

At a meeting of the Cabinet and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee held at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX at 6.30pm on 18 July 2016

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor Pat Mason (Chairman)
Councillor James Husband (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Barbara Campbell
Councillor Emma Dent Coad
Councillor Daniel Moylan
Councillor Monica Press
Councillor Andrew Rinker

Others in attendance

Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Leader of the Council)
Kevin Bartle (Interim Director of Finance)
Jacqui Hird (Scrutiny Manager)
Nicholas Holgate (Town Clerk)
Manpreet Kanda (Senior Planning Officer)
Rob Krzyszowski (Team Leader, Planning Policy)
Lyn Myers (Group Finance Manager)
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Local Services)
Gavin Wilson (Governance Administrator)

A G E N D A

A1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Berrill-Cox, Lindsay and Nicholls.

A2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Press declared that she was a trustee of the Westway Trust.

Cllr Mason declared that, with regard to the Venture Centre Anchor tenancy Key Decision on the July Forward Plan, he was a Golborne Ward Councillor for the area where the Venture Centre was based and had spoken to the Centre management and the lead Council officer in the lead-up to the proposed decision.

A3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Further to Minute A9, Kensington and Chelsea Electoral Registration and Empowering Young People to Vote, Cllr Press said that during discussion she had suggested that letting and estate agents should be contacted regarding the inclusion of electoral registration forms in their lettings and sales contract packs.

Following an enquiry by Cllr Press further to Minute 6 regarding Learning from Complaints, Mr Holgate said that relevant material could be presented to the Committee's next meeting, subject to input from the Councillor.

Action by: Mr Holgate/Mr Carver to note

A4 ADDRESS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Paget-Brown commented that the new Prime Minister's appointment of a Minister for London was a welcome move. Replying to several advance questions from the Chairman, he referred to a helpful conversation which he had had with the Mayor of London a few weeks earlier, at which the subject of the two Crossrail stations in the Borough had featured, and he considered that a further discussion before long would be useful. Referring to a meeting earlier that day with Valerie Shawcross, Deputy Mayor of London for Transport, Cllr Moylan supported the suggestion of a further meeting and urged that broader arguments than the provision of additional housing should be put forward in support of the Chelsea station. The Leader said that, since his meeting, he had written to the Mayor of London, putting forward the wider case for Crossrail stations and was seeking a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the way forward. He agreed with Cllr Moylan's suggestion that, with Lord Adonis being unavailable, a meeting with Sir John Armitt would be useful.

The Leader referred to the Council's survey in connection with the Notting Hill Carnival, to which around 2,500 responses, mostly broadly in favour of the event, had been received. He also alluded to the role of the media in its portrayal of aspects of Carnival and the impact this often had on public perceptions of the event. He stressed the importance of providing effective security arrangements, given the heightened risk of terror attacks.

The Leader said that the Council continued to press ahead with its regeneration programme and referred to a recent Cabinet visit to the Silchester Garages site, which had impressed Members with the quality

and style of the development. He referred to discussion of the Charter at a recent meeting he had had with West London citizens and to discussions which Cllr Weale and Mr Holgate were having with the West London Alliance on a Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

The Leader advised that bidding was taking place through this plan for a pot of NHS England money to allow adult social care and hospital care to be managed better so as to achieve improved admission and discharge arrangements and reduce demand for health care through better prevention.

In response to points raised by Cllr Dent Coad in relation to the criteria used for petitions to the Council, the Leader said that he understood that the Royal Borough had the lowest threshold (1,500) of any local authority in London for hearing petitions at full Council. He considered that this threshold (which equated to around a quarter of an average ward's population) was about right and he did not consider it appropriate to revise the existing guidance on petitions.

In response to an enquiry from Cllr Dent Coad regarding progress with development of the Edenham site and the role of NHS England, the Leader suggested that she speak to Cllr Feilding-Mellen or Mrs Johnson. Cllr Dent Coad indicated that she would follow this up, but referred to difficulties experienced in arranging a meeting with Mrs Johnson due to the latter's busy diary.

Cllr Press referred to a useful pre-Carnival meeting organised by Ms Pentelow and suggested that it would be helpful for more Councillors and relevant officers to see the presentation which had been given. The Leader recognised the importance of pre- and post-Carnival meetings being held and agreed with Cllr Press's suggestion that one of the Council's Media and Comms staff should attend the post-Carnival meeting.

Action by: Mr Fitzpatrick

Responding to a point raised by Cllr Press concerning the varying geographical extent of consultations carried out by the Council's officers, the Leader said that suitable detail of proposed consultation should feature in reports on individual projects presented for approval to Cabinet. Mr Redpath explained the role and functions of the Consultation Team in PPU and the assistance it could offer to Business Groups.

Responding to a plea from Cllr Husband for the recommendations of the report of the Procurement Scrutiny Working Group to be taken account of, the Leader said that he was very grateful to the Working Group for its work and hoped that Cabinet would have a full discussion of the report and its many recommendations. A discussion with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for procurement would also be needed.

Cllr Moylan referred to a number of instances in the Capital Programme where there were significant variances as a result of slippage, resulting in the delayed delivery of schemes. Responding, Mr Holgate pointed out that there was a wide variety of reasons for the variances and explained why particular projects were subject to delay. He gave a number of examples of development (e.g Fox Primary School Expansion and the Kensington Leisure Centre) where slippage to the next financial year had occurred without necessarily delaying delivery of the scheme.

In response to Cllr Moylan's enquiry regarding how effective the centralisation of project management within the Property team a few years previously had been, Mr Holgate replied that the team had kept projects to schedule, delivering major schemes such as Ark Brunel Academy.

The Committee thanked the Leader for attending the meeting.

A5 POLICE BRIEFING ON A FATAL STABBING ON PORTOBELLO ROAD, 3 JULY 2016

The Committee noted that, since two persons had been charged in connection with the fatal stabbing, the case was *sub-judice* and Detective Superintendent D'Orsi would not, therefore, be attending to report on the case.

A6 REPORT OF THE PROCUREMENT SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

The Committee noted that the report had been re-classified as a Part B item as it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

A7 CORPORATE SERVICES OUTTURN REPORT 2015/16

Officers responded orally to a number of specific queries.

Regarding an enquiry from Cllr Press concerning the £100,000 budget carry-forward for Corporate Finance Salaries related to Managed Services implementation support, Mr Holgate advised that the necessary data now existed to allow a claim to be made for costs incurred in the previous financial year and in respect of reimbursement for tasks which the Council was having to undertake as BT was unable to provide the service they were contracted to.

A8 S106 PLANNING OBLIGATIONS: FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr Krzyszowski provided a brief overview of the key points contained in the report. In response to a point raised by Cllr Dent Coad regarding the time-limited nature of developers' S106 contributions, Mr Krzyszowski said that the earliest 'use by' date was 2020. He confirmed that the Council had not had to return any monies to developers as a

result of time-limits having been exceeded.

In response to an enquiry from Cllr Moylan concerning the time-limit and expenditure for the Public Art contribution in respect of No.1 Kensington Gardens, Mr Krzyszowski said that a written response would be provided.

Action by: Mr Krzyszowski

In response to a request from Cllr Dent Coad, Mr Krzyszowski agreed to provide a breakdown of developments' affordable housing contributions and 'use by' dates.

Action by: Mr Krzyszowski

The report was received and noted.

A9 FUTURE AGENDA AND SCRUTINY ITEMS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WISH TO SUGGEST

The Chairman encouraged Members to consider suitable matters for future consideration by the Committee.

A10 TRI-BOROUGH UPDATE

Mr Holgate said that there were no matters to report to the meeting.

A11 CABINET MEETING – 21 JULY

The Committee noted that discussion of matters in relation to the budget had taken place earlier in the meeting during the Leader's Address.

There were no additional matters which Members wished to raise in relation to the business for the forthcoming meeting of the Cabinet.

A12 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - AS AT 8 JULY

Cllr Press drew attention to the fact that the Forward Plan for the period July to October contained no key decisions for implementation in September. Ms Hird pointed out that this was not unusual, given the preceding period of the August 'recess'.

The Forward Plan was received and noted.

A13 OTHER URGENT ITEMS

There were no items raised.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING:

RESOLVED – to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following specific items of business on the grounds that they may involve

the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended:

B1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 20 JUNE 2016

The confidential minutes were signed as a correct record.

B2 MANAGED SERVICES PROGRAMME UPDATE

Mr Bartle advised about progress with the programme.

B3 REPORT OF THE PROCUREMENT SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

The draft final report of the Working Group was discussed.

It was agreed that relevant officers should be asked to suggest shortly any amendments they considered necessary, prior to agreement being sought with the Chairman, in consultation with Cllr Rinker, Chairman of the Working Group. The report would then be circulated to the appropriate Cabinet Member, Cllr Warrick, who would be invited to attend the Committee's meeting at which the final report was discussed. The final report would be considered by Cabinet.

No other matters were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9.03pm.

Chairman