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MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 12 December 2018 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Damien Egan (Mayor), Councillors Chris Best, Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Kevin Bonavia, Brenda Dacres, Joe Dromey, Joani Reid and Jonathan Slater.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Alan Hall, Councillor John Muldoon, Councillor Sakina Sheikh, Councillor Luke Sorba and Councillor Octavia Holland.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sophie McGeevor and Councillor Amanda De Ryk.

342. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Chris Barnham declared a prejudicial interest in Item 16 as his wife was a Governor at two of the Schools under consideration and he withdrew from the meeting during consideration of that item.

343. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on November 21 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

344. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

345. Achilles Street Redevelopment Proposals

The report was presented by Councillor Paul Bell who acknowledged there has been unfortunate delays in progressing proposals. He indicated there would be no regeneration unless a majority of residents supported the scheme in a ballot. He pledged that no resident would need to move and that security of tenure would be guaranteed. He said the scheme involved no sale of land to private developers. He refuted any suggestion the proposals amounted to social cleansing, when what would occur was an increase in Council homes as part of a mixed development.

The Mayor and Cabinet were next addressed by local resident Jacquie Utley. She claimed Council officers had not ensured proper consultation, as promised, had taken place with residents. She said any claim that the present plans had been developed via public engagement with residents and businesses was very misleading. She said proper consideration had not been given to options for infill and refurbishment. She criticised the Council for holding a part of the Achilles Street proposals in a closed session.

Councillor Joe Dromey, a local member, spoke in favour of the

recommendations. He pointed out the proposals would also mean a doubling of commercial space. He recounted the consultations which had taken place which concluded infill would provide just 22 new properties; redevelopment hundreds while a status quo refurbishment would provide none.

In concluding the debate, the Mayor reminded those present the final decision would be taken by the residents and was subject to the financial considerations set out in the closed section of the report.

Having considered both an open and a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Bell, and a member of the public, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the reports and from the options available by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the work that officers have undertaken to explore the potential to build new Council homes in the area around Achilles Street, New Cross, with the redline plan be noted;

(2) the initial consultation that has been carried out with all residents, affected businesses and other key stakeholders throughout this process in relation to these options since infill proposals first shared in June 2014 through to the most recent public meeting held in June 2018 as set out and the comments made by residents, business and other key stakeholders, be noted;

(3) there is currently a consultation underway to establish the principles of a Residents' Charter that will set out the guaranteed minimum offer that will apply to all Lewisham residents whose homes will be demolished and rebuilt as part of Council led redevelopment, including the residents on the Achilles Street Estate;

(4) how these principles will interact with the five commitments made to the Achilles Street Community as set be noted;

(5) officers should work with residents and other key stakeholders on Achilles Street to begin to establish a Landlord Offer that will enable a Resident Ballot on the Achilles Street redevelopment proposals to take place;

(6) the Landlord Offer be presented back to Mayor and Cabinet to be finalised, and to set the date for a Resident Ballot;

(7) officers can begin negotiated buybacks, on an entirely voluntary basis, on the 36 leaseholder properties in Azalea House, Austin House, Fenton House and 363 New Cross Road, and authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to approve the final terms;

(8) home loss and disturbance payments are made to leaseholders and freeholders where appropriate in (if eligible) accordance with the Land Compensation Act 1973 (as amended);

(9) officers begin negotiated buybacks, on an entirely voluntary basis, on the affected commercial properties at Clifton Rise and along New Cross Road within the redline plan and authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to approve the final terms;

(10) the budget requirements for these voluntary buybacks as set out in Part Two be approved.

(11) the resourcing requirements for delivering the next stage of the Achilles Street project set out in Part Two be noted; and

(12) the budget required for the next phase of this redevelopment work as set out in Part Two be approved.

346. ACM cladding remediation fund approval

Having considered an 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 vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the application that has been made to the Social Sector ACM Cladding Remediation Fund be approved and the award of £8,999,975 be noted;

(2) the process for adjustments to the final amount be noted;

(3) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Law, to agree the terms of and enter into the related funding agreement with the GLA.

347. Inward Investment Initiatives

Councillor Joe Dromey added that he expected exciting and positive news to be announced about the Creative Enterprise Zone in the very near future.

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 vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the following three funding applications be approved:

a) The Strategic Investment Pot – City of London

b) The Good Growth Fund, round 2 – Greater London Authority (GLA)/London LEP (LEAP)

c) The Creative Enterprise Zone Development Grant, stage 2 – GLA

(2) Subject in each case to the relevant funding bid being successful, delegate

authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Law, to agree the terms of and enter into the related funding agreement and any associated documentation.

348. Lewisham Brownfield Land Register

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 vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that

- (1) Part 1 of Lewisham's Brownfield Land Register 2018 including the updated information be noted;
- (2) the Register's updated contents and publication by making a copy available at Laurence House, by placing it on the Council's website and by notifying landowners of sites newly added to the register, be approved.

349. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018-19

The Mayor noted the second recommendation might be affected by the news that the Local Government Financial Settlement announcement had been delayed by Brexit considerations

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 vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the outcomes of the consultation as set out be noted;
- (2) a local CTRS be retained from 1 April 2019 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) Modify the retained local CTRS be modified from 1 April 2019 to allow CTR to be awarded to households who are receiving universal credit or housing benefit and who the Council identifies would qualify for support but who have, for whatever reason, failed to complete an application form;
- (4) Continue to deliver additional support continue to be delivered to the most vulnerable residents through use of the existing provision within Section 13A(1)(c) of the 1992 Local Government Finance Act.

350. Annual Complaints Report 2017-18

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees & Accountability, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor and Cabinet, by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

351. Public health grant cuts consultation outcome and proposals

The report was presented by Councillor Chris Best who explained that Government cuts in the public health sector had to be implemented and she outlined the internal process led by the Director of Public health which had led to the suggestions being advanced. She referred to the written comments submitted by the Healthier Communities Select committee and the Children & Young People Select Committee. After careful consideration of the concerns expressed, Councillor Best had concluded that the proposed cut to the Health Visiting Budget should be suspended and a revised proposal to achieve the total cut required would be considered in the New Year.

Councillor John Muldoon spoke on behalf of the Healthier Communities Select Committee and pointed out the views expressed in the Committee's referral were supported by the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign. He also reminded the Mayor of the health commitments made in his successful Manifesto.

Councillor Octavia Holland spoke in favour of pausing the Health Visitors cut pointing out the big impact the service could have on Safeguarding. She expressed some concerns on the methodology used to arrive at the proposed conclusions and pointed out some other local authorities were prepared to use Early Years funds to support Health Visitors.

Councillor Sakina Sheikh highlighted the discrepancies between figures produced by the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign and those used by council officers. She said there should be a reconciliation with the Campaign and the Council in its role as a campaigning organisation should involve other local campaigners in the oversight of Public Health budgets.

Councillor Luke Sorba spoke on behalf of the Children & Young People Select Committee expressing support for the review of the Health Visitor cut as he believed the Service had an important role to play in Early Intervention, the SEND strategy and for Childrens Social Care.

Councillor Johnston-Franklin added that it was important that departments worked together and that the implications of cuts in any particular service should be considered in terms of their potential broader impact on other services.

Councillor Chris Barnham thanked the Deputy Mayor for submitting an amended proposal and agreed with the comments of the Scrutiny Councillors, especially in terms of the strong links between the Health Visiting Service and the Early Years offer.

The Mayor concluded by thanking all the contributors to the debate and stressing that any proposed cuts were a direct result of Government policy.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor,

Councillor Chris Best, and five Overview & Scrutiny Councillors, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report and from the options available, by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the consultation activity undertaken by officers, the findings of this activity and the Equality Assurance Assessment (EAA) undertaken be noted; and

(2) the proposed cut to the Health Visiting Service be paused and a further report on Public Health cuts be considered in 2019; and

(3) the revised proposals to balance the cut to the Public Health grant for 2019/20 be approved as follows:

£10,000 reduction in grants available for Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships

£10,000 reduction in funding for Community Nutrition and Physical Activity service delivered by Greenwich Co-operative Development Agency

£127,000 reduction in funding for substance misuse.

352. Response to Sustainable Development Committee Local Plan

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Mayor, the Mayor and Cabinet by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that the proposed response from the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration to the referral from the Sustainable Development Select Committee be approved and forwarded to that Select Committee.

353. Response to Public Accounts SC Children Social Care

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for School Performance, Councillor Chris Barnham, the Mayor and Cabinet, the Mayor and Cabinet, by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that agreed that the proposed response from the Executive Director for Children & Young People to the referral from the Public Accounts Select Committee be approved and forwarded to that Select Committee.

354. Employee Profile Response to Referral from SSCC

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by Mayor, the Mayor and Cabinet the Mayor and Cabinet by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that

(1) the actual employee data on new employees joining Lewisham Council

in 2017-2018 from the joiners declaration of ethnicity is 53.1% BAME and 40% non BAME and 6.9% undisclosed. This is a greater proportionate rate (6.5%) than Lewisham Boroughs BAME profile from the 2011 census of 46.6%, and this compares favourably to other benchmarked London Boroughs;

(2) the more accurate joiners' declaration of ethnicity is used in the future for the Employment Profile Report, rather than the declaration of ethnicity at the application stage, and the 2017-2018 Profile is amended to reflect this more accurate data;

(3) our approach to equality and diversity be further enhanced by including the statement in all job adverts 'We welcome applications from all backgrounds';

(4) the Council will be strengthening the recruitment and selection training offered to recruiting managers and include greater focus on unconscious bias to ensure best practice recruitment;

(5) the Council will launch next year a 'Leadership Development Program' to support council managers progressing through to senior levels. The selection for this programme will stipulate that a fair proportionality of BAME employees are selected, to support equal opportunity of progression into the senior management level that they are underrepresented in. Also the HR Division will review the option of a mentoring program for senior BAME managers being made available; and

(6) this report be forwarded to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee.

355. 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

15. Achilles Street Redevelopment Proposals part 2

16. School Minor Capital Works Programme 2019/20 – approval to tender works

17. Lewisham Children's Social Care Semi-Independent Accommodation and Support Preferred Provider Framework

18. Parking Contract Extension Award and Proposed Floating Car Club Permit

19. Homecare Services – Extension of Contract

20. Contract Awards Vulnerable Adult, Young Persons, and Mental Health accommodation based support services.

356. Achilles Street Redevelopment Proposals Part 2

RESOLVED that this item be considered in conjunction with the Part 1 item on the same subject.

357. School Minor Capital Works Programme 2019-20

Having considered a confidential officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for School Performance, Councillor Chris Barnham, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out, by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that

(1) Approve the overall budget and funding for the programme set out be approved including:

(a) Use of the anticipated School Condition Allocation for: the delivery of the Schools Minor Capital Works Programme in 2019/20; use of the Small Works Fund and project management fees that include commissioning work for fully scoped designs and specifications for the proposed programme of works, and

(b) an additional sum for contingency of £250,000 over and above the agreed budget allocation be approved;

(2) the approach to calculating a school's contribution towards SMCWP and Small Works Fund be approved;

(3) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children & Young People on the advice of the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to finalise the procurement for the School Minor Capital Works Programme for 2019/20 and commence the procurement; and

(4) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration on the advice of the Executive Director for Children & Young People authority for the shortlisting of bidders for the second stage of the procurement and to enter into contracts to deliver the Schools Minor Capital Works Programme 2019/20.

358. Lewisham and Greenwich Children's Social Care Semi-Independent Accommodation and Support Preferred Provider Framework

Having considered a confidential officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for School Performance, Councillor Chris Barnham, the Mayor and Cabinet for the reasons set out, by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that the list of providers set out be awarded a place on the Semi-Independent Accommodation and Support Preferred Provider Framework for two years, with a possible extension of up to two years.

359. Parking Contract Extension Award and Proposed Floating Car Club Permit

Having considered a confidential officer report and a presentation by Councillor Dacres, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out, by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the extension of the Parking Enforcement and Associated Services contract be awarded to NSL for four years, and the proposed variations to the contract which will be pursued by the council under the Change Control Procedure, be approved;

(2) a new parking IT system and hardware refresh be approved; and

(3) the creation of a new permit for a floating car club scheme be approved.

360. Homecare Extension

Having considered a confidential officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chris Best, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out, by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) a one year (1 year) extension from 1st April 2019 until 31st March 2020 of the Home Care Services Contract with the following Organisations be approved:

Eleanor Homecare (Neighbourhood 2)
Westminster Homecare (Neighbourhood 3)
Care Outlook Ltd (Neighbourhood 4)

(2) the Home Care Services Contract with Medacs Healthcare in relation to provision of home care services within Neighbourhood 1 be not extended;

(3) the Executive Director for Community Services oversee the arrangements to provide home care services in Neighbourhood 1 for the period from 1st April 2019 until 31st March 2020 with any new contractual arrangements or a significant change to the Service Model being brought back to Mayor and Cabinet for approval;

(4) authority be delegated to the Executive Directors for Resources and Regeneration and Community Services to agree any inflationary increase in April 2019 and to agree any additional increase in the contract price as a result of an increase in the London Living Wage in 2019/2020.

361. Contract Awards Vulnerable Adult, Young Persons, and Mental Health accommodation based support services

Having considered a confidential officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chris Best, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out, by a vote of 7-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the following contracts be awarded:

(a) Lewisham Vulnerable Adult Assessment Centre, including the dispersed units at Evelyn Street to St Mungo's for an initial period of 3 years, with a possible extension of period of up to a further 2 years, with an annual stated value.

(b) Young Persons specialist services in North Lewisham and Perry Vale to Single Homeless Project (SHP) for an initial period of 3 years, with a possible extension of up to a further 2 years, with an annual stated value.

(c) Lewisham Mental Health Specialist service (Edward Street), including the Shared Lives Scheme to Southside Partnership (Certitude) for an initial period of 2 years and 11 months, with possible extension of up to a further 2 years, with an annual stated value of including funding received from Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group; and

(2) these contracts be procured with standard 6 month termination clauses.

The meeting ended at 7.49pm