

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 8 March 2022 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 Rebecca Lury
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Catherine Rose

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - UKRAINE

The Leader of the Council spoke of the distressing events being witnessed in Ukraine and pledged Southwark's support and welcome to all refugees.

1. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

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

The chair gave notice of the following late item:

- Item 7: Deputation requests

Reasons 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

There were no closed items for this meeting.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

None were received.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

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 Sceaux Gardens Tenants and Residents Association 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. CLIMATE CHANGE CITIZENS' JURY - RECEIPT OF RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

A representative from Shared Future and jury members were in attendance to present this report to cabinet and answer questions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the climate change citizens' jury be welcomed and all the jury members be thanked who gave their time and contributions to the process.
2. That all the recommendations from the jury be considered and a full response be brought forward in July 2022.
3. That officers revise the climate change strategy and action plan in response to the jury's recommendations and bring an updated plan to cabinet in July 2022 as part of the first annual review.

9. RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - SOUTHWARK'S CLIMATE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the overview and scrutiny committee (paragraph 6 of the report) be welcomed and the response set out in the report be agreed.
2. That the climate action plan be updated in line with these recommendations when it is published in July 2022.
3. That any major policy changes in the future be aligned, wherever possible, with the council's climate change strategy.
4. That there is suitable training for members following the local elections in May 2022, and that climate change forms part of the ongoing training offer to both members and officers in the council.

10. BOROUGH PLAN INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018-2022

RESOLVED:

That the council's performance over 2018-19 – 2021-22 against the council plan 2018-2022 and refreshed Borough Plan 2020-2022 be noted.

11. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY: REVENUE MONITORING REPORT, INCLUDING TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2021-22

RESOLVED:

1. That the general fund forecast outturn position for 2021-22 (Table 1 of the report) be noted.

2. That the COVID-19 emergency funding support received to date (paragraphs 18 – 20 of the report) be noted.
3. That the government's COVID-19 sales, fees and charges compensation scheme (paragraph 19 of the report), and that the scheme only part funds the actual losses incurred be noted.
4. That the other key adverse variations and budget pressures underlying the forecast outturn position be noted, notably:
 - Temporary Accommodation pressure of £6.4m after use of reserves.
5. That the housing revenue account (HRA) forecast outturn position for 2021-22 (Table 2, paragraphs 53 – 60 of the report) be noted.
6. That it be noted that there is currently no compensation for the HRA for additional costs or lost income arising from the pandemic.
7. That the treasury management activity to date in 2021-22 (paragraphs 66 – 73 of the report) be noted.

12. EMPTY HOMES FUNDING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted and the following bids for capital funding to help increase the number of properties brought back into use across the borough be agreed:
 - a) A capital allocation of £2m to provide funding to compulsory purchase (CPO) long-term empty homes. This will be a revolving fund as costs will be recouped from the sale of the properties. Further details in paragraphs 29-33 of the report.
 - b) To increase the annual capital funding available for grants to refurbish empty homes from £95k to £400k. Further details in paragraphs 22-26 of the report.
 - c) To increase the annual capital funding available for loans to refurbish empty homes from £62k to £700k. Further details in paragraphs 22-26 of the report.
 - d) To support the expanded programme two additional officers will be recruited. The costs for the posts will be £90k. These posts will be funded from capital resources. Further details in paragraphs 27-28 of the report.

13. PROGRESS REPORT ON INSOURCING OF LEISURE SERVICES

RESOLVED:

That the progress that has been made in respect of the delivery of the project plan, the challenges and opportunities associated with insourcing, and management of risk in respect of the insourcing of the leisure service, be noted.

14. LINDLEY ESTATE - APPROPRIATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

RESOLVED:

1. That the land shown outlined 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 the land shown outlined on the plan at Appendix A be confirmed as no longer 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. LOMOND GROVE, ELMINGTON ESTATE - APPROPRIATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

RESOLVED:

1. That the land shown outlined 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 the land shown outlined on the plan at Appendix A be confirmed as no longer 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.

The meeting ended at 12.40pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022.

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.