

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 11 November 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 Bill Brown

386. Declaration of Interests

None were made.

387. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on October 21 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

388. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies and responses to Select Committee referrals

Having considered open officer reports, and presentations by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, Councillor Paul Bell, and the Cabinet Member Community Sector, Councillor Jonathan Slater, the Mayor and Cabinet by unanimous votes of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) Response to Housing Select Committee on Overcrowding – that the recommendations to note be approved and reported to the Select Committee.

(2) Response to Safer Stronger Select Committee on Equalities – that the response be approved and reported to the Select Committee.

(3) Response to Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Local Plan - that the response be approved and reported to the Select Committee.

389. Sanctuary Strategy

The report was introduced by Councillor Kevin Bonavia who underlined Lewisham's existing commitments to supporting refugees with the proposal for a Sanctuary Strategy being the latest manifestation of continual efforts to meet the needs of refugees. Councillor Bonavia highlighted and thanked the Voluntary Sector in Lewisham for all their assistance in supporting refugees.

The Cabinet was addressed by Waeed Adnan Almbasbes, who explained she had been a primary school teacher in Syria but had spent 7 years in a refugee

camp in Jordan before coming to Lewisham a year ago. She expressed gratitude for the welcome and support she had received in Lewisham and told how well her children were adapting and of the steps her husband had taken towards gainful employment.

A further presentation was offered by Rosario Guimba Stewart, the Chief Executive of the Lewisham Refugee and Migrant who said she had been in post since 2018. She explained the work undertaken by her organisation which was delighted to join with the Council and Voluntary Sector bodies in assisting refugees.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, and by the Chief Executive of the Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network, Rosario Guimba-Stewart, and by a resettled family member, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report and by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the context for the development of a corporate strategy on sanctuary be noted;

(2) the proposed strategy and the action planning framework it governs be noted; and

(3) the strategy and associated framework be approved.

390. Housing Strategy and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

The Mayor asked that his thanks to Officers, who had successfully brought two strategies together, be recorded.

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

RESOLVED that the final strategies be approved for immediate publication.

391. Lewisham Housing Allocations Policy Review

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

RESOLVED that a 12 week public consultation on the proposed changes to the Allocations Policy be approved, as set out below, summarised in section 9, and detailed in Appendix A, to consult on:

(a) changes to the banding structure

(b) changes to band allocation for several primary rehousing reasons

- (c) introducing a new 'smart letting' approach to maximise the number of properties available to let
- (d) reducing the 'three offer' rule to 'two offer' rule
- (e) updating the bidding process
- (f) reviewing how large properties are let
- (g) delegating powers

392. Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2020-21

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report and by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the Council's 2020/21 Investment Strategy be changed to exclude the UK from the minimum sovereign rating requirement of AA-; and
- (2) the report be noted, in particular the macroeconomic updates, performance of investments to date, updates on capital expenditure and borrowing in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) prudential indicators, and compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

393. Financial Monitoring

The report was presented by Councillor Amanda De Ryk who noted a Section 114 notice had recently been served in the London Borough of Croydon. The Mayor received an assurance that while the Council's financial position was very dire, there was no imminent danger of such a notice being served in Lewisham.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report and by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the current financial forecasts for the year ending 31 March 2021 be noted and Executive Directors be requested to complete detailed action plans to manage down budget pressures within their directorates; and
- (2) the proposed revision of the capital programme budget be noted, as set out in section 14, with further detail attached at appendices 3 and 4.

394. Amending Lewisham Homes Articles of Association

Councillor Paul Bell welcomed Margaret Dodwell, the Chief Executive of Lewisham Homes to the meeting and indicated she was available to answer

any questions raised.

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

RESOLVED that the changes outlined to Lewisham Homes Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association be approved.

395. Revised Statement of Licensing Policy

Having considered an 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 and by a roll call vote of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy be noted; and
- (2) the revised Statement of Licensing Policy for 2020-2025 be presented to Council for it to be formally determined and published.

396. Renewal of Pension Administration IT System

Having considered an open and a closed officer report, and a presentation by Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the reports and by roll call votes of 10-0:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the uptake of the optional hosted Member Self Service functionality to enhance the service provision of the Pensions Team and the Core Pensions Software be approved;
- (2) the award of contract to Heywood Ltd (t/a Aquilla Heywood) as the successful supplier following the competitive tender for a period of 10 years at a fixed and total cost of £1,296,221 be approved;
- (3) the confidential Section 5 – Completion of the Procurement Process be received; and
- (4) the confidential Section 6 – Financial Implications Financial Implications be received.

397. Acquisition of Sydney Arms to use as Temporary Accommodation part 1

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

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the rationale for the proposed purchase of Sydney Arms, 122 Lewisham Road, SE13 7NL be noted;
- (2) the due diligence work already undertaken in relation to the proposed purchase of the Sydney Arms and the further due diligence work required to complete the business case be noted;
- (3) Agreement in principle to purchase the Sydney Arms, 122 Lewisham Road, SE13 7NL be approved;
- (4) the Council enter into contract with the GLA regarding the funding arrangement should satisfactory terms be agreed;
- (5) in the event that a contract agreement cannot be reached with the GLA, alternative options for purchasing the building be explored;
- (6) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm in conjunction with the Director of Law, Governance & HR and Executive Director for Corporate Resources to proceed with the purchase and complete the acquisition of the Sydney Arms, 122 Lewisham Road, SE13 7NL once they are satisfied with the business case and that the purchase and subsequent refurbishment reflects value for money;
- (7) in principle agreement to purchase the Sydney Arms, 122 Lewisham Road, SE13 7NL for not more than a stated sum plus a further sum for legal/surveying fees, SDLT and refurbishment work be approved;
- (8) the three options for purchase that have been outlined, in order of preferred option be noted, where option 1 is to purchase and refurbish this block alongside grant funding from the GLA (comprised of a stated amount of capital funding), dependent on satisfactory agreement over the conditions of the funding arrangement; and
- (9) in the event that a contract agreement cannot be reached with the GLA, options 2 or 3 are executed to purchase the building.

398. 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

14. Renewal of Pension Administration IT System.

15. Acquisition of Sydney Arms to use as Temporary Accommodation.

399. Renewal of Pension Administration IT System

This report was considered in conjunction with the Part 1 item reported above.

400. Acquisition of Sydney Arms to use as Temporary Accommodation

This report was considered in conjunction with the Part 1 item shown above.

The meeting closed at 7.12pm