



CABINET

MINUTES of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 11.00 am at Ground floor meeting rooms, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Catherine Rose

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jasmine Ali.

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

Councillor Darren Merrill disclosed a pecuniary interest in item 9, Driving up standards for the private rented sector, as he owns a rental property in the borough. He withdrew from the meeting for that item.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

No public questions were received.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

No deputation requests were received.

8. SUPPORTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES - A VOLUNTEER STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWARK 2021 - 24

RESOLVED:

1. That the following vision for volunteering in the borough be adopted.

We want Southwark to be a place where everyone feels confident to help and support their neighbours and local groups by getting involved in their communities. We want to build a Southwark where everyone has access to volunteering, so individuals and the places where we live, work, worship and visit can thrive.

2. That it be agreed that the priority for change we wish to affect through this work over the next three years are increasing diversity among volunteers, improving pathways to work through volunteering and continuing to focus on young adults volunteering. In particular the following outcomes for the strategy to deliver have been set out:

- More people from our Black Asian and ethnic minority communities engage in volunteering
- The diversity of trustees on voluntary and community sector (VCS) boards increases
- More people accessing employment through the experience gained by volunteering
- More organisations offer opportunities to volunteers
- Improved experience of volunteering through support of host organisations
- Residents feel supported in their neighbourhoods by active communities
- Young adults are active volunteers

3. That the following key objectives for the strategy for the next three years 2021 to 2024 that will enable us together with our key partners to deliver our vision and these outcomes be approved:

- a) **Increase awareness and knowledge of volunteering:** We want to raise the profile of and celebrate volunteering. We know that people cannot take up opportunities if they do not know about them. We want everyone to have access to volunteering, and feel that this is an activity they can take part in, a normal part of life, and gain the benefits from this way of taking part. We want people to feel valued for their contributions to supporting their communities thrive.
 - b) **Provide appropriate support to organisations that host volunteers:** Volunteers are often the backbone to organisations; they provide the much-needed support in so many different areas. Many grass roots organisations and community groups are volunteer led and are only able to function because of volunteers. We want to make sure all groups and organisations who have volunteers are fully supported through best practice and reward and recognition
 - c) **Make volunteering, inclusive, accessible meaningful and valued:** We want to ensure volunteering is open to all. We know that currently the profile of who volunteers does not reflect the profile of the borough and that therefore many people do not access the benefits being a volunteer can bring. We want to change this. People who want to give their time should be able to easily find an opportunity and access volunteering no matter where they are from, live or their protected characteristics. Many look to volunteering to enhance their work skills and we want to support organisations to ensure their volunteering programme can create appropriate pathways into work.
- 4. That the action plan that sets out how the strategy will be delivered set out at Appendix 2 of the report be approved.
 - 5. That it be noted this strategy development has been led by Community Southwark in partnership with the council and other key voluntary sector organisations and passes on its thanks for this collaboration.

9. DRIVING UP STANDARDS FOR THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the changes to the existing mandatory licensing scheme set out in Appendix 1 of the report and the new initial fee structure for mandatory licensing as set out in Appendix 7 of the report be approved.
- 2. That the implementation of a borough wide additional licensing designation for 5 years as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report from 1 March 2022 for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) not included in the mandatory

licensing definition, under Part 2 of the Housing Act 2004. Including the initial fee structure as set out in Appendix 7 of the report be approved.

3. That the implementation of the selective licensing designation 1 in Champion Hill and Newington wards, for 5 years, as detailed in Appendices 4 and 6 of the report, from 1 March 2022 under the Housing Act 2004 be approved.
4. That the implementation of the selective licensing designation 2 in Faraday, Goose Green and St. Giles wards, for 5 years, as detailed in Appendices 5 and 6 of the report, from 1 March 2022 under the Housing Act 2004 be approved.
5. That the initial fee levels for selective licensing designations 1 and 2 as set out in Appendix 7 of the report be approved
6. That authority be delegated to the strategic director of environment and leisure to make any minor amendments to the schemes as necessary during the 5 year duration, for the effective administration of the schemes.
7. That the final proposals for the council's Gold Standard Charter for Landlords as set out in Appendices 9 and 10 of the report be approved.
8. To authority be delegated to the strategic director of environment and leisure to make minor amendments to the Gold Standard Charter as necessary for the effective success and administration of the scheme.

10. SOUTHWARK EMPTY HOMES ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED:

To the new detailed Southwark Empty Homes Action Plan 2021 in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

11. GREEN BUILDINGS FUND

RESOLVED:

1. That all secured carbon offset funding is held and consolidated in a carbon offset fund called the Green Buildings Fund to maximise carbon offsetting opportunities.
2. That the Green Buildings Fund is spent to deliver carbon offsetting projects in accordance with the council's climate change strategy and action plan. The initial focus of offsetting projects will be the decarbonisation and retrofitting of community buildings, schools and council housing.

3. That officers prepare recommendations with input from relevant cabinet members on which carbon offsetting projects to fund. The relevant delegated officer or the planning committee will approve the release of the funds for carbon offsetting projects using existing s106 processes.
4. That the funding criteria for carbon offsetting projects to be agreed by officers and relevant cabinet members.
5. That officers seek other sources of co-funding for the Green Buildings Fund, and review options for a new local carbon offset price in parallel to the New Southwark Plan early review, to encourage greater onsite carbon reduction performance and ensure the carbon offset price fully covers offsetting costs.

12. HERITAGE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

RESOLVED:

1. That it be agreed that the Heritage Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be adopted (Appendix A of the report).
2. That the equalities impact assessment (Appendix B of the report) and consultation report (Appendix C of the report) be noted

13. ANNUAL WORKFORCE EQUALITIES REPORT

RESOLVED:

6. That the Annual Workforce Report attached as Appendix 1 to the report, including the Protected Characteristics and Workforce Profile (Section 1), General Workforce Data (Section 2), Pay Gap reports (Section 3) and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action plan (Section 4) and the covering report be noted.
7. That it be noted that officers will continue to develop and deliver the council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion action plan including the recommendations under Southwark Stands Together – Workforce Work stream to improve EDI across our workforce.

14. APPROPRIATION OF 86, 88 AND 114 VESTRY ROAD SE5 8PQ

RESOLVED:

1. That the land shown edged red 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 appropriation at paragraph 1 of the report that the land shown edged red 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.

15. PUPIL PLACE PLANNING REPORT 2021

RESOLVED:

1. That the updated forecasts of primary and secondary school places from 2021-2022 onwards set out in paragraphs 48 to 53 of the report (primary) and paragraph 58 (secondary) of the report be noted.
2. That the existing over supply of primary and sufficiency of secondary places across the council area, and proposed actions to monitor supply and demand be noted.
3. That the actions outlined in the report to match primary demand with capacity of places be noted and that the decision to request a variation from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to reduce the published admission numbers at the schools with a trend of vacancy rates referred to in paragraphs 19-21 from September 2022 onwards, be delegated to the strategic director of children's and adults 'services, after consultation with the deputy leader and cabinet member for children, young people and education.
4. That a report be brought back to cabinet within six months on the extent to which changes in the benefit system have led to a reduction in the number of school-aged children in the borough; working if possible with other boroughs and the regional schools officer.

16. GATEWAY 1 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) TAXI FRAMEWORK

RESOLVED:

1. That the procurement strategy outlined in the report for special educational needs and disability (SEND) taxis for children, young people and vulnerable adults, which is to undertake a competitive tender process for a four year framework agreement commencing on 1 September 2022 until 31 August 2026 for an estimated annual cost of £2m making the total for four years £8m

be approved.

2. That gateway 2 award of contract be delegated to the strategic director of children's and adults' services for the reasons noted in paragraph 29 of the report.

17. RESPONSE TO CABINET REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: EDUCATION: CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

RESOLVED:

That the response from the deputy leader and cabinet member for children, young people and education to the 15 June 2021 cabinet report from education and local economy scrutiny commission: education: children's experience and education during the Covid-19 Pandemic be noted.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2021.

THE ABOVE DECISIONS WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTABLE UNTIL AFTER THAT DATE. SHOULD A DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE BE CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY, THEN THE RELEVANT DECISION WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE OUTCOME OF SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION.