

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Members of the Cabinet

Councillor Merrick Cockell - Leader (Chairman)
Councillor Daniel Moylan, Deputy Leader, Planning Policy, Housing Policy
and Transportation
Councillor Fiona Buxton - Housing Services, Adult Social Care, Public
Health and Environmental Health
Councillor David Champion, B.A. (Arch.), Dip.T.P., F.R.I.B.A., M.B.C.S. -
Corporate Services
Councillor James Husband - Education and Libraries
Councillor Warwick Lightfoot - Community Safety
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown - Regeneration, Environmental
Management and Leisure
Councillor Shireen Ritchie - Family and Children's Services
Councillor Paul Warrick - Service Improvement

Others in Attendance

Councillor John Cox, Chairman of Family and Children's Services OSC
Councillor John Corbet-Singleton, Lead Member
Councillor Dr Iain Hanham, Lead Member
Councillor Barry Phelps, Vice-Chairman of Cabinet and Corporate OSC
Councillor Christopher Buckmaster, Chairman of Health OSC

PART A (PUBLIC) MINUTES

A1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Thomas
Fairhead and Councillor Miss Weatherhead (Lead Member).

A2 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DECLARATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992

No declarations of interest were made.

A3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2006

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

A4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME POLICY AND COMPENSATION FOR EARLY RETIREMENT AND EARLY TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Councillor Moylan introduced the report and drew attention to the Pensions Sub-Committee's purpose to ensure the pension scheme policy was compliant with age discrimination legislation and in addition, to balance the interests of employees with good management and the interests of the Council Tax payer. The report proposed flexible retirement but under very strict limitations and controls.

RESOLVED -

That the revised draft policy in Appendix 3 be submitted to the Administrative Committee for their 6 December 2006 meeting for approval.

Action by: EDFISP

A5 MEDIUM TERM PLANNING - BUDGET AND SERVICE PROSPECTS

The Executive Director for Finance, Information Systems and Property presented the report, noting the reduction in the amount likely to be required from the PCT next year. The budget figures would be revised again once the grant settlement details had been finalised.

Members noted that the security required to support the binding legal agreement with the PCT, requested at the Cabinet meeting on 27 July, had not been secured as the PCT said they were unable to provide any property as security for the agreement. However, the Executive Director for Housing, Health and Adult Social Care clarified that the Section 31 agreement would include a schedule of dates when the Council would be repaid by the PCT.

The Director of Law and Administration also confirmed that the agreement with the PCT is legally binding and so long as they are not in deficit and have the financial means to pay, the agreement would be enforceable against them, if necessary, through the courts. The benefit of the security required is to cover the situation where the PCT may be in deficit and not have the financial means to repay the Council.

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive and the Executive Director for Housing, Health and Adult Social Care confirmed that from their experience of working in partnership with the PCT, the risk of the

PCT not having the financial means to repay under the agreement is low.

RESOLVED -

To note the report as the background to preparation for the Draft Cabinet Business Plan.

Action by: EDFISP

A6 EQUALITY SCHEME AND ACTION PLAN

Councillor Warrick introduced the report noting changes by IDeA that required greater detail and coverage in the assessment process for the Equalities Standard. Details of the new expectations had been sought but were not yet forthcoming. However, it was likely that they would mean the assessment process would not be completed by March 2007, as previously planned.

Members noted that the last line of page 7 of the report should refer to "national and local media".

The Director of Strategy and Service Improvement undertook to clarify that consultation with existing service users of Bina Gardens would be undertaken as part of the wider Parks Strategy.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the Cabinet Member for Service Improvement be delegated powers to approve the final versions of the Equality Scheme and Action Plan; and
- (ii) That the new requirement for external validation of claims to have achieved Level 5 of the Equality Standard be noted, and the Equality Scheme and Action Plan contain an amended commitment to attain Level 5 of the Equality Standard during 2007-08.

**Action by:
DSSI**

A7 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

Councillor Paget-Brown introduced the draft report which had been widely circulated and had attracted a number of responses. He noted that it represented a restrictive policy in accordance with the legislation which ruled out any wider interpretation of policy.

The Licensing Team Manager advised that the Gambling Commission's remit included the protection of vulnerable people, prevention of crime and aspects such as the fair and open operation of casinos. GAMCARE was the agency responsible for protecting children from gambling. Information on the final policy and

applications for gambling licences would be advertised on the Council's website.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the consultation process used in the preparation of the draft statement be noted and approved;
- (ii) That the comments and responses in Appendix B be noted;
- (iii) That the amendments to the draft Statement of Gambling Policy, attached as Appendix C be agreed; and
- (iv) That Council be recommended to approve the amended draft Statement of Gambling Policy as set out in Appendix C.

Action by:
EDTELS

A8 ACHIEVING REDUCTIONS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Councillor Buxton in presenting the report was pleased at the reduction in the number of residents in temporary accommodation. She noted that additional income was to be invested in further improving the service.

Councillor Ritchie welcomed the successful efforts to reduce under-occupation and the Executive Director for Housing, Health and Adult Social Care undertook to provide her with details of the number of foster families able to obtain accommodation large enough to meet their needs through the exchange scheme.

RESOLVED -

- (1) To note the progress of the initiatives to date;
- (2) To note the contents of this report and the implications for the Council's use of temporary accommodation for the financial year 2007-08;
- (3) To note it is expected that initiatives outlined in this report can be funded from the income from the temporary accommodation budget and, on that basis, the virement will be accounted for in the Estimates Report for 2007-08.

Action by:
EDHHASC

A9 BEST VALUE REVIEWS 2000/01 - 2004/05: ANNUAL PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENTS ACHIEVING REDUCTIONS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Councillor Warrick was pleased with the progress achieved overall and highlighted the views from officers that Best Value reviews proved useful working documents for the future development of services. He noted that in Appendix C (page 4) the number of actions achieved in year three of the Mental Health Service reviews should read 33 with eight not yet achieved. The Borough Valuer was to report to Cabinet Members on the shortfall in savings from the Property Management review.

RESOLVED -

That the progress of the reviews to date be noted.

Action by: BV

A10 SENIOR MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Cabinet noted that Ms Brill was to join the Council as Executive Director for Transport, Environment and Leisure Services in the new year. The Town Clerk and Chief Executive announced that the Executive Director for Finance, Information Systems and Property would also serve as the Deputy Town Clerk for the next two years.

RESOLVED -

That Council be recommended to place on record its sincere appreciation of the loyal service given by Mr. Stroud to the Royal Borough and to wish him a long and happy retirement.

Action by: TC&CE

A11 ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN PUBLIC ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no such items.

A12 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED-

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the proceedings by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted, as follows:

B1 - EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2006

Public summary of decision:

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

B2 - KENSINGTON TOWN HALL CUSTOMER SERVICES CENTRE - AWARD OF CONTRACT

Public summary of decision:

Officers were authorised to accept the tender of Modus Interiors Limited in the sum of £1,780,272-90 for the works, and approved the additional funding of £291,000 from the Benefits and Council Tax new IT system capital project and £631,784 from the Car Parking Reserve.

The meeting ended at 7.38pm

CHAIRMAN

