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MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 25 October 2017 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Smith, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Joan Millbank and Rachel Onikosi.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Maja Hilton and Councillor John Muldoon.

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Steve Bullock and Councillor Janet Daby.

70. Declaration of Interests

Councillors Joe Dromey and Joan Millbank both declared personal interests in Item 10 as Lewisham Homes leaseholders.

71. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on October 4 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

72. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

None were raised.

73. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

The Deputy Mayor observed there had been no slippage since the last report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

74. Business Rates Revaluation Support

The Head of Law advised the Cabinet that the legal implications and equality provisions were the same as shown in the Public Space Protection Order item and other reports appearing on the agenda.

Officers stated there were currently unable to confirm if the administrative grant attached to the scheme would be enough to cover costs. Officers were able to confirm the provisions relating to betting shops were not open to challenge, as this was a Lewisham Council scheme.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the Business Rates Revaluation Support Scheme (Revaluation Support) be approved in accordance with the Council's powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988;

(2) the scheme be agreed for this financial year only, i.e. from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and a further report be presented to the Mayor and Cabinet in 2018 detailing the proposed schemes for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 once the actual scheme take up and cost is known for 2017/18;

(3) the 2 schemes announced in the March 2017 budget (Support for Pubs and Supporting Small Businesses) be approved pursuant to the Council's powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988; and

(4) the s151 Finance Officer be authorised to implement the three schemes detailed so that the agreed discretionary discounts for business rates can be awarded in compliance with the scheme criteria.

75. No 7 and 8 Gasholders Bell Green

The Head of Planning reported a late representation had been received from the landowner's agent raising various concerns about the scheme and the potential effect on a pending planning application. In response she advised the Cabinet that a local listing would be a consideration to be taken into account when determining any application but that it did not preclude development or ensure that the gasholders could not be removed.

Annabelle McLaren of the Sydenham Society addressed the Cabinet and said a petition to save the gasholders had attracted 650 signatures. She outlined the historical and architectural significance of the gasholders and urged that they be listed. She was supported by Councillor Chris Best who believed the gasholders to be an important part of the area's social and cultural heritage. Councillor Best acknowledged that local listing would not prevent other opportunities to uplift the locality.

In reply to the debate the Deputy Mayor stated that while the proposals had the backing of the Cabinet, his personal background as an engineer led him to conclude the steps to list a no longer fit for purpose piece of equipment was unnecessary, especially as a similar structure had already been listed on the Old Kent Road.

Having considered an officer report and presentations from the Sydenham Society and by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, the Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that the addition of No.7 & 8 Bell Green gasholders to the Local List be approved.

76. Public Space Protection Order

This item was withdrawn from the agenda without being considered.

77. London Business Rates Pilot

The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration confirmed this was intended to be a pilot proposal and could not go ahead until every London borough had agreed to take part.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to support the proposal to create a London Business Rates pool based on the principles set out in the London Councils proposals, with a preference for Option D, as set out within paragraph 6.7 (i.e. greater weighting to “needs” and “population” (each 30%) with equal remaining weightings of 20% for “incentives” and “investment” pots, subject to clarification on the details still outstanding, in particular:

- that any London pool will be protected by a no detriment guarantee;
- on the detail of how the 100% devolved business rates plans from government will operate and the timing for their introduction;
- of the impact of the fair funding review and arrangements for conversion from pilots to permanent arrangements (including when and how revaluations will be conducted); and
- that there is unanimous agreement from all London Boroughs on how the pool will operate at set up and enable individual authorities to leave if they wish to.

78. Management Report August 2017

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, Councillor Joe Dromey, the Cabinet:

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

79. Lewisham Homes Business and Delivery Plan 2017-20

In praising the overall performance of Lewisham Homes, Councillor Millbank also highlighted a couple of concerns raised by her constituents and was assured by a representative of Lewisham Homes that these would be investigated subsequent to the meeting.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damien Egan, the Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the performance of Lewisham Homes against its targets be noted; and
- (2) the Business and Delivery Plan for 2017-20 be approved.

80. Comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee on adult social care

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Chair of the

Public Accounts Select Committee, Councillor Maja Hilton, the Cabinet:

RESOLVED that the views of the Select Committee as set out be received and the Executive Director for Community Services be asked to provide a response for Mayoral consideration.

81. Comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee on communications

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee, Councillor Maja Hilton, the Cabinet:

RESOLVED that the views of the Select Committee as set out be received and the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be asked to provide a response for Mayoral consideration.

82. Comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee on income generation

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee, Councillor Maja Hilton, the Cabinet:

RESOLVED that the views of the Select Committee as set out be received and the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be asked to provide a response for Mayoral consideration.

The meeting closed at 6.56pm