

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

MINUTES of that part of the meeting of the MAYOR AND CABINET, which was open to the press and public, held on WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2012 at LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD, SE6 4RU at 5.20 p.m.

Present

The Mayor (Sir Steve Bullock)(Chair); Councillors Smith (Deputy Mayor), Best, Egan, Fitzsimmons, Klier, Maslin, Millbank, Onuegbu and Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Best.

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1.	<u>Declarations of Interests</u> (page There were none.	
2.	<u>Scrutiny Matters</u>	
2.1	The Mayor received a written report from the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel and responded to the two matters which had been raised as shown below:	
2.2	(a) <i>Item 5 Mayor & Cabinet meeting 18 January 2012 - Response to Thames Water (Phase2) Consultation on Thames Tunnel</i>	Head of Committee
	Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel members would like the Mayor to note that:	
	i) the Business Panel Support the Mayor's formal objection to Earl Pumping Station and Deptford Church Street as Thames Water's preferred sites at Phase 2 consultation on the basis of the concerns set out in the report.	
	ii) the Business Panel request that the final Thames Water proposals, when known, be circulated to Business Panel Members.	
	iii) the Business Panel suggest that the Deputy Mayor visit the tunnel site to assess its impact on Deptford.	
	Mayoral Responses	
	(i) The Mayor thanked the Business Panel for their support;	
	(ii) The Mayor asked officers from the Regeneration section to	

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ensure that papers were circulated when available.

(iii) The Mayor encouraged the Deputy Mayor to respond positively and said he believed Cllr Smith's engineering background could prove to be of assistance.

2.3 (b) *Item 5 Mayor & Cabinet 15 February 2012 – Budget 2012/13* Head of Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel meeting members would like the Mayor to note that:

i) the Business Panel welcomed the Mayor's variations of the Budget Report.

ii) the Business Panel noted that only a year grant provision has been made by the Government to allow Council Tax to be frozen.

iii) the Business Panel recommended that the Children and Young People Select Committee review the Section 17 and Direct Payment budget, focussing on how officer decisions and procedures affected allocations.

Mayoral Responses

(i) The Mayor thanked the Business Panel for their support.

(ii) The Mayor noted the comments of the Business Panel.

(iii) The Mayor said he believed the investigation to be entirely reasonable and he asked relevant Directors to facilitate the review.

3. Budget 2012-13 Update

The report was presented by the Cabinet member for Resources, Councillor Paul Maslin and the Mayor approved the Section 25 Statement from the Chief Financial Officer and confirmed the final Council Tax demands which included the GLA element.

RESOLVED That

(a) saving proposal COM08B – Financial Assessments of £70,000, the second year of a proposal which was agreed as part of the budget setting process for the current year, be rejected;

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(b) the Section 25 Statement from the Chief Financial Officer be approved;

(c) a recommended Council Tax for 2012/13 of £1,042.11 for the Council's element be reaffirmed. This is an increase of 0%, based on a General Fund Budget Requirement of £268.510m for 2012/13.

ED Resources

(d) an overall decrease in Council Tax for 2012/13 of 0.23% be noted, which includes the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept being reduced by £3.10 to £306.72, representing a 1% decrease from its 2011/12 level and recommended to Council on 29 February 2012, the motion on the budget, attached at Appendix B.

ED Resources

4. Asset Rationalisation Programme Final Proposals (page

The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration's representative confirmed paragraph 4.3 of the report had been revised to take out three Early Years Centres from consideration pending the review called for by the Mayor.

RESOLVED That

(i) the rationale, approach and final proposals for rationalising the operational corporate estate be noted;

(ii) officers be instructed to proceed to seek to deliver the various service proposals aimed at realising a revenue saving of £1m on the running cost of the operational corporate estate between 2012/13 and 2013/14;

ED Resources

(iii) the service proposals for the three remaining Early Years Centres are conditional on a further consideration by the Mayor in light of the consultation process being undertaken; and

ED CYP

(iv) the following vacant assets (28 Deptford High Street, Lee Green Repairs Depot - Old Road and 106 Wells Park Road) be declared surplus to the Council's requirements and their

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disposal under delegated authority be authorised.

5. Torridon ASD Resource Base (page

At the request of the Children & Young People Select Committee, the Mayor agreed to defer the report to the next meeting and confirmed this would not delay the consultation timetable.

RESOLVED That the item be deferred to the March 7 meeting.

Head of Committee

6. Housing Select Committee - New Homes Bonus (page

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Councillor Susan Wise, presented the report in the absence of the Chair of the Select Committee.

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

ED Customer

7. Proposed Response on Lay Visitor Scheme to Healthier Communities Select Committee

The Cabinet Member for Older People, Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons said the Scheme had gone from strength to strength and had been praised in a recent Inspection. The Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Councillor Susan Wise, confirmed that the initiative had been warmly welcomed.

RESOLVED That the response from the Executive Director for Community Services to the comments from the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the Lay Visitor Scheme be approved and reported to that Select Committee.

Head of Committee

8. Response on Community Libraries to Healthier Communities Select Committee (page)

The Mayor thanked the Select Committee for their very helpful reference report.

RESOLVED That the response from the Executive Director for Community Services to the comments from

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the Healthier Communities Select Committee
on Community Libraries be approved and
reported to that Select Committee.

The meeting ended at 5.39pm.

Chair