

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Damien Egan (Mayor), Councillors Brenda Dacres, Kevin Bonavia, Patrick Codd and Kim Powell.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Penfold (Vice Chair Housing Select Committee)

ALSO JOINING THE MEETING VIRTUALLY: Councillors Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Chris Best and Amanda De Ryk (Cabinet Members) and Councillor Mark Ingleby (Chair Public Accounts Select Committee)

NB: Those Councillors listed as joining virtually were not in attendance for the purposes of the meeting being quorate, any decisions taken, or to satisfy the requirements of s85 Local Government Act 1972.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andre Bourne.

612. Declaration of Interests

None were made.

613. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on January 12 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

614. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

(a) Housing Select Committee - on the Lewisham Homes repairs service

Having considered an open officer report, and a presentation by the Vice Chair of the Housing Select Committee, Councillor Stephen Penfold, the Mayor and Cabinet

RESOLVED that the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm be asked to prepare a response for consideration by Mayor & Cabinet;

(b) Public Accounts Select Committee - on Budget Reductions

Having considered an open officer report, and a presentation by the Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee, Councillor Mark Ingleby, the Mayor and Cabinet

RESOLVED that a response compiled by the Executive Director for Corporate Resources be approved and reported to the Select Committee.

615. Budget Reductions 2022-23

The report was presented by Councillor de Ryk who was thanked by the Mayor for leading a thorough process that had enabled all members to review and challenge the proposals. The Mayor added his thanks to all the scrutiny committees for their work in considering and commenting on these proposals.

The Mayor noted all of the proposals put forward resulted in a reduction in Council expenditure, but most of them were not a reduction in the level of service provided. They include opportunities to generate more income, work more efficiently, and re-allocate resources where not needed in full.

Having looked at the specific recommendations and noting the scrutiny comments from the Public Accounts Select Committee, the Mayor proposed that the following action be taken:

That all recommendations set out in section 2 be approved endorsing the continuing work on proposals previously agreed and agreeing the new one totalling £1.425m for 2022/23 enabling the budget reduction proposals to be taken forward at pace and form part of the budget setting process for 2022/23.

In respect of the income generation proposals detailed in Appendices 2 to 5; the Mayor proposed that the proposals referenced D-10, D-12, D-13 and E-12, go forward to the next stage of the budget preparation process.

The Mayor proposed to delegate the final decision with regards to proposals C-44 and E-15 to the relevant Executive Director.

There were four proposals relating to improved operational efficiencies. The Mayor propose agreement to the proposals referenced C-35, C-36 and C-40 to go forward to the next stage of the budget preparation process.

He proposed to consult on proposal reference D-14 and delegate the final decision to the relevant Executive Director.

There were four proposals relating to the reallocation of resources no longer needed in full. The Mayor proposed agreement to the proposals referenced C-38, C-39 and D-11 to go forward to the next stage of the budget preparation process.

He proposed to delegate the final decision with regards to proposal F-25 to the relevant Executive Director.

There were two proposals relating to reductions in budget. The Mayor proposed that for proposal reference E-14 officers be asked to undertake a full equalities impact assessment and that this return to Mayor and Cabinet as part of the leisure contract review for decision at the earliest opportunity.

The Mayor concluded by proposing the agreement to proposal reference F-26 to go forward to the next stage of the budget preparation process

Having considered an open officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet

Member for Finance & Resources, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, the Mayor and Cabinet following a recorded vote of 5-0 with the Mayor, Councillors Bonavia, Codd, Dacres and Powell voting in favour of the recommendations:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the budget reduction proposals of £10.4m presented in Section 7 and Appendix 6, be approved, the detail of which was considered in detail and approved on 9 December 2020 and 3 February 2021;

(2) the budget reduction proposals presented in Section 7 and Appendices 2 to 5, totalling £1.425m be approved;

(3) the comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee of the 27 January 2022 incorporating the views of the respective select committees be received and the response tabled at the meeting be approved and reported to the Select Committee;

(4) officers be authorised to carry out consultations where staff consultation is necessary in relation to the proposal and delegate the decision to the relevant Executive Director for the service concerned;

(5) officers be authorised to carry out consultations where required in law or under the Constitution in relation to the proposal and ask officers to report back to the Mayor with the outcome, for a decision to be made;

Where no consultation is required, either:

- agree the proposal, or
- delegate the decision to the relevant Executive Director for the service concerned or, request officers to complete further work to clarify the proposal and that officers then re-submit the proposal at the earliest opportunity for a decision.

616. Main Grants Programme 2022-25

The Mayor commenced by noting with pleasure that the Council would be allocating more than £7.3 million to the Main Grants programme over the next three years. This funding would mean Voluntary and Community Sector groups in the borough will continue to do their vital work and further support residents and tackling inequalities. This sum was in addition to the £2.93 million of NCIL funding and over £360,000 from the first phase of the Greening Fund.

Councillor Powell then presented the report and confirmed there had only been one appeal against the proposals by Hawkeye Empire. She welcomed Stevanna Francis of Hawkeye Empire, who made an appeal claiming the decision was unfair as their submission had been made on the basis of the information supplied to them by the Council.

The Cabinet was advised by the Executive Director for Community Services representative who pointed out a large grant was being sought by an

organisation with a limited track record. Currently advice services were delivered by CAB in a partnership approach. Other new organisations that had received funds were on a much smaller scale. He added that discussions were ongoing with Hawkeye Empire to agree a way forward.

Having heard the appeal and the officer advice, Councillor Powell recommended that given the oversubscription to the year's £2.46M envelope, the proposals be agreed as printed.

Having considered an open officer report, an appeal by Hawkeye Empire and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Business and Community Wealth Building, Councillor Kim Powell, the Mayor and Cabinet for the reasons set out in the report by a vote of 5-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) recommended funding allocations as set out in Appendix 3 and Section 7 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31st March 2025 be approved; and

(2) retrospective agreement be given for the awards for Community Fundraisers which were provisionally allocated in November 2021

617. Capital Strategy 2022-23

Having considered an open officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, the Mayor and Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the report by a vote of 5-0

RESOLVED that:

(1) notes the 2021/22 Capital Programme monitoring position in this report and any Public Accounts Select Committee comments from their meeting of the 27 January;

(2) Council be asked to approve the 2022/23 to 2024/25 Capital Programme of £600.4m, as set out in this report and supporting Appendices.

618. Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23

Having considered an open officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, the Mayor and Cabinet for the reasons set out in the report by a vote of 5-0:

RESOLVED that:

(1) Council be asked to approve the prudential indicators and treasury indicators, as set out in section 6 and 7;

(2) Council be asked to approve the Annual Investment Strategy and Creditworthiness Policy, set out in further detail at Appendix 2;

(3) Council be asked to approve the Investment Strategy as set out in section 5, along with the operational boundary & authorised limit for the year as set out in section 7;

(4) Council be asked to approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy as set out in section 6;

(5) Council be asked to delegate to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources authority during 2022/23 to make amendments to borrowing and investment limits provided they are consistent with the strategy and there is no change to the Council's authorised limit for borrowing; and

(6) Council be asked to approve the overall credit and counterparty risk management criteria, as set out at Appendix 2, the proposed countries for investment at Appendix 5, and that it formally delegates responsibility for managing transactions with those institutions which meet the criteria to the Executive Director for Corporate Resources.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm