



Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 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
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Veronica Ward

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Catherine McDonald.

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

The chair gave notice that the following late item would be considered for reasons of urgency, to be specified in the relevant minute:

Item 7 – Deputation requests

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

No representations were received in respect of the items listed as closed business for the meeting.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

This item had not been circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept the item as urgent as the request had been submitted in line with the constitutional deadline for the receipt of deputation requests and was therefore eligible for consideration by cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation request be heard.

Parent Research Team (listed on the agenda as Originally Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum)

The cabinet received a deputation from parents in respect of research they had undertaken into the educational attainment level of African heritage children in Southwark, particularly Caribbean children. The deputation informed the cabinet that they had written a report entitled 'Our Voices, Our Children, Our Future' from the research and outlined the key findings.

The deputation were seeking support from the council to enable the establishment and development of a black Caribbean parents support group, which would be accountable for the delivery and oversight of the recommendations contained within their report. The support group would work closely with parents in implementing joint strategies for raising the achievements of black Caribbean pupils in Southwark schools. The deputation indicated that they would like support in terms of a secretary and a place to be made available where the support group could meet.

It was agreed that the cabinet member for children's services and officers work with the deputation with a view to achieving their aims. It was also agreed that cabinet receive a report in September on the issue and that any progress that could be made in the meantime is made.

8. DRAFT REVISED CANADA WATER AREA ACTION PLAN (AAP)

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft revised Canada Water area action plan (Appendix A of the report) be approved for formal public consultation in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).
2. That the sustainability appraisal (Appendix B), the equalities analysis (Appendix C), the consultation plan (Appendix D) and appropriate assessment (Appendix E) of the report be noted.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES 2013/14

RESOLVED:

Decisions of the Cabinet

1. That the work done with the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to fund replacements for police front counters be noted.
2. That the work done to identify further community safety initiatives be noted.

Decision of the Leader of the Council

3. That authority be delegated to the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety to determine which initiatives should be funded and the amounts to be spent from the £750,000 set aside in 2012/13.

10. LAKANAL INQUIRY - CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report which provides detailed information and considerations which will shape the response to the Coroner's Rule 43 letter of 28 March 2013 be noted and approved.
2. That high rise buildings be defined as being those above 30m, equating to those of 10 storeys and above.
3. That the coroner's recommendations also apply to known lower storey but complex blocks, i.e. those with more than one means of escape, along with the council's sheltered housing schemes and temporary accommodation units.
4. That officers investigate how a full internal stock condition survey of the council's housing stock, that includes those sold leasehold, would be possible.

5. That officers carry out a full feasibility study into the retro-fitting of sprinklers into high rise blocks and report back to cabinet on the findings by November 2013.
6. That the full response to the Rule 43 letter be delegated to the chief executive.

11. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CONSULTATION ON PROGRAMMES

The cabinet agreed to hear representations from Unison in respect of this item. The representative from Unison addressed the cabinet and expressed concern about the proposal to create a team of communal repairs compliance officers, which he said would remove the communal repairs function from the remit of housing operations division and resident service officers. Unison felt that a more efficient use of resources would be to increase the compliment of technical quality officers.

RESOLVED:

1. That the results of the consultation with residents, staff and unions be noted.
2. That the proposed use of £4m from the heating account surplus on communal heating energy efficiency measures as set out in paragraph 22 of the report be noted.
3. That the proposed programme for door entry and security, estate action days, external redecoration, communal heating energy efficiency measures and the introduction of communal repairs compliance officers as set out in paragraph 31 of the report be agreed.

12. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL, LONG-TERM REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

This item was deferred.

13. GATEWAY 1 - APPROVAL OF THE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

RESOLVED:

That the procurement strategy and transfer of service to the in-house team of the borough wide arboricultural services as detailed in paragraphs 37-40 of the report be approved.

14. DISPOSAL OF THE SITE COMPRISING 184-188 SOUTHAMPTON WAY, 5A HAVIL STREET AND PART OF THE BEACON ESTATE, LONDON SE5

RESOLVED:

1. That the disposal of the council's freehold interest in 184-188 Southampton Way, 5a Havil Street and part of Beacon House Estate ("the site") for residential purposes on the following terms and conditions be approved:
 - (a) Legal interest - building lease convertible to freehold transferred upon practical completion of proposed development
 - (b) That the disposal is subject to obtaining planning consent for either of the two proposed schemes where the council can share in any profits from either of the proposed schemes
 - (c) That the disposal is subject to the council providing vacant possession of the land
 - (d) Fees - the purchaser has agreed to pay a contribution towards the council's reasonable legal and surveying fees.
2. That the head of property be authorised to agree any variations to these terms or vary the extent of the boundary that may be necessary to achieve the successful regeneration of land comprising Southampton Way, Havil Street and part of the Beacon House Estate.
3. That in the unlikely event that this recommended sale does not proceed to exchange of contracts, 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.
4. That as approximately 16% of the capital receipt from the sale of the site is housing land, that this be recycled into the housing investment programme.

15. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY - 27 MARCH 2013

RESOLVED:

Basic safety and security for residents

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

1. That council assembly believes that crime and the fear of crime are among our residents' main concerns and notes the council's fairer future promise to crack down on anti-social behaviour and implement a violent crime strategy.
2. That council assembly notes the progress being made against the 5 priorities in the violent crime strategy including:
 - 9% reduction in violence with injury

- 4% reduction in most serious violence
 - 22% reduction in knives used to injure
 - 19% reduction in youth violence
 - 10% reduction in domestic abuse.
3. That council assembly notes that despite savings to Southwark's anti-social behaviour unit, the number of anti-social behaviour cases that have been managed by Southwark antisocial behaviour unit (SASBU and housing officers over the last three years has actually increased by 40%; the number of acceptable behaviour contracts issued increased by 19% on last year.
 4. That council assembly welcomes the establishment of the Southwark anti-violence unit (SAVU), a multiagency team working together to support individuals and families affected by gang and serious youth violence. It welcomes the fact that, the first 10 months evaluation highlights that following engagement with SAVU, 45% of SAVU clients have not come to police notice, compared with the 12 months prior to their involvement in the scheme when 100% had come to notice. Council assembly further notes the favourable review of this work by the Home Office in October 2012, in which the council was praised by the review team for its 'political leaders recognising and prioritising ending gang and youth violence work and sending out a very strong signal that this is a priority for the borough and will be resourced and supported'.
 5. That council assembly also welcomes the announcement in last month's budget of £1.4m to upgrade outdated camera systems on Southwark's housing estates as well as 30 new redeployable cameras and an upgraded control room. It notes that CCTV has supported the police in making around 900 arrests between April and March of 2012/13.
 6. That council assembly regrets the government's decision to cut the Met's budget by 20% and the impact this has had on police officer numbers in the borough and on closures to police stations in Rotherhithe and East Dulwich. It welcomes the council's decision to identify £750,000 for community safety initiatives including alternative police front counters.
 7. That council assembly asks the cabinet to develop plans to:
 - Work collaboratively with customs and excise, police and neighbouring boroughs to tackle the drugs trade
 - Work with communities and registered social landlords to develop new approaches to resolve conflicts within communities
 - Help communities gain confidence to tackle anti-social behaviour in their midst
 - Continue the excellent work of SAVU despite government cuts
 - Develop further the work with our partners to reduce re-offending
 - Work with Solace, the voluntary sector and local hospitals to develop innovative approaches to tackling violence against women and girls.

Localising planning decisions

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

1. That council assembly notes the concerns which residents and members from all parties have raised about travel times to Tooley Street from the south of the borough.
2. That council assembly recognises the need to make planning decision-making as accessible to all residents as possible.
3. That council assembly further recognises the need for financial efficiency across all departments in this time of austerity, and the additional unsustainable costs which would be incurred by holding planning committee meetings in a range of different venues across the borough.
4. That council assembly therefore proposes that some planning sub-committee meetings should be held at the council offices at Queen's Road Peckham as soon as it is practical.
5. That council assembly requests the director of planning to report back on the impact of this change of venue in terms of the attendance of members of the public at planning sub-committee meetings in one year's time.

Fire at Walworth Town Hall / Cuming Museum

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed and the comments of the chief executive be noted.

That council assembly:

- Expresses great sadness at the devastating fire this week at Walworth Town Hall and the damage it has caused to the Cuming museum and adjoining buildings
- Thanks the emergency services, council staff and local residents and businesses for their dedicated efforts to protect lives and heritage
- Supports the work of officers in finding alternative temporary premises for the One Stop Shop and library study space
- Recognises the need for community conversations to now take place to allow residents to share their thoughts about the buildings and the future, including preserving the external facade in any rebuilding work
- Notes that the first fire engine on the scene came from Southwark Fire Station, which is currently on the Mayor of London's list for closure, and that other fire engines assisting were from stations also under threat of closure

- Calls on the Mayor of London to have regard to this event before finalising the planned fire station closures in light of the events of this week, given how much worse the situation could have been without the quick response from our local fire stations.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

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 of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Southwark Constitution.

The following is a summary of the closed part of the meeting.

16. MINUTES

The closed minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

17. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL - LONG TERM REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

This item was deferred.

18. GATEWAY 1 - APPROVAL OF THE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this item. See item 13 for decision.

19. DISPOSAL OF THE SITE COMPRISING 184-188 SOUTHAMPTON WAY, 5A HAVIL STREET AND PART OF THE BEACON HOUSE ESTATE, LONDON SE5

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this item. See item 14 for decision.

The meeting ended at 5.52pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 21 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2013.

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.