

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Monday 10 July 2023 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 Helen Dennis
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Martin Seaton

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Darren Merrill.

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

None.

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

None were received.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Kieron Williams declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as a member of the

Transport for London board in respect of item 9, Streets for People strategy. He confirmed that he would leave the meeting room when this item was being discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Kieron Williams commented on the recent 25th anniversary of the Windrush and the events taking place in Southwark and nationally.

Additionally, reference was also made to the 75th anniversary of our incredible National Health Service.

5. MINUTES

An amendment was notified in respect of page 25 of minutes (Item 26, Appointments to Outside Bodies). Councillor Helen Dennis was appointed as representative to Cross River Board and it was confirmed that this should in fact be Councillor James McAsh.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 13 June 2023 subject to the above amendment, be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. 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 following deputation requests be heard:
 - Southwark Living Streets
 - Local residents oppose the CPZ for Nunhead and Peckham wards
 - Southwark Extinction Rebellion.
2. A spokesperson for each deputation addressed cabinet for five minutes and questions were asked of the deputations for a period of five minutes.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

1. Bridget Furst

Going forward, will research and reports created by Dr Anna Goodman be considered unbiased by Southwark Council (given her apology for tearing down a poster in a shop in West Dulwich which was against Low Traffic Neighbourhoods)?

Response by Councillor James McAsh, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Clean Air and Streets

Councillor James McAsh responded by explaining that all transport policy is based on a broad evidence base and expressed the importance of democracy and the fair exchange of ideas through debate.

2. Clive Rates

Following his letters to the e-bike and scooter operators active in Southwark, can Council Leader Williams confirm how many disruptively parked e-bikes and scooters Southwark has since removed and stored, and will he accept responsibility as Leader if these steps fail to resolve the issue?

Response by the Leader

Councillor Kieron Williams responded to the question at the meeting by highlighting the positive benefits of e-bikes and the position that the council currently relies on voluntary agreements with the providers. Actions are being taken by the council by informing the providers when bicycles need to be removed (and have been undertaken within a two hour time-frame). Work and effort to resolve the issues will continue.

3. Jane Lyons (Clive Rates asked question on behalf of Jane Lyons)

Councillor James McAsh claims the 'Movement Plan 2019' justifies imposing a borough-wide CPZ, overruling required local consultations. Does he accept that with only 1,025 consultee responses from over 300,000 Southwark residents, the Plan gives him no such mandate and in fact should be redone, being nearly five years old?

Response by Councillor James McAsh, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Clean Air and Streets

Councillor James McAsh explained that the pledge was made in 2019. The council has also since this time consulted on for example the climate action plan which has shown the desire for healthier and safer forms of transport and cleaner air to enable residents to walk and cycle and socialise/play in a safe environment.

The following public questions were also received:

4. Richard Newell

Since borough-wide CPZ was not a manifesto policy and since the public consultation on the Movement Plan did not ask for the public's views on the idea of controlled parking, will the cabinet accept that the general public in Southwark has never agreed to the idea of a borough-wide CPZ?

5. Linda Bird

In Southwark's final 'equality impact assessment' covering Dulwich LTN, used as evidence to make the scheme permanent, four academic research papers by Anna Goodman are cited and relied on. Given the recent Telegraph article questioning her integrity and impartiality, will Southwark now revisit this assessment.

6. Alex Hamilton

In his 2021 paper 'Tackling the Climate Emergency Together', Councillor Leader Williams promised as an 'immediate action' to 'Review the 11 existing LTNs over the next 18 months including impact on carbon emissions.' When will Southwark publish this data, rather than traffic counts and air quality monitoring data?

7. Tristan Honeyborne

Can the cabinet member for streets direct me to where in the Dulwich Village Phase 2 consultation report his claim 'the feedback... was supportive in relation to the objectives of the permanent scheme at the junction of Calton Avenue and Dulwich Village' is evidenced; the report showed no such support?

As the questioners were not in attendance, the leader confirmed that arrangements would be made for responses to be sent after the meeting.

8. SOUTHWARK'S RESPONSE TO THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS 2023-24

Cabinet also heard representations from the following with regard to their work with the council, support for residents and evidence of the impact of the cost of living crisis:

- Tim Clark, Strategic Support, Citizens Advice Southwark
- Cathy Deplessis, Director, Southwark Pensioners Centre and
- Chris Price, Chief Executive, Pecan.

RESOLVED:

1. That the ongoing impact of the cost of living crisis, what it means for residents of Southwark, and the council's ongoing approach to support residents in 2023-24 be noted.
2. That the council's £5.47m allocation from the Government's *Household Support Fund* and its inclusion within a new Southwark Council cost of living fund in 2023-24 be noted.
3. That the new Southwark cost of living response for the period April 2023 – March 2024 and the *Cash First* approach to the distribution of support (help to pay bills) be approved.
4. That responsibility to make future amendments to the Southwark cost of living fund be delegated to the strategic director of finance in consultation with the cabinet member for communities, democracy and finance.
5. That other activities to support residents during the cost of living crisis including all the strands as set out be noted.

9. STREETS FOR PEOPLE STRATEGY

Having declared a disposable pecuniary interest, Councillor Kieron Williams left the meeting while this item was being discussed and Councillor Jasmine Ali chaired the meeting for this item.

RESOLVED:

1. That the streets for people strategy (Appendix 1 of the report) be approved and the feedback from the consultation undertaken between December 2022 and February 2023 be noted.
2. That the proposed neighbourhood consultation on local needs and consultation on the walking, cycling and electric vehicle (EV) charging plans in order to inform the creation of streets for people interactive maps be approved.

At the conclusion of this item and decisions, Councillor Kieron Williams returned to the meeting.

10. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress that Southwark has made tackling the climate emergency in the last year and the updates to the climate action plan be welcomed.
2. That the draft climate resilience and adaptation strategy be noted and officers be asked to consult on this, before returning to cabinet in December 2023 with a final paper to be appended to the climate strategy.
3. That the proposed external governance structure, which sets out how the council will build relationships with key external partners in the borough on climate change be noted.
4. That the investment already made to support tackling climate change in the borough be welcomed and that the lack of resources which have been made available by government to reduce carbon be noted with concern.

11. ALLOCATION OF STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

RESOLVED:

That the allocation of £1m of strategic community infrastructure levy funding to invest in council owned premises at 201-203 Camberwell Road to help support the delivery of a new Southwark Pensioners Centre (“SPC”) facility be approved.

12. INTERIM ALLOCATIONS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) SOUTHWARK

RESOLVED:

That the additional funding allocations to complete current community infrastructure levy (“CIL”) projects after initial feasibility, design or phases of works as noted in paragraph 18 of the report be approved.

13. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY: FINANCIAL REMIT 2024-25 TO 2026-27

RESOLVED:

1. The three-year medium term financial strategy (MTFS) with an estimated general fund budget gap of £24m in 2024-25 rising to £50m, cumulatively, by 2026-27 based on the assumptions set out in paragraphs 30-43 of the report be noted.
2. That it be noted that the strategic director of finance, with the support of other

strategic directors, will seek to prepare indicative savings options and growth proposals for a three year period from 2024-25 to 2026-27.

3. That it be noted that cabinet will receive further reports in the autumn as more information regarding funding is made available.

14. AMALGAMATION OF CAMELOT AND COBOURG PRIMARY SCHOOLS

It was confirmed that since the publication of this report one representation had been received. It was explained that this was a general concern, which is covered by the points set out in paragraph 38 of the report.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed to amalgamate Cobourg Primary School and Camelot Primary School from the 31 August 2023, entailing the closure of Cobourg Primary School.

15. GATWEAY 1 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) BUSES PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

1. That the procurement strategy for the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) bus contract via a single supplier negotiation, with Healthcare and Transport Services for 24 months with an optional 12 month extension be approved.
2. That it be noted that the estimated value of the contract is £6.2m with a lifetime value of £9.3m if the 12-month option is agreed.
3. That the decision to award the contract be delegated to the strategic director, children and adult services in consultation with the deputy leader and cabinet member for children, education and refugees for reasons noted in paragraph 21 of the report.
4. That it be noted that a longer-term strategic approach will be explored in a planned gateway 0 report (strategic options assessment).

16. GATEWAY 1 INTEGRATED SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

1. That the procurement strategy to allow Lambeth to enter into direct

negotiations on behalf of Southwark with two providers, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, for the delivery of integrated sexual and reproductive health services be approved.

2. That it be noted that the two integrated sexual and reproductive health services contracts will have a combined maximum estimated annual value of £4.3m and a proposed contract term of three years, with the option for two extensions for two years each, commencing 1 April 2024.
3. That it be noted that the estimated combined maximum total over three years is £12.9m, and over seven years is £30.1m, if all extensions are used.

17. GATEWAY 3 – VARIATION DECISION - PARKING AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES CONTRACT

RESOLVED:

1. That the variation of the parking and traffic and associated services contract with APCOA Parking UK Ltd to utilise the available contract extension to extend the term of the contract for a period of three years from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2027 in the sum of £4,150,611 p.a. and £12,451,833 across the three-year extension period be approved.
2. That a variation of the existing contract with APCOA Parking UK Ltd for parking enforcement and associated services as outlined in paragraphs 10 to 11 of the report in the sum of £2,578,309 per annum to provide an additional 48 civil enforcement officers (CEO) up to a total value of £9,668,660 for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 May 2027 (three years and nine months - 45 months) be approved.
3. That a variation of the existing contract with APCOA Parking UK Ltd for parking enforcement and associated services as outlined in paragraphs 10 to 11 of the report in the sum of £583,036 to enable the one-off purchase of additional automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) safety cameras for bus lanes and two new bases (plus equipment) by January 2024 be approved.
4. That approval to purchase additional ANPR cameras to a value of up to £2million, which may be required at a later date for the purpose of enforcement, and contribution to the delivery of the objectives of the Streets for People Strategy be delegated to the director of environment.
5. That it be noted that a gateway 0 to detail pre-procurement strategic assessment including consideration of all those options as detailed in paragraphs 20 to 26 of the report will be brought in quarter two in 2025.

18. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2023-24 - SOUTH LONDON AND MAUDSLEY (SLAM) NHS TRUST MEMBERS COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Jason Ochere be appointed as the council's representative to serve on the South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Trust Members Council 2023-24 municipal year.

EXCLUSION OF THE 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 Southwark Constitution.

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

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the closed section of the meeting held on 13 June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

The meeting ended at 1.25pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY 18 JULY 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.