

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 4.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Peter John OBE (Chair)
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Kieron Williams

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jasmine Ali and apologies for lateness from Councillor Evelyn Akoto.

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

The chair gave notice of the following late items:

- Item 7: Deputation requests
- Item 17: Policy and Resources Strategy 2020-21
- Item 18: Impact of Brexit on Southwark – Progress Report.

Reasons for urgency and lateness will be specified in the relevant minute.

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

Councillor Johnson Situ declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 10: Walworth Community Development Support, as chair of the trustees of the Creation Trust.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

None were received.

6. MINUTES

Update on item 9: Kingswood QHIP external wall insulation proposals report from overview and scrutiny committee report considered by cabinet 17 December 2019

Councillor Kieron Williams, cabinet member for housing management and modernisation, provided an update for cabinet on this item considered on 17 December 2019 by advising that an independent expert had been appointed to look at external wall insulation in particular. The expert would complete a report which would be provided to residents as soon as completed.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

RESOLVED:

That the deputation from the Be Active Social Enterprise be heard.

The Be Active Social Enterprise expressed concern to cabinet about progress regarding a long-term tennis plan for the borough following their previous petition and deputation to cabinet.

Councillor Rebecca Lury, deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities, confirmed that a number of outstanding issues needed to be resolved and agreed to meet with the deputation and relevant officer to discuss these matters.

8. FAITH STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Sis Sheeba Levi-Stewart, the Rastafari Movement UK; Siriol Davies, Interfaith Advisor; Violet Hinrichs, Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is; Archdeacon Dr Jane Steen, Diocese of Southwark; Hajia Saidat Oketunde, Muslim Association of Nigeria and Sis Stella Headley, Director of the Rastafari Movement UK were also in attendance to provide their input.

RESOLVED:

1. That the faith strategy action plan be adopted.
2. That it be noted that the Southwark Way of Working shared values around *'treating every resident as if they are a member of your own family'* are vital in building trust and removing barriers between faith communities and the council be noted. Closer and more collaborative working will ensure that we are on a journey towards more open and deeper conversations.
3. That it be noted that the new approach to engagement will be embedded in the delivery of the action plan through *'putting people at the heart of the engagement processes'*. This means that we will seek to understand the lived experience of faith communities and be open to their views and comments about the strengths and weaknesses of approaches and interventions contained within the action plan.
4. That it be noted that the action plan will work through the relationships above to achieve its aspirations of building trust, releasing potential and greater collaboration through an asset based community development approach. In the first instance this will mean raising awareness of this approach and continuing to map the skills and resources of faith communities.
5. That it be noted that in celebrating our diversity and providing a space for the expression of faith leaders and their communities there is greater opportunity for them to realise their potential. This growth and confidence provides a strong foundation for the birth of 'champions' and 'ambassadors' that can work with the council and the voluntary and community sector.
6. That it be noted that the faith strategy action plan will deliver the recommendations of the faith strategy as follows:
 - (i) **Celebrate faith and diversity of faith organisations in the borough** through connecting faith communities both with each other and the council and the voluntary and community sector. We will help to promote the expression of faith through using existing opportunities within faith communities who are working together on cross cultural and faith celebrations including the boroughs participation in Inter-faith week and Peace Week.
 - (ii) **Support faith organisations and their approaches to supporting individuals who are a part of their congregations** by finding out how we can better support faith communities' activities and projects. This could include the development of tailored learning programmes and raising awareness of council policies and procedures. The council can also work through an enabling role and increasing access to information, training and shared learning around safeguarding, equalities and funding avenues.
 - (iii) **Improve the lives of Southwark residents** through embedding a culture and practice of 'faith navigators' to improve the signposting and referral to services. In increasing the knowledge and awareness of faith communities residents can be helped and supported more quickly and effectively without being directed to the wrong departments. The sharing of information and intelligence at a neighborhood level through joint working can also help to improve outcomes

for residents and support for families especially those from migrant communities that faith communities are instrumental in providing support for.

- (iv) **Support the council in delivery of key pieces of work** through identified areas of collaboration and co-production such as the outcomes from the Faith and Health Challenge and safeguarding concerns. This can be achieved through the activation of health and wellbeing champions around areas such as mental health, and sexual exploitation as well as improving the knowledge and awareness of good safeguarding practices. This also delivers an opportunity for faith communities to become more widely connected with wider groups such as the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), South London and Maudsley (SLaM) and colleagues working on serious youth violence, child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation.
- (v) **Improve the way in which the council is able to reach significant numbers of its residents** through faith leaders and their congregations. The strategy highlighted that some migrant community congregations had between 50 – 200 members and some Pentecostal congregations up to 100 and 200 or more members. The nature and function of many faith communities is often ‘mission focused’ where their values and aspirations include reaching anyone in their areas and particularly the most vulnerable and isolated. Faith communities are heavily involved in work around social action supporting families, black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME), migrant communities and those that are the poorest financially. Working with faith communities enables to the council to extend its engagement reach through these channels.
- (vi) **Ensure that the council is aware of the challenges that their worshippers face** such as housing, debt, children/young people, food poverty, anti-social behaviour, educational achievement and homelessness. The strategy also highlights 3 key areas of challenge when working with the council around the areas of planning, parking and premises. Faith communities also said that they need support around increasing their levels of understanding around funding, project management, governance and how to better support families particularly asylum seekers and migrants. We will work with faith communities to develop a better understanding of council policies and procedure and work to develop more innovative solutions around sharing available space and exploring other community assets.
- (vii) **Support social integration and community cohesion in our neighbourhoods** through wider engagement at an early stage between faith communities and the council to mitigate any adverse community impacts. The Planning department has been working more closely with faith communities around regeneration proposals on the Old Kent Road and providing opportunities to both shape and connect plans. The New Approach to engagement commits the council to a reflective approach and to continue to identify lessons learned from previous regeneration projects.

Faith communities have also played an active role in delivering reassurance messages in the aftermath of tragedy. Sometimes this involves actively being the ‘voice’ of an entire neighbourhood or the whole borough but more usually it is the steady quiet work of support at a micro level for families, the lonely, homeless and migrant communities.

(viii) **Organising with Southwark Faith Leaders two conferences a year for faith communities** that will allow participants to showcase their work and take advantage of networking opportunities. The first conference - had a focus on '*youth violence working together for solutions*' was held on 25 September was attended by 120 people including 71 faith group leaders and 14 social action and migrant community groups, with links with Southwark faith groups.

(ix) **Working with council departments using the feedback from the conference sessions to address the challenges faith organisations identified.** The notes from the two workshops of the first conference have been shared with all participants and have been used to populate the faith action plan around the timescales and the responsibility of the delivery of key outcomes.

Two members of the steering group attend a task and finish group on serious youth violence led by the cabinet member for community safety and public health and the council will be commissioning the delivery of information workshops in faith settings for faith leaders their congregations and young people.

One of the questions that the panel was asked was about the council's response to homelessness. After the conference all participants received a summary of the 2018-2022 strategy and the progress on the updated action plan. A link to information on referrals, advice and support for housing needs with an offer for the councils team working on this area to attend the faith strategy steering group to support training and information needs.

(x) **Continuation of work with the Steering Group to deliver the strategy recommendations and monitor progress.** We will continue to support the steering group through chairing meetings and working with them to develop conference themes and discussions around progress of the work plan. Currently we are working on the diversification of the members of the steering group to include smaller and newer faith community leaders. While we received some interest at the faith conference we are adopting a much more intentional approach through targeting specific faith leaders.

(xi) **Continue to talk and to grow the breadth and depth of our relationships with communities of faith so we continue to involve a wider network of faith organisations and diversity of faith groups.** The faith strategy action plan will seek to implement key principles around asset based community development. This involves first promoting the knowledge and understanding of this approach and secondly mapping both needs and assets in order to co-ordinate resources more effectively. This approach will build and strengthen relationships around meeting common outcomes through goodwill and sharing.

We will continue to extend our reach to those faith communities that have not previously engaged and work with those that have cited specific barriers around engagement. It is envisaged that through a more diverse steering

group and progress against the delivery of the action plan will open the way to a wider network of relationships.

9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET - FINAL RENT-SETTING AND BUDGET REPORT 2020-21

Cabinet considered the results of the consultation as set out in Appendix F of the report. In respect of the concerns raised by the Tenant Council about garage charges for private sector renters, it was requested that these be reviewed as part the 2021-22 rent setting process.

RESOLVED:

1. That a rent increase of 2.7% for all directly and tenant managed (TMO) housing stock within the housing revenue account (HRA) (including estate voids, sheltered and hostels) with effect from 6 April 2020 be agreed. This is in accordance with the provisions of the Rent Standard 2020.
2. That with regard to other HRA-wide charges, the tenant service charges, comprising estate cleaning, grounds maintenance, communal lighting and door entry maintenance be increased as set out in paragraph 17 of the report with effect from 6 April 2020 .
3. That an increase of 2.7% be made to sheltered housing service charges as set out in paragraph 18 of the report with effect from 6 April 2020.
4. That charges for garages and other non-residential facilities be increased as set out in paragraph 19 of the report with effect from 6 April 2020.
5. That there be no increase to district heating and hot water charges as set out in paragraph 20 of the report with effect from 6 April 2020.
6. That the HRA budget proposals set out in the report be agreed and that it be noted that these changes to ensure a balanced budget is set as required by statute.
7. That the commitments made in December 2019 to ensure that savings made are primarily based on efficiencies be affirmed, and that where staffing reductions form part of any said savings, that due consultation and process is followed with trade unions.

10. WALWORTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Representatives from the Creation Trust were also in attendance to provide their input.

RESOLVED:

1. That the successes of Creation Trust and the valued input of current and previous Board members be noted.
2. That annual funding of £100,000 to the Creation Southwark Community Interest Company for housing advice of the council tenants and those in temporary

accommodation on the Aylesbury Estate from 2020-21 and throughout the remaining life of the rehousing programme be approved.

3. That the revised cash flow of council funding for Creation as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be approved.

Councillor Evelyn Akoto arrived in the meeting at 4.55pm.

11. ELEPHANT AND CASTLE BAKERLOO LINE EXTENSION

RESOLVED:

1. That an additional capital budget of £7,500,000 to the council's capital programme to safeguard the future provision for the Bakerloo Line Extension: to the proposed new Northern line ticket hall and station box to provide an integrated interchange, as detailed in the report, be approved.
2. That it be noted that the Transport for London Investment Group has confirmed a matching funding contribution of £7,500,000 towards the scheme.

12. OLD KENT ROAD SOCIAL REGENERATION CHARTER

RESOLVED:

1. That the Old Kent Road Social Regeneration Charter (OKRSRC) attached as Appendix 1 to the report which includes the following three goals and subsequent ten promises as emerging priorities be agreed:
 - A healthy, connected and sustainable future for all
 - High Quality Homes and Amenities for all
 - A Vibrant Local business and cultural economy that works for everyone.
2. That a review be submitted to cabinet in 12 months time.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING - PLAN TO BE MADE A MATERIAL CONSIDERATION IN PLANNING DECISIONS RELATING TO THE DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

RESOLVED:

That the Southbank and Waterloo Neighbourhood Plan be made so it becomes part of the council's development plan and is a significant consideration in all planning decisions relating to the designated neighbourhood area.

14. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER REVIEW - TO TACKLE DOG RELATED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

RESOLVED:

1. That the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) be approved to continue without variation until March 2021.
2. That the findings of the review of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to tackle dog related anti-social behaviour (ASB) be noted.
3. That it be noted that a further review of the PSPO to tackle dog related anti-social behaviour will be conducted in September 2020, with a view to extending or varying the PSPO by 31 March 2021.

15. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL FOR SOUTHWARK HIGHWAYS WORKS CONTRACTS

Note: In line with the Public Contract Regulations all tenderers need to be informed of the award decision at the same time. A formal offer of contract can not be made until the scrutiny call-in period and Alcatel standstill period following the cabinet decision has expired. Therefore, to prevent the possibility of a challenge, the names of all tenderers, the preferred tenderer and prices must remain confidential.

RESOLVED:

1. That the award of the Southwark Highways Works Contracts in two lots commencing 1 July 2020 for an initial duration of five years and nine months, with an option for the council to extend for up to two further years be approved, as follows:
 - Lot A – Maintenance (for small scale reactive repairs) to Contractor A.
 - Lot B – Projects (for planned renewal / improvement projects) to Contractor A.

16. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL - PARKING AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES CONTRACT

RESOLVED:

That the award of a new parking and traffic enforcement and associated services contract to Contractor A which will commence on 1 April 2020, for a period of 4 years until 31 March 2024 with two possible 3 year extensions until 31 March 2030 be approved.

17. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2020-21

The report had not been circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept the report as urgent as the council were committed to publishing budget proposals at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure they were available to the public for comments and questions. Presenting this report to cabinet on 21 January gives the opportunity for debate prior to presentation of budget figures to cabinet on 4 February 2020. Under the council's constitution, there is a requirement for the overview and scrutiny committee to review and challenge budget proposals and this is due to take place on 27 and 29 January 2020.

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that the provisional local government finance settlement published on 20 December 2019 was unchanged from that forecast in the report to cabinet on 17 December 2019 (paragraphs 25-28 of the report).
2. That it be noted, as reported to cabinet on 17 December 2019 and recognising the continued uncertainty for local government funding, the intention remains for the council to prepare a balanced one-year 2020-21 budget for approval by cabinet in advance of council assembly on 26 February 2020 (paragraph 24 of the report).
3. That the current budget options proposed to help achieve a balanced budget 2020-21 (Appendices B to E of the report) be noted.
4. That the proposed increase in the adult social care precept of 2% in line with the government flexibility be noted.
5. That the proposed increase to the Southwark element of the council tax in line with the government threshold by 1.99% in recognition of the spending pressures in services, particularly those that protect and support vulnerable people (paragraph 56 – 57 of the report), be noted.
6. That the budget proposals for 2020-21 contained within the report be noted that include:
 - Estimated general grant resources of £152.317m, an increase of £2.442m from 2019-20
 - Additional grant income of £11.095m, including increased social care grant of £7.332m
 - Estimated retained business rates growth of £24.739m (paragraph 59 of the report), a decrease of £1.261m over 2019-20 (paragraph 63 of the report)
 - Estimated council tax revenue of £117.849m, including growth in the tax base of £2.795m and additional income of £4.522m generated from increasing council tax by 3.99% (including 2% adult social care precept)
 - A net brought forward deficit on the collection fund, after application of the 2019-20 Pooling Benefit, chargeable to the 2020-21 budget of £0.612m
 - Pay award and contractual inflation of £3.919m (excluding children's and adult services)
 - Retention of the contingency budget in the sum of £4m to mitigate underlying budget risks (paragraph 78 of the report).
7. That the current budget options proposed to help achieve a balanced 2020-21 budget (Appendices B to D of the report) be noted including:
 - Efficiency savings of £5.964m
 - Income generation of £2.376m
 - Savings impacting on services of £0.420m.
8. That it be noted that in order to ensure that the base budget is on a secure financial footing a number of commitments are proposed for 2020-21 totalling £19.805m, including £7.332m for children's and adult's services (paragraph 85 of the report).

9. That it be noted that the current budget proposed for 2020-21 is balanced after the incorporation of updated proposals and a 3.99% council tax increase.
10. That the dedicated schools allocation of £332.7m and the continued deficit on high needs provision (paragraphs 46-49 of the report) be noted.
11. That the performance of the London Business Rates Pool arrangement in 2019-20 (paragraphs 69-72 of the report) be noted.
12. That the allocation of an additional £0.250m for the Positive Futures Fund funded from the London Devolution Reserve (paragraph 69 of the report) be approved and the unallocated London devolution Pool resources of £1.286m from 2018-19 be noted.
13. That the ongoing negotiations regarding the continuation of the London Business Rates Pool arrangement into 2020-21 (paragraph 71 of the report) be noted and that authority be delegated to the strategic director of finance and governance, in consultation with the head of legal services, to make any amendments as may required by the Secretary of State, and to enter into the final Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the council.
14. That the departmental narratives (Appendix A of the report) and the equality analyses provided for the budget proposals be noted.
15. That it be noted that this report will be considered by overview and scrutiny committee on 27 and 29 January 2020 and that any recommendations arising will be incorporated into the final report to cabinet on 4 February 2020 for recommendation to council assembly on 26 February 2020 (paragraph 95 of the report).

18. IMPACT OF BREXIT ON SOUTHWARK - PROGRESS REPORT

The report had not been circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept the report as urgent as cabinet had requested a further progress report on Brexit impact and preparedness ahead of a further cross-party Brexit panel which is planned to take place on the 4 February 2020.

RESOLVED:

Decisions of the Cabinet

1. That the passage of the EU Withdrawal Bill be noted and that it also be noted that the UK will leave the EU on 31 January 2020 and commence the 11-month transition period.
2. That progress on ongoing local work in preparing for EU exit be noted and that the latest Brexit Risk Register be agreed for publication as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and officers be instructed to continue to keep the register under monthly review.
3. That the cross-party Brexit panel be reconvened for 4 February 2020, in the light of latest information available on EU exit.

Decision of the Leader of the Council

4. That future decisions on the £300,000 Brexit fund be delegated to the cabinet member for finance, performance and Brexit in consultation with the strategic director of finance and governance.

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

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

19. MINUTES

The minutes of the closed section of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

20. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL FOR SOUTHWARK HIGHWAYS WORKS CONTRACTS

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this item. Please see item 15 for the decision.

21. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL - PARKING AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES CONTRACT

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this item. Please see item 16 for the decision.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2020.

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.