



EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the EXECUTIVE held on TUESDAY 7th October 2003 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Nick Stanton, Leader (In the Chair)
Councillor Caroline Pidgeon, Deputy Leader
Councillor Beverley Bassom, Housing
Councillor Catherine Bowman, Regeneration and Economic Development
Councillor Denise Capstick, Health and Social Care
Councillor Richard Porter, Community Safety, Social Inclusion and Youth
Councillor Bob Skelly, Education and Culture
Councillor Lorraine Zuleta, Resources

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James Gurling and Richard Thomas.

The Leader announced that Councillor Denise Capstick was the new Executive Member for Health and Social Care.

2 **NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS AS URGENT**

The Chair agreed to accept the following late items as urgent, the reasons for urgency to be specified in the relevant minute:-

Open Agenda

Item 16 – Policy and Resourcing Strategy 2004/07

Item 17 – Bermondsey Spa Regeneration Area Sites: E,F,H, S & U – Change of Lead Developer

Item 18 – Best Value Review of Community Safety

Item 19 – Nomination of Southwark Council Representation to South London Gallery (SLG) Trustee Ltd

Closed Agenda

Item 1 – Bermondsey Spa Regeneration Area Sites: E, F, H, S & U – Change of Lead Developer

Item 2 – Executive Approval for a Variation to the Contract Covering Canada Estate Phases 1, 3 and 4.

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

At 7.10pm Councillors Beverley Bassom and Catherine Bowman declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in respect of item 20, Funding for Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation as tenants of the Council.

Councillor Nick Stanton declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in respect of items 17, Bermondsey Spa Regeneration (open agenda) and item 1 (closed agenda), as local residents.

The Executive considered the items set out on the open agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the Minute File. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED: 1. That the minutes of the meetings held on 9th September, 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were received.

6 BEST VALUE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INVOLVEMENT (see pages 1 – 12)

The Executive wished to place on record their thanks for the help and support given by the Community Involvement and Development Unit in respect of Community Councils.

RESOLVED:

1. That the principles set out in paragraph 8 as underpinning the corporate approach to Community Development and Involvement be agreed.
2. That the overall priority to Promote Community Involvement and Cohesion which can be achieved by coordinated activities as follows be agreed:
 - Promoting local governance.
 - Enabling the delivery of better services.

- Promoting involvement and encouraging communities to thrive and develop.
3. That the Community Involvement and Development Unit co-ordinate the development and implementation of strategy across the Council and with partners. This will include the introduction of a rigorous performance management regime across all activities and initiatives. This will involve:
 - Setting performance standards and targets for Community Development and Involvement activities.
 - Monitoring and evaluating performance of these activities.
 - Developing a better understanding of how resources are being used on activities and initiatives, in order to be clear about what is being delivered and whether this provides value for money.
 - Creating more active learning from best practice elsewhere and across the Council.
 4. That the details of the actions proposed to achieve 2 and 3 above and set out in paragraphs 12 of the report be agreed.
 5. That the resource implications of the review be considered in the 2004/05 budget process. Other departments were asked to review their spending on this area, in light of this review, in this budget round.
 6. That a report be received in 6 months time with a more robust analysis of how current resources are used, based on the performance management systems that are an outcome of the review, together with an assessment of future resource requirements and the possible sources of these.

7 **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS** (see pages 13 – 44)

Councillor Catherine Bowman commended officers for their hard work and the wide consultation undertaken in respect of this report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the continuation of preparations for the introduction of Business Improvement Districts legislation as set out in paragraphs 15-21 and 31-41 of the report be agreed.
2. That ODPM "Pathfinder" authority to facilitate the necessary changes to the Virtual Machinery Environment (VME) Business Rates System, as discussed in paragraphs 34-39 of the report be agreed.

3. That the establishment of a cross-departmental officer group to facilitate policy, administration and Business Improvement Districts Development work across the Council as highlighted in paragraph 20 of the report be noted.
4. That a further report is received in March 2004, reviewing financial and policy implications for the Council.

8 **CALL-IN: APPROPRIATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL OWNED SECTION OF POTTER'S FIELD FORMER COACH SITE** (see pages 45-47)

- RESOLVED:**
1. That in light of the recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny the Executive receive a further report as soon as possible including any necessary views from the Chief Financial Officer and assessments of any potential financial consequences of the decision to appropriate the Potters Field Land and any legal challenge to that decision.

9 **REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CALL-IN: APPROPRIATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL-OWNED SITE AT POTTER'S FIELD FORMER COACH SITE** (see pages 48-59)

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the decisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

10 **APPROPRIATION OF LAND FOR PLANNING PURPOSES AT THE ISLAND SITE, LONG WALK, BERMONDSEY SE1** (See pages 60-65)

This report was deferred until the next Executive meeting.

11 **DRAFT SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN – COMMENTS OF SCRUTINY** (See pages 66-67)

- RESOLVED:**
1. The comments of the Education, Youth and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee on the School Organisation Plan, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report were considered, alongside the comments made by the Education Officer that addressed the highlighted concerns/issues. A written response to be provided by 7th December, 2003.

12 **DRAFT SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN** (see pages 68-138)

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the draft School Organisation Plan 2003-2008 be published for statutory consultation, subject to approval by Council Assembly.

2. That the recommendations of the Executive be referred to Council Assembly for decision (the School Organisation Plan forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework).

13 **LOCAL NATURE RESERVE** (see pages 139-146)

RESOLVED:

1. That final approval be given and the statutory designation of All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead as a 'Local Nature Reserve' (LNR) be enacted.
2. That evidence is given of the Local Nature Reserve designation by the signing of a formal declaration at the end of the report upon, which the Council seal is to be applied.
3. That details of this designation be referred to the Nunhead and Peckham Rye Community Council for their information.

14 **REPORT ON TOILETS IN PECKHAM** (see pages 147-148)

RESOLVED:

1. That the failure of the previous Labour administration to replace the Peckham Town Centre Toilets is regretted.
2. That it be noted that Nunhead and Peckham Rye was given the most generous allocation in the borough from the Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund and it is believed that this provides a suitable source of funding for a replacement public toilet if that is what residents and members desire.

15 **THE DISTRICT AUDITORS INTERIM ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER AND SAS610 REPORT** (See pages 149-169)

The Executive recorded their thanks for the work undertaken by the Assistant Chief Executive (Performance and Strategy) and the Chief Finance Officer in this area.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Interim Annual Audit Letter and SAS610 report be noted and the SAS610 be referred to Council Assembly for information.
2. That the District Auditor's comments about improvements in performance as set out on page 2 of the letter were welcomed. Officers were congratulated on the progress made on grant and account claims for this year.
3. That the Audit Commission independently reviews the Council's procurement strategy and contract standing orders, if possible before they come to the Executive, to ensure that best practice is met and that previous concerns have been addressed.

This report was not circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The Chair agreed to consider this item as urgent because of the need to comply with the statutory timetable for setting the Council's budget for 2004/05.

RESOLVED:

1. That the preliminary forecasts of resources and spending for the next three years be noted.
2. That officers be instructed to develop and bring to next month's Executive, effective procurement plans geared towards obtaining significant discounts on the acquisition of goods, services and assets through better negotiation and contracting and the removal of waste and duplication in procurement processes.
3. That officers be instructed to prepare detailed growth proposals which reflect the Executive's prioritisation of community safety bids. These should be included in a report to the Executive in December following the announcement of the local government settlement.
4. That in principle agreement that education growth should be fully passported in the 2004/05 budget be given and that the Government be called to ensure that education in Southwark is fully funded and that there is no repetition of this year's under-funding fiasco.
5. That it be noted that the Deputy Prime Minister wrote to the Leader of the Council recently to emphasise the Council's requirement to fulfill the Government's liveability agenda, yet did not offer the Council any additional resources to meet this agenda. Executive agreed that this is yet another example of Government diktak that is not matched by cash.
6. That it be noted that the Treasury revenue forecast implies a 6% council tax increase, whilst local government ministers insist that only inflationary increase in council tax is required. Executive thereby notes the government's hypocrisy and recommends that Scrutiny examine the above figures in more detail.
7. That the potentially dire consequence in London of increasing council tax, an unfair tax that hits the poor and vulnerable over three times harder than the rich, be noted.

8. That the Government's current review of the system of local government taxation and the banding of current council tax, be noted and that the latter alone could double council tax levels over the next four years.
9. That the Executive support the Liberal Democrats campaign to scrap the outdated, unfair and complex Council Tax and replace it with a much fairer system of local income tax, which would take account of a person's ability to pay. It is further believed that introducing a local income tax would shift power to local communities and away from the controlling hands of this Labour government, revitalising local democracy
10. That the Labour Government is called upon to abolish council tax in favour of fairer local taxation system and restore an element of local authority control over business rates.

17 **BERMONDSEY SPA REGENERATION AREA SITES: E,F,H,S & U (E-U) – CHANGE OF LEAD DEVELOPER** (See pages 186-193)

This report was not circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The Chair agreed to consider this item as urgent because the recommendations of the report and the report contents have actions which were dependent on third party timetables which, if not enacted could result in the loss, postponement of those resources upon which they rely. A deferral of the report would also delay the completion of contracts and the resulting outcomes, including capital receipts which have been budgeted for this financial year.

RESOLVED:

1. That approval be given to the selection of Hyde Housing Association Limited as the lead partner of the preferred Development Team for sites E-U Bermondsey Spa.
2. That the Director of Regeneration be given delegated authority to agree the Heads of Terms and that the Borough Solicitor progress contracts through to exchange and completion.
3. That in the event of a failure to conclude contracts with Hyde Housing Association Limited within a reasonable period of up to 4 months, approval be given to the re-market Sites E – U with a parallel application for planning permission.

18 **BEST VALUE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY** (See pages 194-233)

This report was not circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The Chair agreed to consider this item as urgent because the recommendations identify future priorities for key areas of work which will impact on the current business planning cycle. Additionally the report also recommends the amalgamation of the Police Partnership Team with the Community Safety Unit, which has budget implications for both organisations. In order to release funds from the MPS to fund the new post as outlined in the report and transfer funds to the Council, a business case has to be made before the end of October.

RESOLVED:

1. The actions proposed by the Safer Southwark Partnership (SSP) to improve the effectiveness of the Council and its partners in tackling disorder:
 - a) Improve effectiveness of the Safer Southwark Partnership by:
 - Re-defining the role and structure of the Safer Southwark Partnership so that it provides strategic leadership and direction for the partnership and holds the sub-groups accountable for delivery of the crime and disorder strategy. The Safer Southwark Partnership to continue to meet quarterly.
 - Establish a new Performance Group to coordinate across the theme groups, membership to include chairs of the theme groups and key agencies and Assistant Chief Executive (Performance and Strategy) (see appendix A). Performance Group to meet monthly.
 - Reviewing the membership of the Safer Southwark Partnership to ensure that agencies are represented by individuals at the right level who have the capacity to make decisions.
 - Rationalising the theme groups, appointing new Chairs where appropriate and providing the Safer Southwark Partnership theme groups with effective support.
 - b) Improve performance management across the Safer Southwark Partnership through piloting the Home Office self assessment framework.
 - c) Restructure the Community Safety Unit so that it provides a strategic lead within which Departments will deliver services to tackle crime and disorder and performance manages community safety work across the Council. This will be done by:
 - Merging the Community Safety Unit and the police partnership unit.

- Creating new posts of Deputy Head of Community Safety to act as performance co-ordinator for the Safer Southwark Partnership and Anti-Social Behaviour co-ordinator, funded in part from the policy partnership budget.
- Identifying individuals within the merged team to support each area of Safer Southwark Partnership work.

Consultation with staff on the new structure will take place in September and October 2003.

- d) Ensure a consistent , whole council approach to tackling community safety, and in particular anti-social behaviour through the following measures:
- Requiring each council department to identify a lead officer for community safety (this should normally be at second tier level).
 - The appointment of an Anti-Social Behaviour co-ordinator (as an internal secondment) who will produce the anti-social behaviour strategy and ensure that within council departments there is a clear link between the strategic and operational delivery.
 - The Head of Community Safety will be ultimately responsible for the delivery of the anti-social strategy within the Council. Departments will need to ensure that operational delivery fits within the overall anti-social behaviour strategy and link to the Anti-Social Behaviour co-ordinator and to report performance management through him to the Head of Community Safety.
 - Southwark Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (SASBU) needs to be seen as part of the Council's overall anti-social behaviour 'service' and should report to the Head of Community Safety on overall strategy and performance management.
- e) Re-prioritise work around anti-social behaviour, hate crime, serious and violent crime, drug related crime and fear of crime as set out in the report.

19 **NOMINATION OF SOUTHWARK COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO SOUTH LONDON GALLERY TRUSTEE LTD** (see pages 234-236)

This report was not circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The Chair agreed to consider this item as urgent because the Trustees expect to meet on the 26th October which is before the next Executive meeting on 4th November, 2003. A delay would mean that it would be at least another month before Council members could participate in decisions made by the Trustee.

RESOLVED: 1. That Councillor Catherine Bowman be appointed as the Liberal/Democrat group representative to be one of the Trustees of the South London Gallery Ltd; the Labour and Conservative Group to confirm one member.

20 **FUNDING FOR SOUTHWARK GROUP OF TENANTS ORGANISATION (SGTO)** (see pages 237-239)

This report was not circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The Chair agreed to accept this item as urgent because without additional funding SGTO would be unable to meet their ongoing running costs and would have to consider closure.

RESOLVED:

1. That interim funding up to £6,000, from the Tenant Fund to Southwark Group of Tenant Organisation be agreed subject to monthly expenditure reports being submitted to the Strategic Director of Housing and a more detailed breakdown of the estimated costs of postage.
2. That the Executive will not be minded to agree any further funding for Southwark Group of Tenant Organisation until substantial progress can be made on agreeing the draft Vision for the Best Value Review of Tenant and Resident Involvement and the Tenant Fund.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9, Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

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

MINUTES

The closed minutes of the meetings held on the 9th September, 2003 were approved as a correct record.

1 **BERMONDSEY SPA REGENERATION AREA SITES: E, F, S & U (E-U) – CHANGE OF LEAD DEVELOPER**

The open decision in respect of this report is set out under item 17 of the open section of the minutes.

2 **EXECUTIVE APPROVAL FOR A VARIATION TO THE CONTRACT COVERING CANADA ESTATE PHASES 1, 3 AND 4**

The Executive agreed to the variation to the Canada Estate contract for phases 1,3 and 4.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER 2003.

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