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## MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 3 September 2014 at 6.00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Stella Jeffrey.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Smith.

### 40. Declaration of interests

There were none.

### 41. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on July 16 and July 22 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 42. Outstanding Scrutiny Item

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

### 43. Financial Forecasts 2014-15

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:

(i) the financial forecasts for the year ended 31 March 2015 be noted;

(ii) the actions being taken by the Executive Directors to manage down the forecasted year-end overspend be noted and ask them to report back in October on the progress being made to address the forecasted overspend position; and

### 44. New Homes Better Places Phase 2 Update

Councillor Egan welcomed the report and stated agreeing the recommendations would be in accordance with the majority group's manifesto commitment to build 500 new council homes by 2018.

The Mayor received the written comments of the Housing Select Committee which had met the night before to consider the report. The Mayor generally welcomed the comments but sought advice from the Head of Law on the Select Committee's request to be involved in the procurement process. The Mayor was advised by the Head of Law that such involvement would not be appropriate and that the existing Constitutional provisions relating to procurement should prevail. The Mayor therefore suggested that should the

Housing Select Committee have concerns about procurement, these be raised with the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel which had the authority to subject any key decision to post decision scrutiny.

Having considered an 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:

(i) the progress made in reviewing sites for their potential for new build Housing be noted;

(ii) the comments made by secure tenants in response to the statutory consultation undertaken pursuant to Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 in relation to the proposals for the Phase 2 sites be noted and, having considered those comments these sites be prioritised for delivery as Phase 2 of the Council's "New Homes, Better Places" programme;

(iii) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to consider the most appropriate means for procuring construction contracts or other methods of delivering the individual proposals forming part of the programme, and to initiate the procurement of such approaches as appropriate, noting that final contract awards will be subject to further approval at Mayor and Cabinet Contracts, in accordance with the Mayoral Scheme of Delegation; and

(iv) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Customer Services to approve minor variations to the unit and tenure mix for the sites set out where such changes are required as part of the future detailed design process, subject to the principle that the overall programme retains a target tenure mix of 80 per cent social rented homes to 20 per cent private sale homes.

#### **45. Lewisham Homes Business and Delivery Plan 2014-15**

The Mayor highlighted the strides being made to increase the number of properties being raised to Decent Homes standard and noted Lewisham Homes had made over 3,000 properties decent in 2013/14.

Councillor Joe Dromey asked if all homes could achieve the Decent Homes standard by 2018 as promised in the manifesto of the majority group and he was assured by a Lewisham Homes representative that this would be achieved and could even be accelerated if grant from the GLA was secured.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damien Egan, the Mayor agreed that the Lewisham Homes Business and Delivery Plan 2014 – 2015 be approved.

#### **46. Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review**

The Mayor asked what was the level of take up of the discretionary hardship fund and was informed to date only about £12,000 of the £100,000 had been

called upon.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor agreed that;

- (i) the outcomes of the review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2013/14 be noted;
- (ii) consultation be undertaken on a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 that proposes to continue to pass on the government cut in grant in full; and
- (iii) Discretionary Hardship Scheme continues to be provided for households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction who are suffering exceptional hardship via the existing provision within Section 13a of the 1992 Local Government Finance Act.

#### **47. Development Management Local Plan Adoption**

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:

- (i) the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be authorised to make any minor changes to the text and format of the Lewisham Development Management Local Plan prior to consideration by Council;
- (ii) the Council be recommended to formally adopt the revised Lewisham Development Management Local Plan.

#### **48. LIP Annual Spending Submission 2015-16**

Councillor Millbank said £25,000 did not appear a great deal of money to devote to Independent Traveller Training and said she would investigate how the initiative is delivered subsequent to the meeting. She also promised to examine a School Travel Plan in detail.

Councillor Best said it would be helpful to review the success of previous schemes such as Sydenham Road and officers indicated this could be done.

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 the LIP Annual Spending Submission 2015/16 to TfL as set out be approved.

#### **49. Local Government Association Municipal Bonds Agency**

The Mayor was informed by the Head of Law that legal advice had been obtained by the LGA regarding the validity of powers granted under Section 1 of the Localism Act which were currently untested in administrative law.

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;

(i) the Council be asked to agree that in respect of the Local Government Association business case for the creation of a Municipal Bonds Agency, Lewisham:

- subscribes for 25,000 ordinary shares of one pence each in the capital of the Company in the First Fundraising for a consideration of £25,000 representing a price of £1 per ordinary share; and
- commits up to £200,000 to the Second Fundraising, being acknowledged that this commitment will be subject, among other things, to agreement of satisfactory legal documentation.

#### **50. OSBP Response on Recycling**

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Public Realm, Councillor Rachel Onikosi, the Mayor agreed that the response to the OSBP referral on recycling be deferred and that the comments of the OSBP be considered as part of the strategic review of Waste and Recycling which is to be scrutinised by the Sustainable Development Select Committee (SDSC).

#### **51. Appointment of LA Governors**

Having considered information supplied in respect of the nominees proposed for appointment and advice from the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor agreed that the following persons be appointed as a Local Authority governor;

Susan Browne	Rathfern
Clare Griffiths	Torridon Infant

#### **52. 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.

14. Freehold Acquisition of Brookdale Club by CRPL.

**53. Brookdale Club acquisition**

Having considered a confidential 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:

(i) the Council as sole shareholder approves the acquisition of the Brookdale Club Ltd's freehold premises in Catford by Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL) on the terms set out; and

(ii) a Loan Facility be entered into with the Company to allow CRPL to borrow a stated maximum sum (plus annual CPI until the sale is completed) so that CRPL can complete the purchase of the Property and authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration & Resources to agree the final terms of the Loan Facility and Loan Agreement and any security to be taken by the Council and all associated legal documentation.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.