September be noted;

(b) the proposal be approved and the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration be authorised to implement, subject to completion of any consultation (public, stakeholder or staff) necessary in relation to the proposal.

(8) For saving J2b – Attendance and Welfare

(a) any feedback from the scrutiny process since September be noted;

(b) the proposal be approved and the Executive Director for Children's & Young People be authorised to implement, subject to completion of any consultation (public, stakeholder or staff) necessary in relation to the proposal.

(9) For saving N5 – Passenger transport services

(a) any feedback from the scrutiny process since September be noted;

(b) the Executive Director for Customer Services be asked to develop, Consult (public, stakeholder or staff) where necessary, and bring back a full report to Mayor & Cabinet in relation to the proposal.

(10) consistent with the Mayoral decisions of the 30 September, work continues on the proposals listed at 6.4 and should return to Mayor & Cabinet.

311. Education Commission

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

RESOLVED that the establishment of an education commission to support the development of a future vision for education in Lewisham to report in April 2016 as set out be approved.

312. Section 75 Children Services

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

RESOLVED that:

(1) the existing arrangements in place for joint commissioning maternity and children's services be noted; and

(2) the s75 agreement set out in appendix 1 be approved.

313. Greyhound Public House Update

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the works undertaken in accordance with Schedule 10 of the S106 Agreement dated 24 May 2010 and the S96a application granted 10 February 2015 be acknowledged.

314. Planning Annual Monitoring Report 2014-15

The Mayor recognised the efforts of the Head of Planning, John Miller, who was retiring after 35 years with the Council. The Mayor observed the Borough's impressive housebuilding record was facilitated by its Planning policies. The Mayor said a huge debt of thanks was owed to the Head of planning whose vision on placemaking had left Lewisham an extraordinary legacy.

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

RESOLVED that the content of the AMR 2014-15 be noted and publication and placement on the Council's website be approved.

315. Works and Skills Strategy

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

RESOLVED that:

(1) the delivery and achievements of the Work and Skills Strategy 2013 – 2015, and the lessons learned be noted; and

(2) the attached Work and Skills Strategy 2015 – 2017 be approved;

316. Council Tax Reduction Scheme

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

RESOLVED that:

(1) the outcomes of the consultation set out in appendices be noted;

(2) a local CTRS be retained from 1 April 2016 that passes on any reduction in government funding, reflecting the Council's financial position following the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in November and the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement (LGFS) in

December; and

(3) the deliver additional support to the most vulnerable residents be continued through use of the existing provision within Section 13A(1)(c) of the 1992 Local Government Finance Act.

317. Instrument of Government King Alfred Federation

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

RESOLVED that the Instrument of Government for The King Alfred Federation of Schools be made by Local Authority order.

318. Local Authority Governor Nominations

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

RESOLVED that:

(1) the persons set out below be nominated as Local Authority governors;

Tom Mutton St. Mary's CE Primary
Karen Denyer St. Joseph's RC Primary
Abigail Knipe Horniman Primary School

(2) the information concerning the recommended nominated governors be noted.

319. Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Care Act 2014

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Health, Well Being and Older People, Councillor Chris Best, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the approach taken in Lewisham to the implementation of the Care Act be noted;

(2) the progress made to date be noted;

(3) the response to be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

320. Response to Sustainable Development Select Committee Flood and River Related Consultations

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

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

321. Youth Services Mutualisation

In introducing the report Councillor Maslin recognised that the proposals advanced a new model of service delivery run by former Council staff on a not for profit basis. He acknowledged the Business Plan held a certain degree of risk especially with regard to future funding and that the process would be evolutionary.

The Executive Director for Children & Young People's reported the proposals had been the subject of pre decision scrutiny by the relevant Select Committee and that their concerns had been addressed in the report laid before the Mayor.

The Chief Executive added that the proposals were novel but represented an avenue from which the organisation could learn and could become an important option across the entire organisation, if done properly.

Having considered an officer report, the full text of the confidential Business Plan, a referral from the Children & Young People Select Committee and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the plan to run a 'mutuals only' tender process under Regulation 77 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 for the services be approved;

(2) the current Lewisham youth services team bid for this contract and, if successful in the process, would form a charitable community benefit society as its legal structure; and

(3) the outline timelines and resource requirements as set out be noted.

322. Besson Street PRS Development Part 1

The Executive Director for Customer Services representative reported a further public consultation had taken place the week before and the proposals had received a much better reception.

Having considered both an open and a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damien Egan, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the progress in developing an outline proposal for new homes, health

and community provision on the development site at Besson Street be noted;

(2) the options for developing the site, including the commercial and legal advice, and the views of participants in a soft market testing exercise, contained in the confidential section be noted;

(3) the principle that the site should be developed through a Joint Venture Partnership between the Council and an experienced private sector Partner be approved, subject to further detailed due diligence in that regard;

(4) further decisions be required to finalise the arrangements proposed, including approvals for the structure and governance of the Joint Venture Partnership, and the proposed approach to selecting an investment partner and that a further report be brought back to Mayor and Cabinet in the spring of 2016.

(5) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Customer Services to develop proposals for a 'meanwhile' use of the site for the commercial elements at the northern end of the site.

(6) the confidential financial and commercial advice provided to date be noted;

(7) the proposed project budget as set out in the confidential section be approved.

323. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED 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

19. Draft Business plan for Youth and employee led Mutual Youth Service.

20. Besson Street Private Rented Sector Development Part 2.

21. Housing Led Regeneration Hillcrest and High Level Drive.

324. Draft Business plan for Youth and employee led Mutual Youth Service

A copy of the Business Plan was considered in conjunction with the report in the open session of the meeting.

325. Besson Street PRS Development Part 2

As shown in Item 17 on open agenda.

326. Housing Led Regeneration Hillcrest and High Level Drive

Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damien Egan, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) officers explore options for infill housing development on the High Level Drive Estate;
- (2) the potential synergies between this project and the proposed lease extension detailed be noted;
- (3) the valuation and commercial advice obtained as detailed be noted;
- (4) the Hyde Lease over the Hillcrest Estate be extended; and
- (5) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration and Resources, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Asset Management and the Head of Law, to negotiate the terms of a lease extension for the Hillcrest Estate with Hyde Housing Group, including agreement of the premium to be paid to the Council by Hyde.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.