

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Monday 6 February 2023 at 11.00 am at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Martin Seaton

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jasmine Ali.

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

The chair gave notice of the following late item:

Item 9: Policy and Resources - 2023-24 General Fund Budget Proposals

Reason for urgency and lateness will be specified in the relevant minutes.

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

No representations were received.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The following amendment was notified:

Item 8 - Policy and Resources Strategy 2023-24 to 2025-26 Update

- Recommendation 3 should refer to 2023-24 (and not 2022-23).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 subject to the above amendment, be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

None were received.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

The report had not been circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept this item as urgent (the request had been received in line with the council's constitutional deadline for the receipt of deputation requests).

RESOLVED:

1. That the deputation request from Bede on item 8, Abbeyfield Estate – A Way Forward be heard.
2. A spokesperson for the deputation addressed cabinet for five minutes and questions were asked of the deputation for a period of five minutes.

8. ABBEYFIELD ESTATE - A WAY FORWARD

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that in 2019 the refurbishment of Maydew House was costed at £42,173,573. By 2021 these costs had risen to £69,644,677, representing an increase of £27,471,104. This increase does not include further inflation cost and the further risks outlined in paragraph 32 of the report.

2. That the constraints of refurbishing Maydew House and relative advantages of wholesale redevelopment, including larger homes, an increase in the number of homes, more accessible homes, set out from paragraphs 33 to 42 of the report be noted.
3. That it be agreed not to proceed with the final stage 2 tender price proposal received in relation to the refurbishment of Maydew House and the replacement of the Bede Centre on the existing Abbeyfield site.
4. That it be agreed to procure a demolition contract for Maydew House, which would be subject to a separate gateway approval.
5. That the whole life carbon assessment for the demolition of Maydew House and that this document will be updated as set out in paragraph 39 of the report be noted, with every effort being made to minimize and mitigate the carbon impact.
6. That it be agreed to undertake a detailed consultation and engagement process with residents of Damory House and Thaxted Court over options for the future of their estate and improving the quality of their housing and environment.
7. That it be agreed to amend the housing investment programme to include £4m for demolition works for Maydew House.
8. That the council's commitment and support for the Bede Centre be reaffirmed and that the update on temporary and permanent options for continued operation of this important community organisation be noted.
9. That the outcome of the residents meetings on 9 November 2022 and 5 December 2022 and previous meetings with officers be noted.

9. POLICY AND RESOURCES - 2023-24 GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS

It was not possible to circulate this report five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept this item as urgent as the council was committed to publishing budget proposals at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure they were available to the public for comments and questions. Presenting the report to cabinet on 17 January 2023 gave the opportunity for debate prior to presentation of budget figures to cabinet on 6 February 2023. Under the council's constitution, there was a requirement for the overview and scrutiny committee to review and challenge budget proposals and this took place on 23 and 24 January 2023.

Councillor Ian Wingfield, chair of the overview and scrutiny presented a summary of the committee's recommendations to cabinet.

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that the final local government finance settlement has not been published at the time of writing this report, but there are no significant changes expected from the provisional settlement published on the 20 December 2022.
2. That it be noted that the report presents the final balanced general fund budget proposals for 2023-24:
 - Un-ringfenced Settlement Funding Assessment grant of £162.4m, an increase of £8.7m on 2022-23
 - Un-ringfenced other grant income of £6.2m, a decrease of £8.3m on 2022-23
 - An increase of £12.5m in ring fenced grants to £78.7m
 - Estimated retained business rates growth of £47m, an increase of £21m from 2022-23, due to business rate revaluation and updating for high levels of inflation
 - Estimated council tax revenues of £137.8m, including a council tax increase of 4.99% (2% adult social care precept and 2.99% general increase)
 - Pay provision and contractual inflation of £33.8m, for the 2-year period 2022-23 and 2023-24.
3. That it be noted that the Mayor of London has revised the draft budget for 2023-24, including a proposal to increase the Greater London Authority (GLA) Council Tax precept by 9.7%, equivalent to £38.55 increase for a band D property.
4. That it be noted that the GLA council tax precept is due to be set on the 23 February 2023, one day after council assembly sets the budget for Southwark, therefore a council tax setting committee will need to be convened.
5. That the current budget options proposed to help achieve a balanced 2023-24 budget (Appendices B to E of the report) be noted.
6. 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 2023-24.
7. That the departmental narratives and the ongoing equality analyses of the budget proposals (Appendix A of the report) be noted.
8. That it be noted that the January cabinet report and accompanying schedules was considered by the overview and scrutiny committee on 23 January and 24 January 2023 and that the recommendations arising and officer responses are included at Appendix I of the report.

NOTE: In accordance with overview and scrutiny procedure rule 16.2, (a) (budget and policy framework) these decisions are not subject to call-in.

10. APPROPRIATION OF THE SITE KNOWN AS FDS C AT AYLESBURY ESTATE

RESOLVED:

1. That the land shown edged hatched and edged in black on the plan at Appendix A of the report that is currently held for housing purposes be confirmed as no longer required for those purposes and the appropriation of the land to planning purposes to facilitate the carrying out of the development proposals for the area in accordance with section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 be approved.
2. That following completion of the works for which the appropriation at paragraph 1 of the report is required the land shown hatched and edged in black on the plan at Appendix A be confirmed as no longer be required for planning purposes and the appropriation of the land to housing purposes in accordance with section 9 of the Housing Act 1985 and section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the director of planning and growth authority to:
 - Agree detailed terms and conditions for the indemnity agreement to be provided by Notting Hill Genesis
 - Pay compensation properly claimed where due to third parties arising from the interference of their rights in accordance with section 204 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016
 - Defend or settle (as appropriate) any compensation claims referred to the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal in respect of rights that are overridden due to the exercise of the council's powers.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2022-23 - MOUNTVIEW AND POTTERS FIELD PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Portia Mwangangye be appointed to serve on Mountview outside body 2022-23.
2. That Councillor Martin Seaton be appointed to serve on Potters Field Park Management Trust for 2022-23.

MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item 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 decisions taken in the closed part of the meeting.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the closed section of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

The meeting ended at 12 noon.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2023.

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.