

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 4.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Peter John (Chair)
Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Fiona Colley
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Mark Williams

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Michael Situ and Victoria Mills gave apologies for lateness.

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

The chair gave notice that the following late items of business would be considered for reasons of urgency to be specified in the relevant minutes:

Item 7: Deputation requests

Item 13: Housing Revenue Account – Final Rent-Setting and Budget Report 2015/16 (Appendix F – consultation feedback)

Item 19: Policy and Resources Strategy 2015/16 – 2017/18: Revenue Budget.

3. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN A CLOSED MEETING, AND ANY REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no public questions.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Notification of this deputation request had not been circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept this request as urgent as it related to an item on the agenda for this meeting, item 8, Draper House – Independent investigation update report.

Deputation request from the Draper House Residents' Association

The deputation spokesperson addressed the meeting in respect of an item on the agenda, item 8, Draper House – Independent investigation update report, offering feedback on the report's findings and what actions were still to be completed.

8. DRAPER HOUSE WORKS - INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED:

That the updated actions by officers following the publication of the independent investigation report and the previous report to cabinet on 9 December 2014 into the major works contract at Draper House be noted.

9. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: SOUTHWARK SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED:

1. That the report and appended action plan from Southwark Safeguarding Children's Board be received and the commitments the Board is making in relation to tackling child sexual exploitation be noted.
2. That an update report from Southwark Safeguarding Children Board describing the progress on implementation of the strategy be received in December 2015.

10. FREE SWIM AND GYM IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED:

Decision of the Cabinet

1. That the proposals for the pilot offer for free swim and gym to begin in spring 2015 be agreed as follows:
 - **18s and under free swim** – all day Friday; afternoons from 2pm until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday
 - **16 to 18 years free gym** – all day Friday; afternoons from 2pm until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday
 - **14 to 16 years free youth gym sessions** – at selected times on Friday evenings Saturday and Sunday afternoons
 - **Free ‘Silver Sessions’** – access to the 60+ sessions all week
 - **Free access to The Castle for those with disabilities (from Summer 2015)** – all day Friday, afternoons from 2pm until close on Saturday and Sunday
 - **Free gym and swim for referrals to key healthy lifestyle schemes (from April 2016)**
 - MEND family weight management programmed
 - GP physical activity referral scheme including Kickstart
 - NHS Health Checks fitness passport scheme.

2. That the outline proposals for the implementation of the general free swim and gym offer from July 2016 be approved, and officers be instructed to further develop the offer and report back on the firm proposals by December 2015.
 - **Free access to gym and swimming for all residents** – all day Friday; afternoons on Saturday and Sunday until close
 - **A selection of targeted offers to be developed which could include:**
 - Free ‘Silver Sessions’ – access to the 60+ sessions all week
 - Free access to all centres for those with disabilities
 - Free swim and gym throughout the week for referrals to key healthy lifestyle schemes
 - MEND family weight management programme
 - GP physical activity referral scheme including Kickstart
 - NHS Health Checks fitness passport scheme.

Decision of the Leader

3. That the decisions on the details of the pilot scheme be delegated to the cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure.

11. CULTURAL STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE

RESOLVED:

1. That the breadth of support the council gives to the cultural sector in Southwark and the resulting benefits to the community be noted.

2. That the action taken to deliver the cultural strategy action plan from its approval in July 2013 to date be noted.

12. GATEWAY 1 - A NEW APPROACH TO HEALTHCHECKS IN LAMBETH AND SOUTHWARK

RESOLVED:

1. That the outcome of a joint review of healthchecks which was carried out across Lambeth and Southwark (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report), including work to ensure a doubling of healthchecks in Southwark, be noted.
2. That a memorandum of understanding agreement with Lambeth Council be entered into for the purposes of entering into a joint commissioning agreement for healthchecks, with Southwark Council acting as the lead commissioning borough.
3. That the procurement strategy outlined in the report, to undertake a competitive tender to commission a Lambeth and Southwark healthchecks delivery hub at an estimated contract value of £1.5m for a term of three years from December 2015, with provision to extend the contract for two further periods of one year, making a total estimated contract value of £2.5m, be approved.

13. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - FINAL RENT-SETTING AND BUDGET REPORT 2015/16

Feedback from consultation meetings including tenants' council was circulated at the cabinet meeting (Appendix F).

RESOLVED:

1. That a rent increase of 2.2% to be applied to all housing revenue account (HRA) dwellings as set out in the previous report to cabinet on 9 December 2014 be approved. This is equivalent to an increase of £2.18 per week on average for tenanted properties, with effect from 6 April 2015 and is in accordance with the earlier decision of cabinet on 28 January 2014 on rent levels. This percentage increase is also to be applied to estate void and hostel properties from 6 April 2015. The average budgeted dwelling rent for 2015/16 is estimated to be £101.25 per week.
2. That officers be instructed to set rents for newly-let existing stock from 6 April 2015 (paragraphs 22 – 26 of the report) at the target level for that property, calculated and inflated using central government methodology, with the proviso that exemptions are to be granted where circumstances necessitate a move.
3. That increases in the estate cleaning, grounds maintenance, communal lighting and door entry maintenance charges by 2.2% as laid out in paragraph 27 of the report with effect from 6 April 2015 be approved.
4. That there be no increased charges for non-residential properties and that officers

be instructed to find a compensatory measure to balance the budget.

5. That heating and hot water charges be set at the same level as 2014/15 as laid out in paragraph 29 of the report with effect from 6 April 2015.
6. That the sheltered housing charges be set at the same level as 2014/15 as laid out in paragraph 30 with effect from 6 April 2015.
7. That water and sewerage charges levied by Thames Water are liable to an inflationary uplift as set out at paragraph 31, but as yet the council has not been informed by Thames Water of what that increase will be, be noted.
8. That the revised HRA budget for 2015/16 (as set out in Appendices D and E to the report) be noted.

14. SOUTHWARK REGENERATION IN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

1. That the development of the proposed 'Southwark Regeneration in Partnership' programme be agreed.
2. That an upfront budget for site investigations, feasibility studies, surveys and option appraisals will be funded from regeneration and development reserves, on the basis that it will be repaid back into the reserve through realisation of the various developments be noted.
3. That the proposed delivery timetable be noted.
4. That a further report be submitted to cabinet in Summer 2015, seeking approval to specific proposals for procurement, be noted.

15. SOUTHWARK HOUSING STRATEGY TO 2043

RESOLVED:

1. That the Southwark's Housing Strategy to 2043 (Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.
2. That the single page summary of the Housing Strategy to 2043 (Appendix 2 of the report) be noted.
3. That that implementation plans will be developed collaboratively across all council services and with our private, public and third sector partners be noted.
4. That Southwark Council give support to the cross-party national "Yes To Homes" campaign to build more homes in the places needed at prices that people can afford be agreed.

16. ABBEYFIELD ESTATE HINE (MAYDEW HOUSE) WORKS UPDATE

RESOLVED:

1. That the information contained within the update report for Abbeyfield Estate HINE (High Investment Needs Estate), Maydew House works be noted.
2. That the risks to the projected vacant possession date be noted.

17. DIVERSITY STANDARD

RESOLVED:

That consultation on the draft Diversity Standard as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.

18. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS SCHEME 2015-2016

RESOLVED:

That Southwark Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme of £319,175 for 2015/16, subject to approval of the council budget by council assembly in February 2015, be approved.

19. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2015/16 - 2017/18 - REVENUE BUDGET

RESOLVED:

1. That the government's Autumn Statement, delivered on 3 December 2014; the provisional settlement announced on 18 December 2014; and that the final settlement, expected to be confirmed in early February 2015, be noted.
2. That the provisional settlement contained no indicative grant settlement figures for 2016/17 or beyond be noted.
3. That representations have been made to the minister by the leader and by the cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance with regard to the provisional settlement be noted.
4. That specific funding by government for Local Welfare Provision has been removed from the settlement be noted.
5. That cabinet have previously agreed to extend the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme until 2017/18, despite the withdrawal of this Social Welfare Provision funding and that budget provision for 2015/16 is provided in the budget proposals contained in the report be noted.
6. That the principle to set a one year budget for 2015/16 in the context of uncertainty

over funding levels for 2016/17 and beyond be agreed.

7. That the balanced general fund budget proposals for 2015/16 contained within the report, including resources available, commitments, income generation efficiencies and improved use of resources and other savings impacting on service delivery be noted.
8. That the balanced budget plans for council tax to be frozen for 2015/16 be noted.
9. That these proposals for 2015/16 be noted, including the impacts of:
 - The provisional grant settlement;
 - An increase in Council Tax revenue to reflect an increase in the taxbase and improved collection rates;
 - An increase in retained business rates;
 - Pay awards for council staff in line with national agreements;
 - Contractual inflation;
 - Top slicing of new homes bonus to redirect resources to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP);
 - Reduction in grant to support Housing Benefit administration;
 - One off use of reserves of £6.2m;
 - One off reductions in insurance fund provisions of £500k to reflect reduced insurance risks;
 - Contingency provision retained at £4m to help mitigate risks inherent within the council's savings programme for 2015/16 and beyond.
10. That the need in the context of these proposals to monitor especially the implementation of the Care Act during 2015/16 and any further and unforeseen implications on general fund budget proposals be noted.
11. That the feedback from the public budget consultation exercise be noted.
12. That the delivery of the Fairer Future Council Plan commitments included in this budget be noted.
13. That this report is to be considered by the overview and scrutiny committee on 2 February 2015 and that any recommendations arising which are agreed by cabinet will be incorporated into the final report to cabinet on 10 February 2015 for recommendation to council assembly on 25 February 2015 be noted.

NOTE: In accordance with overview and scrutiny procedure rule 23.1(a) (budget and policy framework) these decisions are not subject to call-in.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following items are included on the closed section of the agenda. The Proper Officer has decided that the papers should not be circulated to the press and public since they reveal confidential or exempt information as specified in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution. The specific paragraph is indicated in the

case of exempt information.

The following motion was moved, seconded and approved as the cabinet wished to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the 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 1-7, Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution.”

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the closed minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

Meeting ended at 5.45 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 21 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2015.

THE ABOVE DECISIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 19 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.