

# MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUSINESS PANEL

Tuesday, 10 April 2018 at 7.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall (Chair), Liam Curran, John Muldoon, Maja Hilton, Pauline Morrison and Luke Sorba.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carl Handley, Councillor Jim Mallory and Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin.

## 96. Minutes

The Chair asked the Head of Business & Committee to report the Mayoral response that appointments connected to Catford Regeneration would be made at Mayor & Cabinet. The Head of Business & Committee said the Mayor had given an undertaking to ensure significant appointments were made at Mayor & Cabinet. The Chair then successfully proposed that a referral be made to the Mayor confirming that the appointment of an architect would be deemed to be a significant appointment.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on March 13 and March 20 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 97. Declarations of Interests

None were made.

## 98. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

## 99. Notification of Late and Urgent Items

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

## 100. Decisions made by Mayor and Cabinet on 21 March 2018

### *Social Impact Bonds*

The Chair reported that Councillor Bell, who had raised concerns over Social Impact Bonds was unable to be present. However the questions he had raised had been addressed as shown below and Councillor Bell had confirmed in writing to the Chair that he considered the responses made to be satisfactory and that he had no objections to the Mayor's decision.

### **Questions from Councillor Paul Bell on Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) and the officer response:**

1) Written assurances that Bridges pay UK tax on income

**Bridges Fund Management Ltd is incorporated in the UK, and as such is liable to tax on its profits at the standard UK corporation tax rate.**

2) Written assurances that De Paul offer guaranteed hours to any staff involved in the project, do not use zero hours contracts and recognise trade unions

**All staff employed on this project will be employed on permanent or fixed term contracts. Depaul will not be using any zero hours contracted staff to deliver this project. All staff are paid above the London Living Wage. Depaul incorporate TU representation into all 'people' processes, although they don't have a recognition agreement in place with a particular union.**

3) A copy of De Paul's equal opportunities/equalities statement, particularly relating to LGBT+ care leavers

**I have attached separately the current version of DePaul's Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Statement.**

4) That elected representatives (MPs & councillors) can intervene and have some control when/if things go wrong

**Elected representatives can raise concerns through members' enquiries, either directly or via the lead member, officers can further provide reports to the corporate parenting, CYP partnership boards and/or CYP Select Committee**

5) That annually (subject to the CYP Committee agreeing in its work programme) the SIB is reviewed for its benefit to care leavers and a robust analysis of what De Paul and Bridges have been doing including financially

**Officers will be requiring detailed performance and financial information quarterly as part of the contract monitoring process and will require even more detailed information annually.**

6) That LBL ask resolutely that the SIB is subject to FOI and public scrutiny and that neither De Paul nor Bridges hide behind commercial confidentiality

**Both Depaul and Bridges have committed to supporting us to respond to FOIs as fully as possible.**

7) Written assurances that we will not tolerate failure an approach where we maximise the return from the investor for our care leavers and those of Greenwich and Bromley, frustrating attempts for the investor to make profit from tax payers.

**We will be monitoring performance closely, as well as seeking to use the grant from DfE to its maximum to deliver outcomes from young people. The SIB is set up so the investor is paid for outcomes, and won't be paid for those they do not deliver.**

Having tabled these responses, the Executive Director for Children & Young People then presented the report and confirmed there was no financial risk to the Local Authority.

Councillor Sorba sought details on performance monitoring and asked if there were processes in place to terminate the contract before the end of the three year length should the local authority be dissatisfied. The Executive Director for Children & Young People said contractual arrangements allowed for a six months notice period but this could be a shorter period should there become major concerns such as on safeguarding.

The Chair received confirmation that this was a pilot project and he asked if it would be evaluated. The Public Health Commissioning Manager stated that as well as Lewisham's normal evaluation process, the Department for Education would be carrying out its own evaluation of the project. Business Panel members agreed that it was important that an evaluation be considered at Mayor & Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Mayor asked to ensure an evaluation of the project was considered at Mayor & Cabinet.

#### *Beckenham Place Park*

The report was presented by the Beckenham Place Park Project Manager.

The Chair asked if there had been any public involvement in letting the landscaping contracts. The Project Manager said that was not required and there had been an open tender process. The Chair said he believed stakeholders more widely should be involved. He reminded the Business Panel that they had several times previously endorsed requests that stakeholder and public involvement should be increased.

The Business Panel accepted a proposal from the Chair that they reinforce previously expressed concerns by calling for a root and branch strategic review of the Beckenham Place Park and Mansion Regeneration Strategy which would ensure more public involvement and buy in from the residents of all the surrounding wards in both Lewisham and Bromley.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and a referral be made to the Mayor asking for a root and branch strategic review of the Beckenham Place Park and Mansion Regeneration Strategy to ensure greater public involvement in, and support for, the development of proposals.

#### **101. Update: Communities and Local Government Committee - The Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

The report was presented by the Interim Scrutiny Manager who highlighted the suggestion that scrutiny reports should all be considered at Council meetings. The Chair endorsed this suggestion.

Councillor Muldoon suggested the Parliamentary report did not go far enough and he was concerned that the new wave of Metropolitan Mayors were completely exempted from the scrutiny process.

The Chair proposed that this report be considered at the AGM of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in May.

RESOLVED that the report on the Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees be considered at the AGM of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**102. Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees Work Programmes 2017/18 - verbal update**

The Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager reported that because of the need for induction and member training only six meetings of each of the Select Committees had been scheduled for the next Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**103. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED that 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, as amended by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (Amendments) (England) Regulations 2006:-

9. Decision made by Mayor and Cabinet (Contract) on 21 March 2018.

**104. Decisions made by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 21 March 2018**

All consideration of confidential Contracts matters took place in the open part of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.31pm.