

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUSINESS PANEL

Tuesday, 4 October 2016 at 7.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall (Chair), Brenda Dacres, Carl Handley, Jim Mallory, Jamie Milne and John Muldoon.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor James Walsh.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gareth Siddorn, Councillor Liam Curran and Councillor Hilary Moore.

14. Minutes

Minutes 5 – New Bermondsey (Formerly Surrey Canal Triangle – Compulsory Purchase Order

The Chair stated that he had noted the presumed conduct of the Deputy Mayor had been commented on extensively and he expected the Monitoring Officer, and the Independent Person to carry out any investigation as they saw fit. He asked that any representation from the public be dealt with by the Standards Committee.

The Head of Business and Committee informed Panel Members that an initial letter was received by the Deputy Monitoring Officer before the last Mayor and Cabinet meeting, and complaints relating to February had been investigated and found to be without foundation. He added that fresh allegations had been made about actions of the Deputy Mayor in September and these were being investigated by the Monitoring Officer.

The Chair said Panel Members were aware that Business Panel had agreed a Call-In to this proposal which was to be presented to the last Mayor and Cabinet meeting. Prior to the meeting officers issued a statement saying further investigation would need to be made following receipt of a document relating to the New Bermondsey Site and the Call-In would be postponed pending the investigations.

The Chair said he wrote to the Chief Executive and the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration asking how the Council's Section 151 Officer would be dealing with the CPO going forward. In his letter the Chair requested that if there was new information that led to the process being halted, Business Panel Members should be able to see this information and scrutinise its implications, prior to a cabinet decision.

In response to a question from Councillor Mallory, it was confirmed that Business Panel Members should have sight of any new documentation that would form part of the decision making process on the New Bermondsey CPO Proposal.

Action >>>>> ED Resources & Regeneration, Head of Law

RESOLVED that:

- i. the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2016, which was open to the press and public, be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings.
- ii. officers be requested to send Business Panel Members any new documentation that would form part of the decision making process on the New Bermondsey CPO proposal.
- iii. officers be requested to reassure Business Panel Members that the Monitoring Officer would investigate the allegations made at the previous Business Panel meeting concerning the Deputy Mayor.

15. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Mallory declared a personal non pecuniary interest on the Bermondsey CPO item, as a season ticket holder of Millwall FC, discussed as part of the minutes.

16. Outstanding Scrutiny Items

Noted.

17. Notification of Late and Urgent Items

Noted.

18. Decisions Made by Mayor and Cabinet on 28 September 2016

Public Health Savings

The Head of Targeted Services & Joint Commissioning, and the Service Manager Prevention and Public Health introduced the report.

The Chair asked officers to circulate the letter they received in response to Lewisham's CCG, and the CCG's response to Healthier Community Select Committee members, and the CCG's response to Children and Young People Select Committee members.

Action >>>>> ED Community Services

The Chair asked whether the contract would be put to Tender, and when, and was told that the tender processes for Teenage Health, and Wellbeing services, and Health Visiting and School Nursing services would start in mid October 2016, and a report would go to Mayor and Cabinet end of January/ beginning of February 2017.

The Chair said the relevant Scrutiny Committee might decide to look at the update, and requested officers to inform him and the relevant Select Committee Chair when the report had been completed. The Chair thanked officers for the report.

Action >>>>> ED Community Services

RESOLVED that the decision of the Mayor be noted.

Local Implementation Plan Annual Spending Submission 2017-18

The Transport Policy and Development Manager introduced the report.

The Chair asked if there was capacity to deliver the savings within the timeframe and was told that this was the challenge faced by officers, but they were concentrating on delivering the high priority projects first, and the others would follow. The Transport Policy and Development Manager added that the Council had been allocated a base budget of £2.6m. He said that officers were also looking at adding value to the schemes that were already on site.

Councillor Muldoon asked whether it was possible to provide a taxi rank for Thomas Lane. The Transport Policy and Development Manager said there were a lot of taxi ranks in that area, and TFL would rather support ranks nearer to train stations, and Thomas Lane was a long distance away from the station. He said officers were looking at areas outside Catford Station and were trying to improve the current provision. Although Thomas Lane would not be ruled out, it would not be a priority. The Chair thanked officers for the report.

RESOLVED that the Decision of the Mayor be noted.

Health and Social Care Devolution Pilot

The Chair was informed that the Executive Director sent her apologies as she was on Jury Service, and would not be at the meeting to present this report, but officers could take questions from Panel Members, to be responded to as soon as possible.

It was noted that this item had been to the appropriate scrutiny meeting, and Business Panel would like the transformation plan to be published in full. Panel members would like to know whether there would be further implications for the health devolution pilot, and what the timeframe would be. Councillor Muldoon highlighted that the Council should retain the freehold of any property that would be used in this project.

Action >>>>> ED Community Services

RESOLVED that the decision of the Mayor be noted.

19. Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees Work Programmes - 2016/17 - verbal update

The Chair welcomed the Head of Scrutiny back. The Head of Scrutiny updated Panel Members about current cover arrangements in the scrutiny section, and said she would keep them informed about further changes. The Chair emphasised that officers should get the chance to work with different select committees.

The Chair said select committees had concluded some budget considerations, and members would need to get early notice of budget items where possible, as having a lot at the same time would be challenging. The Chair said Members had noted there was some shortfall in the savings proposals, and an Autumn statement was expected therefore a lot of work would need to be done. The Chair said Chairs of Select Committees would have to look at their work capacity again.

Councillor Muldoon said he was grateful to scrutiny officers for their support with the work on the London Strategy Network and the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

20. 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 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information:

The following is a summary of the items considered in the closed part of the meeting:

21. Delivery of Lewisham Futures Programme Savings L7 - Leisure Services

Following a confidential discussion, the Chair said it would be good if residents were able to access the bowls centre at all times. He said officers should make it very clear in the report that goes to Mayor and Cabinet, that the changes would only affect staffing arrangements and not access to the bowls centre.

Action >>>>> ED Customer Services

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

22. Highway Maintenance Contract Variation

Following a confidential discussion, Panel Members said they had concerns about the quality of the service provided, and if the price was low but the quality sub-standard then officers might have to make another judgement.

RESOLVED that

- i. the report be noted.
- ii. officers ensure that between now and 2019 the contract specification is tight enough to prevent the Council from paying more than what had been specified in the contract.
- iii. because Panel members have concerns about this contract they expect any increase to the cost of this contract to be reported to Executive

Members.

Action >>>>> ED Resources & Regeneration

Meeting ended: 8.20pm

Chair