

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUSINESS PANEL

Tuesday, 11 March 2014 at 7.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall (Chair), Liam Curran, Julia Fletcher, Vicky Foxcroft, Carl Handley, John Muldoon and John Paschoud

ALSO PRESENT:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Councillor Alexander Feakes and Councillor Pauline Morrison

118. Minutes

119. Declarations of Interests

The Chair declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 6 as a Director on the Phoenix Community Housing Board.

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 6 as a Director on the Phoenix Community Housing Board.

120. Outstanding Scrutiny Items

Report noted.

121. Responses from the Mayor

Lewisham Central Opportunity Site

The Chair informed the Panel that he had made a personal representation to the Mayor about this, as he thought that once the building had been demolished it would be useful for the community to know what was planned for the future. He had noted that officers had undertaken to do this.

Asset Rationalisation Programme

The Chair informed the Panel that the Deputy Mayor responded to the referral at the last Mayor and Cabinet meeting, and pledged that officers would complete the work within the timescale.

122. Notification of Late and Urgent Items

Report noted.

123. Decisions Made by Mayor and Cabinet on 5 March 2014

New Homes, Better Places – GLA Bid

The Programme Manager, Housing Matters gave Panel members an overview of the bid. The

Chair asked whether the bid would be assessed against the Council's Housing Strategy, and criteria for new homes. It was noted that this would be the case. The Chair also asked whether officers were positive about the outcome, and was told that officers were anticipating a positive outcome. The Chair thanked officers for making the bid.

Councillor Handley asked when officers would be made aware of the outcome, and was told it would be in June 2014. Councillor Foxcroft said that she was happy to see a report that reflected what members have discussed and requested in various committee meetings. Councillor Curran asked for confirmation of the figures of up to 80%:20% ratio in favour of affordable housing. The Programme Manager, Housing Matters said that officers had stuck to the previously agreed ratio, but the marketing strategy has not yet been agreed. The Chair thanked officers for the report, and said that Panel members look forward to the new buildings.

RESOLVED that the decision of the Mayor be noted.

Public Health Services Section 75 Agreement between Lewisham Council and Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group

The Director of Public Health introduced the report. Councillor Curran asked whether the current staff would be delivering the services listed on the report, and was told that the front line staff would remain the same and the only change would be that the contracts would be signed by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chief Officer. The Director of Public Health said that nothing had changed except that commissioning was now the responsibility of the Council.

Councillor Curran asked if there were any foreseeable problems members should be made aware of. The Director of Public Health said that he would advise that the current arrangement should only be regarded as temporary, as for the longer term the Council should be seeking to tender directly with the contractors as this would ensure more flexibility in procurement of public health contracts. Councillor Fletcher said that she welcomed public health services coming back to local authorities. She added that at their last local assembly meeting there was an interesting discussion on the local Health services, and she could not recall having a similar discussion in the years she had been a Councillor.

Councillor Foxcroft asked if the current provision could be reviewed at the end of the Agreement. It was noted that although the Agreement was important as it enabled the Health Services to maintain the status quo, at the end of it the Council could review the situation and make a decision to either continue with the Agreement or terminate it, and procure directly with providers.

Councillor Curran said that there might be an issue using private providers, if residents felt in trying to make savings, the Council was opting for cheaper options instead of providing quality health care.

The Chair asked about the Public Health Budget, and it was confirmed that it was from the Department of Health, and not from the Department of Local Government & Communities. The Director of Public Health stated that it was the government's policy to protect Health and Education, and he did not envisage this budget being cut in the near future

Councillor Muldoon informed the Panel as part of addressing the issue of domestic violence, Jane Hastie had developed some tools that demonstrated Local Authorities and Public Health Services benefitted from early intervention, and this was worth pursuing. Councillor Curran asked whether the public health services money had been ring fenced for the next 2 years. It

was noted that it might be ring fenced up until 2015/16, then the responsibility transferred to local authorities. The Chair thanked officers for the report.

RESOLVED that the decision of the Mayor be noted.

124. Decisions Made by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 5 March 2014

No item was identified for discussion.

125. Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees Work Programmes 2013/14 - oral update

The Head of Scrutiny informed the Panel that the Select Committees were coming to their last meeting before the end of the municipal year, and members should be putting forward suggestions for the next Administration plan of programmes in June/July.

126. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that 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, as amended by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to information) Amendments) (England) Regulations 2006 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information:

The following is a summary of the items considered in the closed part of the meeting:

DECISIONS MADE BY MAYOR AND CABINET ON 5 MARCH 2014

144 Evelyn Street (Parker House) Surplus Declarations and Approval to Demolish

RESOLVED that the Mayor's decision be called in, for the reasons outlined in a confidential report.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Chair

127. Decisions Made by Mayor and Cabinet on 5 March 2014

144 Evelyn Street (Parker House) Surplus Declarations and Approval to Demolish

RESOLVED that the Mayor's decision be called in, for the reasons outlined in a confidential report.

128. Decisions Made by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 5 March 2014

No item was identified for discussion.