

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 17 February 2016 at 6.00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Paul Bell, Councillor Brenda Dacres, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Councillor Alan Hall, Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin, Councillor Helen Klier and Councillor Jim Mallory.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Smith and Councillor Paul Maslin.

359. Declaration of Interests

The Mayor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 4 as a Board Member of the Surrey Canal Sports Foundation.

Councillor Joe Dromey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 as a member of the Deptford Neighbourhood Forum.

360. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

A reference from the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel on the Budget was considered as part of Item 5.

361. The Future of Beckenham Place Park

The report was presented by Councillor Rachel Onikosi who urged the Mayor to accept the recommendations saying there was an opportunity to achieve substantial investment in the park.

Councillor Egan pointed out a written representation had been received from the Save the Eighteen campaign which contained a user survey claiming support for the continuation of golf in the park. Officers did not dispute this finding but pointed out it focused only on current park users and not the much wider potential audience of park users in the borough.

Councillor Daby advised the Mayor that as a Councillor in the nearby Whitefoot Ward, she had only received one objection to the proposals.

Councillor Bonavia received an assurance that efforts had been made over several years to attract a golf partner and increase income but that these had proved unsuccessful.

Councillor Dromey asked where the nearest municipal golf courses were and was informed there were two in the London Borough of Bromley.

The Mayor recalled that he had been deeply involved with Beckenham Place Park since 1984 when he was Chair of the Leisure Services Committee. He said the park had never enjoyed its expected usage but now there appeared

to be scope to radically improve this. The Mayor acknowledged there had been multiple representations demanding that golf be retained and that he had listened to these carefully but it seemed to be beyond doubt that the use of the golf course has steadily declined. The Mayor concluded that the best way forward for the use of open spaces had to be found and he was agreeing the proposed recommendations but he took no pleasure in the decision to cease golf.

Having considered an officer report, two tabled addendums, written representations from the Save the 18 campaign and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm, Councillor Rachel Onikosi, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the continuation of work on the restoration of Beckenham Place Park be approved, and that this will include:

a) Public consultation about park design and facilities.

b) On-going design work and accompanying technical work by consultants, to be funded by the HLF grant.

c) Submission of a phase 2 bid to the HLF for approval of the detailed plans

(2) the closure of the existing golf course by 31st December 2016 be approved.

362. New Bermondsey CPO

The Mayor left the meeting room during consideration of this item. Councillor Best was in the Chair for this item only.

The Cabinet was advised by the Head of Law that this item should be withdrawn pending further inquiries.

Councillor Best advised the Cabinet to accept this advice and said she expected the developer, Millwall FC and Council Officers to seek a resolution to their differences without any unnecessary delays.

Councillor Dromey mentioned that he had received a petition with more than 15,000 signatures from the Defend the Den Campaign which he would be presenting at Council on February 24./cf

Having considered an officer report and an oral update from the Head of Law, the Cabinet, in the absence of the Mayor, agreed that the item should be withdrawn.

363. Budget 2016-17 Update

The Mayor accepted this as a late and urgent item having received an explanation that given the significance of the financial constraints that the

Council faces over the coming years, it was essential that the Mayor and Cabinet were updated on any changes affecting the 2016/17 Budget prior to presenting it to Council. The reason for lateness was to ensure that any decisions taken by the Mayor & Cabinet on 10 February 2016 could be appropriately considered within this report.

Having considered an officer report, a referral presented by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Councillor Alan Hall 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) Council be recommended to agree a Band D Council Tax for 2016/17 of £1,102.66 for the Council's element. This is an increase of 3.99% (including a social care precept of 2%), based on a General Fund Budget Requirement of £236.218m for 2016/17.

(2) Council be asked to note an overall increase in the total Council Tax for 2016/17 of 3.99% to include the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept being reduced by £19 to £276, a 6.4% reduction from its 2015/16 level as proposed.

(3) Agrees to recommend to Council on 24 February 2016, the statutory calculation of the Budget Requirement for Lewisham for 2016/17, attached at Appendix A.

(4) Council be recommended to agree on 24 February 2016, the motion on the budget, attached at Appendix B, including modifications made to the proposals published in the 2016/17 Budget Report.

(5) Notes the provisional and estimated precept and levies from the GLA and other bodies as detailed in Appendix C and delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to include any changes to these in the report for Council.

(6) the final settlement figure of £146.691m announced on the 8 February 2016 be noted, which is the same as the provisional settlement figure.

(7) there were no responses from Business rate payers to the consultation on the draft Budget which took place from 21 January 2016 to 4 February 2016.

(8) the updated equalities implications as set out for the introduction of the Social Care precept as part of proposed Council Tax increases be noted; and

(9) the Section 25 Statement from the Chief Financial Officer attached at Appendix D be received.

364. Sir Francis Drake Primary School enlargement

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that

(1) the successful conclusion of a series of contractor engagements and consultations in partnership with the Education Funding Agency and the final agreed building proposal be noted;

(2) the requirement to consult more widely with Councillors, the governing body, parents and neighbouring boroughs had been met;

(3) the decision to expand Sir Francis Drake Primary from 1 to 2FE for 2017 be ratified in accordance with the building proposals concluded in partnership with the Education Funding Agency; and

(4) additional expenditure to a maximum of £225,000 be approved to support additional site and planning requirements.

365. Admissions Arrangements 2017-18.docc

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) The nursery, primary, secondary and sixth form admissions arrangements for Lewisham's community mainstream schools as set out in Appendix A to H be approved; and

(2) The pan London Admissions Schemes for reception and secondary transfer and a local scheme for in year admissions as detailed in Appendix I be approved.

366. Deptford Neighbourhood Area and Forum

Councillor Dromey withdrew from the meeting while this item was considered.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that

(1) the designation of the DNA Neighbourhood Area as set out at Annex 3 be approved;

(2) the Deptford Neighbourhood Action Neighbourhood Forum be designated as set out at Annex 2.

(3) the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be authorised to undertake the required publicity of the designations.

367. Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee London Fire Brigade

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

RESOLVED that the response be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

368. Response to OSC Referral on Devolution

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

RESOLVED that

(1) the policy context for devolution in England and the background to the London devolution discussions be noted and

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

369. Catford Housing Zone bid

The Mayor stressed he was keen to support this bid and he was led to believe that a Catford bid stood a strong chance of being one of the ten new zones to be agreed by the Mayor of London.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that the submission of a bid for a Catford Housing Zone to the GLA be approved.

370. Referral - Catford Regeneration - SDSC

The Mayor indicated he would write to Ian Chalk to thank him for producing this presentation.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views of the Select Committee be received and the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be asked to prepare a response for Mayoral approval and reporting to the Select Committee.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.