

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 6 December 2017 at 6.00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Mark Ingleby.

104. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Janet Daby declared a personal interest in Item 8 as she had a son attending Sandhurst Nursery.

105. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on November 15 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

106. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Update

The Mayor considered the written views of the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel. The Head of Planning confirmed that as well as a direct comparison being made between the two sites under consideration, the Business Panel also wished to see a comparison with bricks and mortar sites as part of a wider site selection process.

The Mayor decided to accept the request made by the Business Panel.

RESOLVED that a direct cost comparison be made between both sites and with bricks and mortar sites before a final decision is made.

107. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

108. Lewisham Future Programme Revenue Budget Savings

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Resources who highlighted the enormous sums lost by the Council since 2010 and pointed out it was increasingly difficult to identify new savings. He observed that there was an in-year overspend of £13million and that more than half of this comprised savings identified in previous years which had not been taken. A new batch of savings totalling £4.5million had been proposed which were thought to have little impact on the public. He said the Council was still more than £17million short of its savings target and reserves would have to be used once again to set a balanced budget. He lamented the enormous sums being wasted nationally on the Brexit process.

The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration's representative confirmed the proposed savings had been seen by all the Select Committees and no comments had been offered. He added that officers focus would be on attempting to deliver previously agreed savings.

The Mayor said the Council's dire financial circumstances were not a surprise after enduring eight years of austerity. He encouraged all efforts being made on delivering previously agreed savings.

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:

- (1) the progress with identifying savings, the £17m shortfall against the target for 2018/19, and the implications for the use of reserves be noted;
- (2) the new savings proposals presented in Section 10 and Appendices i to xii, totalling £4.3m and referenced: B4; D2; E8; I12, 13, 14, & 15; J3; K5; M8; O5; and P3 be approved;
- (3) the consultation with the Public Accounts Select Committee on the 16 November 2017, which incorporated the views of the respective select committees be noted;
- (4) the previously agreed savings for 2018/19 in Section 12, totalling £0.6m and referenced: A19; L8; and Q6 & 7 be noted;
- (5) the update on progress in relation to Public Health savings in Section 13 be noted;
- (6) officers be authorised to carry out consultation where staff consultation is necessary in relation to the proposal and delegate the decision to the relevant Executive Director for the service concerned;
- (7) Where no consultation is required, either:
 - agree the saving proposal,
 - delegate the decision to the relevant Executive Director for the service concerned, or
 - officers be requested to complete further work to clarify the proposal and that officers then re submit the saving proposal at the earliest possible date.

109. Public Space Protection Order

Officers confirmed enforcement of any new order could be undertaken from within existing resources.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor Janet Daby, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) a borough wide PSPO be implemented according to the terms set out in;
- (2) authority be delegated to officers to publicly advertise the decision to implement the PSPO in the borough and provide details of when the order will come in to force with a proposal that the order commence on 18 January 2018, and last for a period of 3 years, unless reviewed, amended or revoked; and
- (3). enforcement of the order be undertaken by police officers and delegated council officers (currently powers are delegated to officers within the Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service, Clean Streets Officers, Glendale).

110. Delivering additional school places for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The Executive Director for Children & Young People's representative pointed out that paragraph 5.3 should indicate a need for 59 additional SLD places rather than 55. Subject to the Mayor's agreement officers intended to report on the results of consultation at the February 28 2018 meeting.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the results of the three initial informal consultations be noted;
- (2) officers proceed with the statutory consultation process, specifically the Publication of the following proposals to;
 - expand Greenvale School from 117 places to 210 places
 - expand Watergate School from 108 places to 167 places
 - extend the age range of New Woodlands School to accommodate KS4 pupils
- (3) officers report back to Mayor and Cabinet by the end of March 2018 so that the Mayor as statutory decision maker can make a decision on the proposals.

111. Amalgamation of Sandhurst Infant School and Sandhurst Junior School

The Executive Director for Children & Young People's representative confirmed there had been a 100% positive response to the proposed amalgamation.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that

(1) The results of the consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Sandhurst Infant School and Sandhurst Junior School with effect from 1 April 2018 be noted;

(2) officers commence the formal statutory process to consult on the proposal to amalgamate Sandhurst Infant School and Sandhurst Junior School, by way of conducting the following Publication and Representation phases in parallel;

- o Closure of Sandhurst Junior School
- o Change of age range of Sandhurst Infant School

(3) officers report back to Mayor and Cabinet by the end of spring 2018 with the results of both 'Representation' periods requesting Mayoral decisions as the statutory decision maker'

112. Amalgamation of Torricon Infant School and Torricon Junior School

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:there should be an initial informal consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Torricon Infant & Nursery School and Torricon Junior School with effect from September 2018, and that officers should report back to Mayor and Cabinet by the end of March 2018 with the results and next steps.

113. Council Tax Reduction Review

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Resources who said the financial cost would be £63,000pa and that the proposals reflected the wishes of the Poverty Commission. Councillor Millbank added that the discount for Care Leavers was supported by the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel.

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

(1) a local discount of 100% be offered (after the award of any other qualifying discounts / benefits) to Care Leavers up to the age of 25 from 1 April 2018.

(2) research and development of a policy which considers others groups of Council Tax payers who could qualify for a discretionary Council Tax discount in future years be undertaken;

(3) the current Council Tax reduction scheme be continued but to simplify the budgeting arrangements by setting a fixed % for the scheme to be agreed by Council as part of the budget setting process and consider on an annual basis any savings it might want to make to the budget by changing the % alongside other savings being considered.

114. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018-19

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

- (1) the outcomes of the consultation as set out be noted;
- (2) a local CTRS be retained from 1 April 2018 that passes on any reduction in government funding, reflecting the Council's financial position following the announcement of the Autumn Statement and the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement (LGFS) in December;
- (3) the delivery of additional support to the most vulnerable residents through use of the existing provision within Section 13A(1)(c) of the 1992 Local Government Finance Act be continued.

115. Financial Forecasts

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

- (1) the current financial forecasts for the year ending 31 March 2018 and action being taken by the Executive Directors to manage the forecasted year-end overspend be noted; and
- (2) the revised capital programme budget, as set out in section 14 with further detail at appendices 1 and 2 be noted.

116. Treasury Mid-Year Review 2017/18

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 report, in particular the macroeconomic context, performance of investments to date, updates on capital expenditure and borrowing in line with CIPFA requirements and the Council's treasury management strategy be noted.

117. Cycling Strategy and Response to Select Committee

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith and by Councillor Mark Ingleby, the Mayor's Cycling Champion, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that

(1) the response from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to the recommendations from the Sustainable Development Select Committee as set out be approved and forwarded to the Sustainable Development Select Committee; and

(2) the Lewisham Cycling Strategy (2017) be formally adopted.

118. Brownfield Land Register

The Head of Law confirmed compilation of the Register was a statutory requirement which the Council was obliged to undertake.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that

(1) Part 1 of Lewisham's Brownfield Land Register including the information contained in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 be noted; and

(2) the register's contents be approved and published by making a copy available at Laurence House, by placing it on the Council's website and by carrying out a notification exercise to raise awareness of the register.

119. New Homes Programme Update

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 garages and drying spaces at Knapdale Close, including the statutory Section 105 Consultation be noted; and

(3) Having considered the responses to the statutory Section 105 consultation on the proposed re-development at garages and drying spaces at Knapdale Close, Lewisham Homes should proceed to submit a planning application to deliver 17 new Council homes on the site.

120. Local Authority Governor Nominations

Having considered an officer report containing information supplied in respect of each candidate, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the following persons be nominated as a School Governor

for the schools shown.

Sharon Gayle
Jessica Lempp
Raj Blanchard

St James Hatcham CE
John Stainer
Myatt Garden

121. Response To Referral From SDSC - Catford Regeneration

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 & Regeneration to the comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee be approved and forwarded to the Select Committee.

122. Planning Annual Monitoring Report

The Mayor praised the efforts made by officers to produce such a positive report.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Alan Smith, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that the content of the AMR 2016-17 in Annex 1 be noted and that it be considered by the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the 11 December 2017 and approve publication and placement on the Council's website be approved.

123. Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Broadway Theatre

The Mayor and Councillor Best stated they would respond in person to the Select Committee in January and that a written response was not required.

Having received an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the Select Committee's comments be noted and that he and the Cabinet Member for Health, Well Being and Older People would respond directly to the Select Committee in January 2018.

124. Besson Street: Selecting a Joint Venture Partner to Deliver New Build to Rent Homes

The report was late owing to delays in collating all the technical, commercial and legal information required, including from external advisors to properly conclude the partner selection process and to provide Mayor & Cabinet with the most up to date detail possible.

The report was deemed urgent and could not wait until the next meeting of the Mayor & Cabinet on January 10 2018 as this would have caused significant delay to the commercial timetable and further push back the achievement of the stated social and financial benefits of the scheme.

The Mayor strongly endorsed the proposals which he believed were both positive and groundbreaking. He said he saw no solution to London's housing crisis which did not involve changing how rental properties were considered.

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 summary of the structural challenges within the private rented sector, and their implications for renters, be noted;
- (2) the strategic business case for the Council intervening in this sector, utilising a Joint Venture partnership, as set out be noted;
- (3) the information contained in part 2 be received and the preferred bidder for the proposed Joint Venture to deliver the Besson Street development as recommended in that report be approved;
- (4) the housing, financial and wider social benefits that this approach with this proposed preferred bidder, are expected to deliver be noted;
- (5) the proposed Joint Venture reporting and oversight arrangements as set out be approved;
- (6) officers be authorised to carry out all necessary steps in order to implement the recommendations set out in both part 1 and part 2 of this item.

125. 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.

23. Besson Street: Selecting a Joint Venture Partner to Deliver New Build to Rent Homes

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The report was deemed urgent and could not wait until the next meeting of the Mayor & Cabinet on January 10 2018 as this would have caused significant delay to the commercial timetable and further push back the achievement of the stated social and financial benefits of the scheme.

Having considered a confidential 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 detailed summary of the partner selection process be noted,
- (2) Grainger be appointed as preferred bidder for the proposed Joint Venture to deliver the Besson Street development;
- (3) the detailed legal and financial implications of the proposed Joint Venture as set out be noted;
- (4) the Heads of Terms for the proposed Joint Venture as set out be approved;
- (5) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to proceed to finalise the terms of the Joint Venture with Grainger on the basis set out in the Heads of Terms and that these be reported back to Mayor and Cabinet for approval;
- (5) the Head of Strategic Housing, Genevieve Macklin, and the Head of Corporate Resources, David Austin, be appointed to act as both the Council's two LLP Representatives on the Joint Venture Operational Board and the Council's two Directors in the wholly owned dormant member company;
- (6) the LLP Representatives' and Directors' Mandates and the final terms of the indemnity that will be provided to the LLP Representatives and Directors be reported back to Mayor and Cabinet for approval;
- (7) additional capital programme budget of £295,000 be approved (as included in the forecast capital programme) in order to fund the additional tasks that will be required to set up the Joint Venture and secure the Besson Street site until it is transferred as set out;
- (8) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to approve the transfer of the freehold of the Besson Street site to the Joint Venture, subject to the proposals meeting the benchmarks set out and the formation of the Joint Venture;
- (9) the land could be disposed of to the Joint Venture at less than best consideration; and
- (10) the required application to the Secretary of State be made ahead of the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration approving the disposal of

the Besson Street site, as set out.

The meeting closed at 7.36pm.