



Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 20 November 2012 at 4.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Peter John (Chair)
Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Veronica Ward

1. APOLOGIES

All Members were present. The Leader reported that Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive had given her apologies.

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

The chair gave notice that the following late items of business would be considered for reasons of urgency to be specified in the relevant minute:

- Item 7 – Deputation Requests

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

No representations were received.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

Question to Councillor Catherine McDonald – Ms Sue Plain

"Is Councillor McDonald aware that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) found London Care Wandsworth to be failing in 3 areas in November 2011, that they were inaccurate in the action plans they provided to the CQC in May 2012 and still had not remedied their training provision, only satisfying the CQC 12 months later. Is Councillor McDonald aware that CQC have issued warnings to the Holloway and Basildon branches of London Care for similar and more serious failings?"

Councillor McDonald stated that she was aware of the history of CQC inspection in respect of Southwark, including the fact that in September this year London Care were assessed and found to be fully compliant in all domains. She said she could not comment on performance and regulatory compliance in the Holloway and Basildon branches, which operated separately to Southwark and were subject to individual registration and inspection of their regulated activity.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Residents of Kinglake Estate, London SE17

The deputation spokesperson informed the cabinet of the problems being experienced on the estate in respect of anti social behaviour and criminal activity and the negative impact it was having on the lives of the residents. A lot of the activity took place within the stairwells of the block; the residents were therefore seeking the installation of a door entry system to control access to the individual blocks.

The spokesperson submitted a petition which had been signed by tenants and homeowners in respect of the above.

RESOLVED:

That officers bring back a report to cabinet within one month setting out options.

Southwark Residential Home Care Workers

The deputation spokesperson highlighted issues faced by the residential home care workers due to the terms and conditions of their employment, the way they were required to provide the service and how it impacted on their clients. The deputation implored the cabinet to sign up to the Ethical Home Care Charter which they stated, would enable a service to be provided based on client need.

RESOLVED:

That officers bring a report back to cabinet within two months on the feasibility of signing up to the Ethical Home Care Charter.

8. FUTURE OF LIVESEY MUSEUM

A representative from Treasure House, Ms Helen Webb attended the meeting and addressed the cabinet. Ms Webb informed the cabinet of the background to the setting up of Treasure House, the services they provided and how they would fit in with the continued legacy of the Livesey Museum in respect of service to the local community. Ms Webb explained that Treasure House was a unique provision in Southwark, with a remit to work with those students most difficult to engage in education.

RESOLVED:

1. That Treasure House be confirmed as the preferred organisation for future use of the former Livesey Museum subject to a cy-pres scheme being agreed by the Charity Commission.
2. That officers progress negotiations to grant a lease for the former Livesey Museum to the Treasure House organisation for the purposes set out in paragraphs 24 - 33 of the report.

9. REGENERATION RISK REGISTERS AND ARCHIVE RECORDS OF HOUSING ESTATES (REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)

Councillor Catherine Bowman, chair of the overview and scrutiny committee presented the report to cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of overview & scrutiny committee in respect of risk registers and archive records of housing estates be noted and that a report be brought back to cabinet by February 2013 in order to respond to the committee's recommendations.

10. ECONOMIC WELLBEING STRATEGY FOR SOUTHWARK 2012 - 20 AND RESPONSE TO THE FINAL SCRUTINY REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTHWARK

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed economic wellbeing strategy (Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.

2. That it be noted that implementation plans will be developed collaboratively across all council services and with our private, public and third sector partners.
3. That the additional information provided as a specific response to the recommendations of the final scrutiny report on employment and unemployment in Southwark be noted.

11. VIOLENT CRIME STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress made in delivering the recommendations set out in the violent crime strategy 2010-15 be noted.
2. That the significant reductions in most serious violence offences be noted. In 2011/12, most serious violence reduced by 38% (270 fewer recorded crimes). This has continued throughout the first six months of 2012/13 with a further 6% reduction compared to the same period in 2011.
3. That it be noted that the cost of violent offences (with and without injury) in Southwark has reduced by £1.5m in the first six months of 2012/13 according to the Home Office economic cost of crime figures calculator.
4. That the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, approaches senior officials in the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime, to ensure that Southwark receives the policing numbers and level of resources required to continue its progress in addressing violent crime in the borough.

12. CUSTOMER ACCESS STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

That the Customer Access Strategy set out at Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.

13. MOVING TOWARDS A PRIMARY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

1. That the forecast demand for primary places and associated need for the creation of additional capacity within Southwark's primary estate be noted.
2. That the financial implications of the necessary expansion be noted.
3. That it be noted that the cabinet member for children's services shall confirm those schools to be subject to further development of permanent expansion proposals and a co-ordinated fabric investment programme following the conclusion of further feasibility assessments.

4. That it be noted that the strategic director of children's and adults services will approve a programme of temporary expansion for 2013 by December 2012.

14. HOME CARE ANNUAL CONTRACT PERFORMANCE REPORT

RESOLVED:

Decision of the Cabinet

1. That it be noted that the delivery of the contracts over the first twelve months has met the council's requirements and that the council and providers remain committed to working together to continually improve the quality and consistency of home care delivery.

Decision of the Leader of the Council

2. That cabinet continue to review and approve the annual performance report.

15. GATEWAY 1 - PROCUREMENT STRATEGY APPROVAL - SUPPORTED TRAVEL SERVICE FOR CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS SERVICES

RESOLVED:

That the procurement strategy for children's and adults services transport, namely to undertake a competitive tender process to set up a framework arrangement to provide taxi transport services for a period of four (4) years commencing on 1 September 2013, at an estimated value of up to £6.7m be approved.

16. COUNCIL TAX TECHNICAL REFORMS

RESOLVED:

1. That the detail of the intended technical reform changes to council tax legislation with regard to the new discretion to amend certain council tax discounts and exemptions be noted.
2. That it be noted that council tax exemptions, Class A and C are being abolished from 1 April 2013 and replaced with local discounts.
3. That council assembly be recommended to agree the introduction of a local discount to replace class A exemptions set at zero percent from 1 April 2013 for properties where there are major repairs or structural alterations.
4. That council assembly be recommended to agree the introduction of a local discount to replace class C exemptions set at 100 percent for up to a maximum of 2 months from 1 April 2013 for empty and unfurnished properties, subject to a review within March 2014.

5. That council assembly be recommended to agree the introduction of a local discount of zero per cent from 1 April 2013 for empty (unoccupied) and furnished properties.
6. That council assembly be recommended to agree the introduction of an empty homes premium resulting in council tax of 150 percent for properties that have been empty and unfurnished for more than two years from 1 April 2013.

NOTE: In accordance with overview and scrutiny procedure rule 22.1(a) (budget and policy framework) these decisions are not subject to call-in.

17. POLICY AND RESOURCE STRATEGY 2013/14 TO 2015/16: SCENE SETTING REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the changes to local government funding arrangements outlined in the report be noted.
2. That the continuing uncertainty over the financial position for 2013/14 and future years, and uncertainty over the date of the provisional finance settlement which will not be announced until after the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivers his autumn statement on 5 December be noted.
3. That the provisional 2013/14 budget from February 2011, updated for known changes be noted.
4. That commitment to the ten fairer future promises as set out in the council plan and medium term resources strategy (MTRS) and the seven budget principles to guide and underpin the work of officers in arriving at a balanced budget proposal for February 2013 be reaffirmed.
5. That officers be instructed to continue to work on budget options for a balanced budget in 2013/14 for presentation to the cabinet in January 2013, for onward recommendation to council assembly.

18. REVENUE MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER 2, 2012/13, INCLUDING TREASURY MANAGEMENT

RESOLVED:

1. That the following be noted:
 - the general fund outturn forecast for 2012/13 and the resultant forecast net movement in reserves by department
 - the housing revenue account's (HRA) forecast outturn for 2012/13 and resulting forecast movement in reserves
 - the treasury management activity for the first quarter of 2012/13.

2. That the forecast performance for the council tax and business rates collection fund be noted.
3. That the general fund budget movements that exceed £250k, as shown in Appendix A of the report be approved.

19. DISPOSAL OF 155-161 GORDON ROAD SE15

RESOLVED:

1. That the disposal of the council's freehold interest in 155-161 Gordon Road, Nunhead, SE15 ("the Property"), as shown edged black on the plan attached to the report, to Wandle Housing Association Ltd, or a related company, on the terms set out in the accompanying closed agenda report be approved, subject to any further negotiations considered necessary by the head of property.
2. That should the sale not proceed to completion within a reasonable time as determined by the head of property, the Property be offered for sale on the open market and then sold on terms to be approved by the head of property for the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained.

20. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

RESOLVED:

Urgent help on St. George's Road

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below and the comments of the strategic director of environment and leisure contained in the officer report be noted.

1. That council assembly deeply regrets the tragic and devastating death of 5 year old Hichame Bouadimi on St George's Road and sends deepest condolences to his family, friends and school.
2. That council assembly recognises that there is much work to be done to make St George's Road safer including looking at the railings, speed limits and other traffic calming measures, and councillors from all parties call on cabinet and Transport for London to help with these issues.
3. That council assembly appreciates that, in the meantime, parents and teachers from the three schools and residents of the many homes on St George's Road are very distressed about the dangers on this road and calls on cabinet for a lollipop person to be funded from the council's contingency funds and placed on this road immediately and until the longer term safety measures are implemented.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

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.

21. MINUTES

The closed minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

22. FUTURE OF LIVESEY MUSEUM

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this report. See item 8 for decision.

23. DISPOSAL OF 155-161 GORDON ROAD SE15

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this report. See item 19 for decision.

The meeting ended at 6.09pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 21 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2012.

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.