

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 18 October 2011 at 4.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Peter John (Chair)
Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Fiona Colley
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Veronica Ward

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Richard Livingstone declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in item 12, 'Southwark 2012 Capital Legacy Group: Recommendations for a £2m Package of Capital Investment' as he had agreed an Individual Decision Maker (IDM) report in respect of this issue.

Councillor Peter John also declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in item 12 as he was the chair of the capital legacy group.

Councillor Veronica Ward declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in item 12 as she was a member of the capital legacy group.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

The following public question was asked:

Question from Ms Sue Plain

“Given rising unemployment especially amongst young people and the council’s success and achievements in setting up apprenticeship schemes, will the council consider the use of apprentices rather than volunteers in libraries?”

Councillor Veronica Ward responded

“Bearing in mind that we are talking about volunteers in context overall, which will be covered in the report, I would not see volunteers as being an either/or in relation to apprenticeships and this is something we can look at. Volunteers gaining experience can be a route to work.”

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

There were no deputation requests.

7. HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME - CONFIRMATION OF THE FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME AND UPDATE ON THE HIGH INVESTMENT NEED ESTATES OPTIONS APPRAISAL PROJECT

An updated Table 12 – Hawkstone survey responses, paragraph 79 of the report was circulated at the meeting. An additional Table relating to Abbeyfield survey responses, referred to in paragraph 80 of the report was also circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the outcome of the Stage 2 resident consultation on the draft five year housing investment programme and the feedback from the area housing forums, tenants council, home owners council and the decent homes review working party on the proposals be noted.
2. That the advice from the government Department of Communities and Local Government that the £11m government backlog funding will be paid as a cash grant be noted and officers come forward with detailed proposals to allocate the £11m of additional resources. The grant is for social housing tenants only so any of the monies spent on communal repairs will be recharged to leaseholders. The resultant

service charges could generate up to £4m of extra income should all the grant be spent on communal repairs.

3. That the five year housing investment programme, revised in the light of the Stage 2 resident consultation, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved, and officers be instructed to proceed with the implementation of the programme.
4. That the impact of the Lands Tribunal decision on the deliverability of the programme; the risks associated with it, and the contingency arrangements in place to mitigate these risks be noted.
5. That progress of the options appraisal project on Abbeyfield, Four Squares and Hawkstone estates be noted and the revised project plan outlined in paragraph 72 of the report be amended to defer the Abbeyfield and 4 Squares report to a February cabinet and agreed.
6. That the amendments to the option appraisal model's strategic fit objectives proposed in paragraph 75 of the report be noted and agreed.

8. SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: UPDATE TO CABINET AND DELEGATION OF AWARD OF PHASE 3B CONTRACTS

RESOLVED:

Decisions of the Cabinet

1. That it be noted that phase 3a of Southwark's Schools for the Future (SSF) programme 'investment at Bredeinghurst, St Saviour's and St Olave's, The Charter and Notre Dame' has reached financial close within the affordability parameters previously approved by cabinet.
2. That the current status of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme be noted.

Decisions of the Leader of the Council

3. That authority be delegated to the cabinet member for children's services in consultation with the strategic director of children's services to approve the contract award for the contracts set out in Table 1 of the report, relating to the financial close of Phase 3b - a new Academy at St Michael's and All Angel's in Camberwell and the co-location of Highshore Special School, subject to:
 - confirmation of funding from Partnerships for Schools;
 - the council's financial contribution being within the parameters set out in Table 3 of the report.
4. That authority be delegated to the cabinet member for children's services in consultation with the strategic director of children's services to enter into the school interface agreements with the school counterparties set out in Table 2 of the report.

9. LIBRARY SERVICES REVIEW

A report from the regeneration and leisure scrutiny sub-committee providing comments and recommendations to the library services review report were circulated at the meeting. Comments of the strategic director of environment and leisure to the scrutiny sub-committee report were also circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the package of measures summarised below and described in more detail in the body of the report be agreed in order to deliver £397,000 of savings from the library service budget in the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14.
 - a. Use of volunteers £40,000
 - b. Reshaping of opening hours at smaller libraries to offer more days open but with less hours overall. This to be combined with an invitation for community management for the period of reduced hours £80,000
 - c. A staff reorganisation of £120,000
 - d. Sharing resources with other boroughs £50,000
 - e. Sharing space with Housing at Peckham Library and thereby reducing library costs by £57,000
 - f. New rental saving of £50,000 from the creation of the new Camberwell Library
2. That officers be instructed to bring forward proposals on a new delivery model for the home library service as part of the 2012/13 budget setting process to achieve a budget saving of £104,000.
3. That it be noted that although additional income or fees and charges were not proposed within the report, some minor changes to fees and charges arising from this will be brought forward as part of the annual fees and charges setting process. The service will continue to seek external funding and seek to improve its marketing in line with the recommendations from the libraries review consultation.
4. That officers continue to undertake further work on identifying possible future models of service to ensure the longer term viability of the library service in respect and / or savings. These should include:
 - a. Community management of libraries including assessing the offers for the community management
 - b. Sharing services with other boroughs either through the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) Future Libraries Programme pilot project or any cross borough negotiations.
 - c. Co-locating or integrating with other Southwark services
 - d. Working with the customer services division to support the emerging corporate customer services strategy
 - e. Seeking opportunities for resolving building issues through regeneration or other property opportunities
 - f. Reviewing the effectiveness of volunteer arrangements introduced as a result of this report.

5. That the opportunity to replace Grove Vale Library as part of a new development adjacent to East Dulwich Station be welcomed; noting that there are both revenue and capital implications for this and that these issues will be addressed as part of the council's budget-setting process for the next three years.

10. CYCLING POLICY REVIEW

RESOLVED:

That the content of the council's transport plan cycling policy review contained in the report be noted.

11. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2012/13 - 2014/15: SCENE SETTING REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. Cabinet reaffirms its commitment to the ten fairer future promises as set out in the council plan and medium term resources strategy (MTRS) and the seven budget principles to guide and underpin the work of officers in arriving at a balanced budget proposal in February 2012.
2. That it be noted that this is the second year of a three year budget framework, agreed in February 2011 which was supported by an extensive consultation undertaken in autumn 2010.
3. That officers be instructed to continue to work on budget options for presentation to the cabinet in January 2012, for onward recommendation to council assembly.
4. That the continuing uncertainty in the budget environment for 2013/14 and future years be noted and it also be noted that the government is currently undertaking a consultation on the future of local government finance (the "Local Government Resource Review").

12. SOUTHWARK 2012 CAPITAL LEGACY GROUP: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A £2M PACKAGE OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety has taken an October 2011 individual decision maker (IDM) report in respect of the Southwark 2012 Capital Legacy Fund, which agrees £2m funding to ten capital projects.

13. RESIDENTIAL DESIGN STANDARDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT 2011

RESOLVED:

1. That the comments of planning committee be noted.
2. That the final residential design standards supplementary planning document (SPD) (Appendix A of the report) be adopted, and the consultation statement (Appendix B of the report) and equalities impact assessment (Appendix C of the report) be noted.

14. APPROPRIATION OF LAND FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, SITE SILWOOD 4B, LAND BETWEEN DEBNAMS ROAD AND CORBETTS PASSAGE, SE16

RESOLVED:

1. That the appropriation of the land, shown shaded on the plan in Appendix 1 to the report ("the Plan"), from use for commercial purposes to planning purposes in accordance with section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 be agreed.
2. That it be noted that the land is no longer required for the purpose for which it is currently held.

15. 169 TO 172 AND 170A ST GEORGES MANSIONS, BLACKFRIARS ROAD AND POCOCK STREET GARAGES, LONDON SE1 8ER - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST

RESOLVED:

1. That the disposal of the council's freehold interest in 169 to 172 and 170a St Georges Mansions, Blackfriars Road and Pocock Street Mansions, London SE1 8ER ("the site") in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the closed report be authorised.
2. That the earmarking of the capital receipts for the purposes of the housing investment programme be authorised.
3. That the head of property be authorised to agree any variations to these terms (within the scope of his delegated authority) that may be necessary to achieve the successful disposal of the site.
4. That in the unlikely event that the sale to the preferred bidder does not proceed to exchange, the head of property be authorised to agree the terms of a sale with any one or combination of the under bidders set out in the closed report and/or any other third party, provided that these terms conform with the council's legal obligation to achieve the best consideration reasonably obtainable.

16. 65 GROSVENOR PARK, SE5 - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST

RESOLVED:

1. That the head of property be authorised to dispose of the council's freehold interest in 65 Grosvenor Park, SE5 (the "Property"), for a sum that equates to the market value of the property.
2. That the earmarking of the capital receipts for the purposes of funding the housing investment programme be authorised.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That 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 category 3 and 5 of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Southwark Constitution.

The following is a summary of the decisions taken in the closed section of the meeting.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the closed section of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

18. DISPOSAL OF 169 TO 172 AND 170A ST. GEORGES MANSIONS, BLACKFRIARS ROAD AND POCOCK STREET GARAGES, LONDON SE1 8ER - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this report. See item 15 for decision.

The meeting ended at 6.12pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 21 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2011.

THE ABOVE DECISIONS WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTABLE UNTIL AFTER THAT DATE. SHOULD A DECISION OF THE CABINET BE CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY, THEN THE RELEVANT DECISION WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE OUTCOME OF SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION.