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MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 23 March 2016 at 6.00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Alan Hall.

384. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Daby declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9 as a Phoenix Community Housing Board member and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this report.

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in Item 9 as a local resident.

385. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on March 2 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

386. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

Matter Raised by Overview & Scrutiny Committee – South London suburban railways

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Alan Hall, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the comments and views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received, and the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be asked to prepare a response.

387. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

The Mayor observed that one item would be slipped to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

388. Ofsted Inspection

In presenting the report, Councillor Paul Maslin commented that the results were unsurprising as they accorded with the authority's own self-assessment. He highlighted the various aspects of performance which had been categorised as 'good' and pointed out Improvement Plans were in place to raise overall performance. Councillor Joan Millbank added that the Corporate Parenting Group, of which she was a member, were also committed to securing improvements.

The Executive Director of Children & Young People pointed out the Chair of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board, Chris Doorly, was about to retire and the Mayor agreed it would be entirely appropriate for a letter of thanks to be sent to her.

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 Inspection reports, findings and associated recommendations be noted;
- (2) the Lewisham Improvement plan be endorsed as a response to the inspection findings;
- (3) the associated LSCB Improvement plan be noted;
- (4) the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee as set out be received and a response for Mayoral consideration be prepared by the Executive Director for Children & Young People; and
- (5) a letter of thanks be sent to Chris Doorly, the outgoing Chair of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board, for her contributions.

389. A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham - Biodiversity Action Plan

Having considered an officer report and a presentation from the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm, Councillor Rachel Onikosi, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham' document and the strategic aspirations of the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership be endorsed; and
- (2) the views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee as set out be received and a response for Mayoral consideration be prepared by the Executive Director for Customer Services.

390. Housing Allocations Policy

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:

- (1) the rationale for undertaking a review of the Allocations Policy be noted;
- (2) the proposed changes as set out be noted;

- (3) officers be asked to proceed to consult with residents and partners about the proposed changes;
- (4) a full equality assessment analysis will be undertaken; and
- (5) a report be brought back to Mayor and Cabinet later this year seeking approval for changes to the Allocation Policy in light of the outcome of the consultation and equality assessment analysis.

391. Brasted Close Housing Development

The Mayor was addressed by Nano McCaughan of the South London Citizens Community who strongly supported the scheme and thanked the Mayor for adhering to his commitment to build affordable community housing. Councillors Best and Onikosi who were ward members both praised the scheme for the positive benefits it would bring to Sydenham.

Having considered an officer report, and presentations by a member of the public and by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damien Egan, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) having considered the responses to the statutory Section 105 consultation, the garage site on the Brasted Close estate shown on an attached plan be declared surplus to the Council's requirements;
- (2) officers work with the London Community Land Trust and Lewisham Citizens exclusively for a period of twelve months to seek to develop a fully affordable housing scheme for the site; and
- (3) officers provide a further report to Mayor and Cabinet to agree the disposal terms if a viable business case for pursuing the development can be finalised.

392. Phoenix Community Housing Development

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:

- (1) the on-going partnership work between the Council and Phoenix Community Housing to identify housing development opportunities in the south of the borough, and to review potential mechanisms to fund those opportunities be noted;
- (2) funding of £1.32m be provided from S106 funds to support the development at Forster House;

(3) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to finalise the terms of the funding agreement;

(4) Officers review options for the longer term funding of housing development by Phoenix Community Housing and report these back to Mayor and Cabinet.

393. Comprehensive Equality Scheme

Having considered an officer report and a presentation from the Cabinet Member for the Third Sector, Councillor Joan Millbank, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(i) the draft equality objectives for the next four years be approved; and

(ii) the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20 be approved.

394. Deferred Payment Agreement Policy

The Executive Director for Community Services representative pointed out that the delegation proposed in the fourth recommendation in the printed report was contrary to the Scheme of Delegation in the Constitution and should not be considered.

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

(1) the Council's proposed universal deferred payments scheme under the Care Act 2014 as set out for new deferred payment agreements entered into by the Council be approved;

(2) the maximum interest rate allowed by the Department of Health be used;

(3) charges for deferred payment agreements be as set out;

(4) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration and Head of Law, to agree the more detailed guidance and procedures for the operation of the scheme.

395. Financial Forecasts

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

RESOLVED that the current financial forecasts for the year ending 31 March 2016 and the action being taken by the Executive Directors to manage down the forecasted year-end overspend be noted.

396. Response Public Accounts Work Programme

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

RESOLVED that the proposed responses to the comments and views of the Public Accounts Select Committee as set out be approved and reported to the Select Committee.

397. Modern Roads Review Response to SDSC

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

RESOLVED that the response from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to the Modern Roads Review undertaken by the Sustainable Development Select Committee as set out be approved and reported to the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

398. Creekside Copperas Street depot disposal Part 1

Item withdrawn.

399. Exclusion of Press and Public

Item withdrawn.

400. Creekside Copperas Street depot disposal Part 2

Item withdrawn.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm