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MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 15 November 2017 at 4.30 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Alan Hall and Councillor Sue Hordijkenko.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Janet Daby and Councillor Joan Millbank.

83. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Dromey declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Item 12 as Chair of the Lewisham Poverty Commission.

84. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on October 25 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

85. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Post Offices

The report was presented by Councillor Alan Hall, as Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, who reported the Committee had agreed to notify the Mayor and Cabinet of concerns relating to proposed Post Office closures and of their support for a national Post Bank initiative.

The Mayor was advised of efforts to save Sydenham Post Office by Councillor Chris Best and of efforts to secure New Cross Post Office by Councillor Joe Dromey. The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration noted the Council was the property owner at Sydenham and that discussions were underway with the Post Office regarding the future use of the building.

RESOLVED that the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out be noted and the Cass Business School report setting out the case for a national Post Bank be received.

86. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

The Mayor noted one item had slipped since the last report and he was informed by the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration of the intention to combine the outstanding response to the Select Committee with a report on the Cycling Strategy in December.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

87. New Homes Programme Update

Councillor Chris Best commented on a visit she had made to the Phoenix Housing scheme at Hazlehurst Court and commended the high calibre of the provision she had found there.

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 progress update on the New Homes, Better Places Programme be noted;

(2) the design development and consultation which has been carried out on the proposed re-development of the garages at Algernon Close, including the statutory Section 105 Consultation be noted;

(3) having considered the responses to the statutory Section 105 consultation on the proposed re-development of the garages at Algernon Close, Lewisham Homes should proceed to submit a planning application to deliver five new Council homes on the site;

(4) the success of the Councils Expression of Interest (EOI) to the GLA Innovation Fund, and current progress made towards finalising designs and overall programme costings for the four schemes be noted:

(5) officers be authorised to bid for funding from the GLA Innovation Fund to deliver four of the projects within the 500 home programme using modern methods of construction in the same manner as at PLACE/Ladywell, at an estimated value of £14m; and

(6) Subject to the bid being successful, authority for agreeing the terms of the grant agreements with the GLA be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Law.

88. Low Cost Energy

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

RESOLVED that:

(1) officers maintain a watching brief on new London energy supply models working with other boroughs and the Greater London Authority.

(2) the proposal to pilot a new community energy fund subject to any further approvals required be approved;

(3) the Council's support, in principle, for a heat network in the borough making use of waste heat from South East London Community Energy be confirmed subject to a further report being presented; and

(4) officers develop options for future work to provide practical support to vulnerable households and to submit these to Lewisham's Health and Wellbeing Board.

89. Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Update

The report was introduced by the Deputy Mayor and the Head of Planning who stated the report was to be regarded as an update and a reflection of current thinking but did not amount to a site recommendation as more work still needed to be done on the preferred Pool Court option.

The Mayor was next addressed by Bellingham Ward Councillor Sue Hordijkenko who opposed the Pool Court location which she felt was unsuitable for a site as it would be placed between a railway line and a river and would be inherently dangerous for children. She said she did not want to see a marginalised community placed in a marginal location. She was supported by fellow Ward Councillor Alan Hall who added that a choice of Pool Court would place a local scaffolding yard in jeopardy and would threaten an area of ecological interest. He said there were also concerns on deliverability and believed the Pool Court option should be opposed. He urged the Mayor to broaden the terms of the site search.

Councillor Dromey advised the Mayor as a local member on potential problems in choosing the Winslade Estate option but that he did not currently oppose the option and was prepared to continue engaging with the process.

Councillor Egan asked if any discussions had taken place with the Gypsy and Traveller community regarding a preferred option. The Head of Planning said discussions had taken place with a representative of that community and that Pool Court was their preferred option owing to local familial connections.

Having considered an officer report and presentations by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, and Bellingham Ward Councillors Sue Hordijkenko and Alan Hall, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the contents of the Consultation Statement (Appendix 1), including the main issues raised and officer response to them and the findings of the Integrated Impact Assessment (Appendix 2) be noted;

(2) officers consideration that Pool Court is currently the preferred site be noted;

(3) officers be instructed to further investigate the following matters in relation to the potential Pool Court site and report back to Mayor and Cabinet:

- (i) the potential phased delivery of a traveller site,
- (ii) the incorporation of current public highway land in to a site,
- (iii) re-location assistance that could be offered to the existing scaffolding business.

(4) those that commented on the Potential Sites Consultation Report be informed of these decisions.

90. Update on Fire Safety

Councillor Best noted there were 15 sheltered housing projects with sprinklers and she asked when would others be completed. The Executive Director for Customer Services representative stated a reply would be provided subsequent to the meeting.

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

91. Fire safety response to SDSC

The Deputy Mayor highlighted the limited enforcement powers available to the Council owing to the private sector's recourse to Approved Inspectors operating for profit outside the purview of a local authority. The Mayor acknowledged current Building Regulations were not fit for purpose and dramatic change was required to ensure effective controls were in place.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damien Egan, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the response from the Executive Director for Customer Services to the comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee be approved and forwarded to the Select Committee.

92. Consultation on changes to the subsidy on cooked meals

The Executive Director for Community Services representative advised the Mayor the proposals had been considered by the Healthier Communities Select Committee on November 1 and no specific comments had been made.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Health, Well-Being and Older People, Councillor Chris Best, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the removal of the subsidy currently paid for the meals service at three day centres Cinnamon Court, Cedar Court & the Ladywell Day Centre be approved and that full cost recovery for meals for those meals apply;

(2) the subsidy be extended for a further month to the 31st January 2018 at a cost of £5,195;

(3) the delivery of a meals offer become part of its directly managed day service provision at the Ladywell Centre; and

(4) a £9.8K capital allocation for the purchase of new kitchen equipment be approved.

93. Response to SSSC Review of Demographic Change

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

RESOLVED that the response from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to the comments of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee be approved and forwarded to the Select Committee.

94. Lewisham Poverty Commission

The Mayor thanked everyone who had been involved in the Poverty Commission and he praised Councillor Dromey for his leadership. He hoped that Councillor Dromey would continue his involvement under a new Mayor and that the Council should receive annual updates on the work being undertaken.

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

RESOLVED that:

(1) the challenge and insight provided by the Lewisham Poverty Commission be welcomed and the Commissioners be thanked for their time and expertise

(2) the final report of the Lewisham Poverty Commission and its recommendations be noted;

(3) officers be asked to develop a detailed response to the report's findings and recommendations including an action plan;

(4) a Cabinet Member with responsibility for overseeing Lewisham Council's actions to tackle poverty be retained, including presenting a yearly report to the Council's scrutiny and executive functions so progress can be tracked.

The meeting closed at 5.36pm