

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 11.00 am at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams (Chair)

Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Natasha Ennin
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Martin Seaton

1. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None were declared.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

1. Ralph Smyth

Why has the climate SPD that was due to be published last year been further delayed, and how confident is cabinet that it will be submitted before the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 phases out SPDs?

Response by Councillor Helen Dennis, Cabinet Member for New Homes and Sustainable Development

The Climate Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) cannot come to cabinet until the end of the Local Government pre-election period, which is in force from 18 March – 2 May 2024, therefore the earliest date is 18 June 2024.

The SPD contributes to Southwark Council's commitment to make the borough greener and more sustainable.

The SPD will bring in much needed technical guidance on key issues such as:

- Energy and carbon reduction
- Minimising flood risk and water efficiency
- Environmental protection and improving air quality
- Green Infrastructure, biodiversity and trees (including new government requirement for biodiversity net gain)
- Movement and transport
- Avoiding waste and minimising landfill.

This guidance will help planning applications consider green initiatives in line with the Southwark Plan 2022, and it is also an important step ahead of the Early Review of the Southwark Plan.

The Government have confirmed that SPDs will remain in force until planning authorities adopt a new style local plan, as set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023). The legislation still includes a requirement for local authorities to prepare 'Supplementary plans', with the focus shifted to site specific or area wide policies and design codes. Therefore, much of the guidance in the Climate SPD references can be repurposed under the requirements of the new Act, continuing to play a vital role in the council achieving its net zero carbon target for 2030.

2. **Jess Hinings**

Why does the council's technology and digital strategy not propose anything more ambitious on climate than printing less paper? Such as the digital

dashboard XR Southwark suggested to improve accountability, and enable residents and businesses to track the borough's progress on its climate targets and goals.

Response by Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Cabinet Member for Communities, Democracy and Finance

Southwark Council is dedicated to doing our utmost for the environment and combating climate change through tangible actions outlined in our Technology and Digital Strategy 2024-2026.

To prioritise energy efficiency, we have implemented various Green IT practices, such as:

- 1. Virtualised Environments: Instead of using lots of separate servers, we make one server act like many, which saves energy and helps us manage things better.
- 2. Not Oversizing Systems: We make sure we only give our computer systems the resources they really need, which saves money and makes them work more efficiently.
- 3. Using Test and Backup Systems when necessary: We only turn on extra systems when we really need them, using smart technology to save resources and energy consumption.
- 4. We are also encouraging everyone to print less to help the environment.
- 5. Our plan doesn't stop there, as our strategy supports the many actions we are doing within the Council to end the climate emergency. For example, we use digital tools so people don't have to travel as much, which helps cut down on pollution.

The Technology and Digital service's performance is tracked within the council's delivery plan through key performance indicators and targets. Our future goal is to automate these reports using the data platform and PowerBi.

We welcome feedback on our strategies so we can continue to take a holistic approach to making the council greener and more sustainable.

The questioners were not in attendance. The leader confirmed their questions and responses would be included in the published minutes of the meeting.

6. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

There were none.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

8. MARIE CURIE - RESIDENT REHOUSING

Councillor Ian Wingfield, addressed cabinet on behalf of local ward councillors.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the ongoing resident engagement to date be noted and that the Sceaux Gardens tenants and residents association (T&RA) (comprising resident volunteers that meets at key stages) be thanked for their continued work and engagement with the council to date.
- 2. That the progress on the rehousing of the remaining secure council tenants within Southwark and the buy-back of properties owned by non-resident leaseholders be noted.
- 3. That it be agreed that any remaining Marie Curie secure tenant(s) beyond 1 May 2024, are afforded pre advert, direct offer status to allow rehousing to be completed at pace and no later than the end of the first quarter of 2024-25.
- 4. That officers be instructed to report back in 4 months, in July 2024 on the progress of rehousing all the remaining residents and ultimately confirming a date when the building will be decommissioned.
- 5. That it be noted that the ongoing cost of maintaining the waking watch does not represent best value for money, as the WW costs are circa £400,000 per annum (for a building with 7 remaining tenants and 4 non-resident leaseholders).

9. CLOSURE OF ANN BERNADT NURSERY SCHOOL

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed to close Ann Bernadt Nursery School from the 31 August 2024 onwards.

10. DRAFT HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY

Councillor Helen Dennis requested that her cabinet member foreword be included in the strategy document.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the re-drafted homelessness and rough sleeping strategy (Appendix 1 of the report), re-drafted supplementary data review (Appendix 2 of the report), re-drafted engagement and consultation plan (Appendix 3 of the report), equalities impact and needs analysis (Appendix 4 of the report) and re-drafted action plan (Appendix 5 of the report) be noted.
- 2. That the actions and priorities arising from the draft homelessness and rough sleeping strategy be agreed.
- 3. That the re-drafted homelessness and rough sleeping strategy be agreed for formal consultation and the strategy be brought back for consideration by the decision maker with the consultation outcome.

11. FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the framework for allocation of strategic community infrastructure levy (CIL) as set out in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report be agreed.
- 2. That the allocation of strategic CIL of £350,000 towards the Elephant and Castle over ground station be agreed.
- 3. That the allocation of strategic CIL of £250,000 towards the Bakerloo Line Extension be agreed.

12. DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2024-2026

RESOLVED:

Decision of the Cabinet

1. That the draft refreshed technology and digital strategy 2024-2026, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed.

Decision of the Leader of the Council

2. That authority be delegated to the cabinet member for communities,

democracy and finance to agree to the final strategy and publish in April 2024.

13. GATEWAY 1 - PROCUREMENT STRATEGY APPROVAL TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Councillor Helen Dennis confirmed that the date referred to in paragraphs 30 and 33 of the report relating to the issue of the prior information notice (PIN), should in fact be March 2024 (and not February).

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the procurement strategy outlined in the report to undertake a procurement exercise for the establishment of a dynamic purchasing system (DPS) for the supply and management of temporary accommodation (TA) for a period of six years from August 2024 at an estimated cost of up to £45m per annum, making a total estimated cost of £270m, be approved.
- 2. That it be noted that the appointment to the DPS does not constitute any award of contract with the supplier and that this be delegated to the strategic director of housing, where this may be required.
- 3. That it be noted that the procurement strategy in the report for the DPS will result in bidders being required to provide all forms of temporary accommodation properties, subject to individual negotiation for the call-off process that will be approved in line with the council's governance, for leases of three, five and up to ten years as well as nightly paid accommodation (NPA). It is further noted that the council reserves the right to procure properties outside of the DPS as and when required.
- 4. That the council will provide an annual performance report a year after implementation of the DPS to the lead member for council homes and sustainable development. This report will include information on the location and quality of the accommodation as well as the financial impact to the council.

14. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL - INTEGRATED SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICE

RESOLVED:

1. That the use of a contract for the delivery of an integrated sexual and reproductive health service, let by Lambeth Council on Southwark Council's behalf to King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for a period of up to seven years, for an estimated contract value of up to £10,117,975 be approved.

2. That it be noted that the estimated annual value is £1,445,425 and that the contract is broken down into three contract phases, with an initial term of three years, and two extensions of two years, each scheduled to commence on 1 April 2024.

15. S106 AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

RESOLVED:

That the new Section 106 (S106) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be approved for consultation.

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.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the closed section of the meeting held on 6 February 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

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DATED	:

CHAIR:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024.

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.