

# **MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET**

**Wednesday, 10 June 2020 at 6.00 pm**

PRESENT: Damien Egan (Mayor), Chris Best, Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, Joe Dromey, Brenda Dacres, Sophie McGeevor, Amanda De Ryk and Jonathan Slater.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Louise Krupski, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Liam Curran and Councillor Mark Ingleby.

## **312. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Kevin Bonavia declared a personal interest in Item 5 as Chair of the Local Democracy Working Group.

Councillor Mark Ingleby declared a personal interest in Item 6 as Chair of the Friends of Grove Park Nature Reserve.

## **313. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on May 13 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **314. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies**

The Head of Business & Committee confirmed the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel had considered the Youth Services Contract in private session and had supported the original decision.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

## **315. Council's response to Covid 19 - Financial update**

The Mayor introduced the second virtual Mayor and Cabinet meeting since the lockdown. He thanked all the key workers who were on the frontline, fighting the virus and supporting the most vulnerable and all the council staff who are continuing to work hard. He stated a focus was on critical services and a number of staff have been redeployed on our phone lines, community support team and elsewhere where they were needed most.

The Mayor continued by highlighting the protests across the country in response to the death of George Floyd in America which had prompted a much wider discussion about the challenges that black people continue to face in this country. Lewisham, with a large and diverse black community had recently seen concerning footage of apparent excessive force by police officers. Along with Cllr Dacres, Cllr Campbell and our MPs, the Mayor had urgently met with the Borough Commander to seek concrete reassurances

about appropriate police conduct in the borough. The incidents were being investigated and the Mayor recorded his thanks to Councillor Dacres for her excellent work on this issue.

The Mayor went on to report Lewisham had partnered with Birmingham City Council to launch a review into health inequalities in black African and Caribbean communities.

The Mayor also reported on discussion about landmarks and statues in cities that have links to slavery and racism. He had asked officers to identify those in Lewisham. The Mayor strongly affirmed that Black Lives Matter in Lewisham – today and always.

Councillor De Ryk introduced the report highlighting vastly increased expenditure in supporting local businesses and communities while at the same time facing a drastic drop in income.

Councillor Jim Mallory, the Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee next addressed Mayor & Cabinet. He reported that Select Committee members, in conjunction with senior officers, had met informally in order to stay abreast of the Council's developing financial situation.

The Mayor noted the national leaders telephone call with Government at the onset of the crisis where the mantra had been 'Do what it takes' to the more recent worrying pronouncements that councils should 'share the burden'.

The Mayor noted that Councillor Mallory was due to retire as Chair of Public Accounts Select Committee in July and he thanked him for all the efforts he had put into the role.

Having considered an officer report, and presentations by the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, and the Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee, Councillor Jim Mallory, the Mayor and Cabinet, following a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that the update be received.

### **316. Statement of Community Involvement**

The Mayor confirmed to the Cabinet that the arrangements were temporary and subject to review in three months time.

Planning Officers tabled a late addendum containing the latest representations received from consultees on the proposals.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Mayor, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report, by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) temporary modifications be made to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to enable the following:

- Threshold for applications being required to go to Planning Committee for decision to be raised from 3 to 5;
- Any application with an amenity society objection to be subject to case review with Chair to determine whether it is referred to planning committee for a decision;
- Any application with 5-9 objections to be subject to case review with Chair to determine whether it is referred to planning committee for a decision;
- Invitations to planning committee meetings and other communications and information (including publication of agendas) relating to planning committee meetings be carried out electronically wherever possible;
- Make it explicit that people wishing to speak at planning committee meetings will need to register to speak in advance of the meeting and will need to submit written copies of their speeches in advance of the meeting;
- A new online format for Local Meetings to be developed and implemented;
- Make any necessary amendments regarding the publication of agendas and decisions
- Above changes to working practices to be reviewed after a 3 month period following introduction.

### **317. Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025**

The Strategy was introduced by Councillor Sophie McGeevor who highlighted the crucial role played by parks and open spaces during the pandemic crisis.

Councillor Jonathan Slater welcomed the Strategy, particularly the involvement of the Disabled Peoples Commission.

Councillor Chris Barnham said he was encouraged to see walking was being promoted and he urged the signing of the Ramblers Charter. Councillor McGeevor responded by saying a Walking Charter had been prepared and it just needed official approval from the Ramblers Association.

Councillor Mark Ingleby raised specific concerns about laying documented foundations in the Local Plan, alongside necessary references to the Urban National Park in the Open Spaces Strategy.

The Chair of the Grove Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum, Stephen Kenny, provided Councillor Ingleby with a link to the documentation for the

Urban National Park, which has the boundary evidence required for the Local Plan at:

<https://grovepark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/db3d5-urban-national-park-landscape-vision.pdf>

Councillor Ingleby continued by saying the Urban National Park was originally a Lewisham Council idea from the later 70's early 80's which was never completed and which the Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum, policies and plan supported. He added Grove Park Nature Reserve needed to complete the process of being declared a statutory nature reserve.

Also the LBL SINC (Sites of Important Nature Conservation) needed to be amended to include the priority habitat wetwoodland/swamp forest at Willow Carr, near Northbrook Park, that the Mayor visited in October 2018.

Councillor Ingleby asked that his submissions go into the official record, to complement and preserve current pieces of ongoing land assembly. Documentary protection was required if the Willow Carr and wet woodland were not officially identified and recorded in the ecological data/ SINC reviews and the appropriate parts of the Local Plan.

Councillor Liam Curran, the Chair of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, welcomed the report, which he believed could have a major impact. He introduced the referrals made by his Select Committee. He was supported by Councillor Louise Krupski who believed the Select Committee process had been very thorough and had raised multiple issues for consideration. The Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment promised that full account would be taken of the views of the Select Committee.

Having considered an officer report and presentations by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport, Councillor Sophie McGeevor, the Chair of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, Councillor Liam Curran, and by Councillors Louise Krupski and Mark Ingleby, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that the Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 be adopted into Council Policy and that Officers prepare a response to the views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

### **318. Excalibur land assembly and construction**

The report was presented by Councillor Paul Bell who received confirmation from Councillor Jonathan Slater that the local Councillors supported the proposals

Having considered an open officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Bell, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the progress of the Excalibur Estate Regeneration Scheme as set out be noted;
- (2) the rationale be noted for including the land at the former Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) office at 1 Baudwin Road and neighbouring property at 3 Baudwin Road in conjunction with the Excalibur Estate Regeneration Scheme;
- (3) the inclusion of the land at the former TMO office at 1 Baudwin Road and neighbouring property at 3 Baudwin Road in conjunction with the Excalibur Estate Regeneration Scheme be approved;
- (4) Subject to agreement of the above recommendation and the Phase 3 land being transferred to L&Q, the transfer be approved of the land at 1 & 3 Baudwin Road to L&Q for development subject to the development of Phase 3 going ahead;
- (5) Subject to agreement of the above recommendation, authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment in conjunction with the Director of Law to negotiate and enter into a legally binding agreement with L&Q requiring the land of 1 and 3 Baudwin Road to be used to deliver 3x2 and 1x3 bedroom houses to be let at social rent; and

### **319. Achilles Street Land Assembly**

The report was presented by Councillor Paul Bell who reminded Cabinet of the overwhelming ballot majority achieved on a high turn out. Councillor Joe Dromey praised the steps taken by Lewisham Homes to involve residents in scheme design and development.

Having considered an open officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Bell, the Mayor and Cabinet for the reasons set out in the report by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the progress of the Achilles Street estate regeneration scheme be noted;
- (2) the response to the consultation carried out under s105 of the Housing Act 1985 between 17 March 2020 and 15 April 2020 be noted;
- (3) Having considered the responses to the consultation, with the plans to redevelop the Achilles Street Estate be continued;
- (4) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment in conjunction with the Head of Law to serve Initial Demolition Notices on all secure tenants on the Achilles Street Estate pursuant to paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 5A of the Housing Act 1985 (as

amended) at such time as deemed appropriate;

(5) the suspension of letting secure tenancies on the Achilles Street Estate be approved;

(6) officers will commence full housing assessments for all secure tenants of the Achilles Street estate;

(7) any secure tenant on the Achilles Street estate who receives an offer of alternative accommodation and moves out of their property in advance of the decant officially commencing receives a discretionary payment equivalent to the statutory home loss payment and reasonable disbursement costs they would otherwise have been entitled to;

(8) the potential requirement be noted for the Housing Needs Manager to exercise their discretion to award additional priority to secure tenants and resident leaseholders of the Achilles Street estate when specialist or large properties become available for letting.

### **320. 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 paragraph 3 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

10. Excalibur Land Assembly and Construction
11. Achilles Street Land Assembly
12. CCTV IP Upgrade
13. Dry Recycling Contract award

### **321. Excalibur land assembly and construction**

Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Bell, the Mayor and Cabinet for the reasons set out in the report by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the viability issues relating to Phase 3 and the work being undertaken between the Council, L&Q and the GLA to improve the financial position be noted;

(2) the financial position in terms of the Council's land assembly be noted;

- (3) an increase to the Phase 3 land assembly budget by a stated sum for the reasons outlined be approved;
- (4) the transfer the land at 1 & 3 Baudwin Road to L&Q on the basis set out in the Part 1 report for nil consideration be approved;
- (5) Subject to approval of the above recommendation, authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment in conjunction with the Director of Law and Director of Corporate Resources to agree the final terms for the transfer of the land to L&Q.

**322. Achilles Street Land Assembly**

Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Bell, the Mayor and Cabinet for the reasons set out in the report by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the financial position in relation to the land assembly budget for the Achilles Street Estate scheme be noted; and
- (2) the land assembly aspect of the budget to the full projected budget for the land assembly of the Achilles Street Estate scheme be approved as outlined in the Mayor and Cabinet report of 18 September 2019.

**323. Procurement of a supplier to upgrade CCTV cameras + control room equipment**

Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Councillor Brenda Dacres, the Mayor and Cabinet for the reasons set out in the report by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that: the commencement of the procurement of a supplier to upgrade the CCTV cameras, transmission and CCTV control room equipment be approved.

**324. Dry Recyclables Contract award**

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport, Councillor Sophie McGeavor, the Mayor and Cabinet for the reasons set out in the report by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that a contract be awarded to Bywaters (Leyton) Ltd. for the provision of processing, sorting and selling of Lewisham's dry recyclables, based on their tender, for a period of 5 years with a possible extension for another 2 years upon M&C agreement at a stated estimated annual cost.

The meeting closed at 7.28pm