

PRESENT

Cabinet Members

Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell (Leader of the Council), Chairman
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Deputy Leader, Transportation,
Environment and Leisure)
Councillor Tim Ahern (Planning Policy)
Councillor Elizabeth Campbell (Education and Libraries)
Councillor Timothy Coleridge (Housing and Property)
Councillor Rock Feilding-Mellen (Civil Society)
Councillor Julie Mills (Adult Social Care, Public Health and Environmental
Health)
Councillor the Rt. Hon. the Baroness Ritchie (Family and Children's
Services)

Other Members in attendance

Councillor Judith Blakeman (Chairman of Cabinet and Corporate Services
Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Fiona Buxton (Lead Member)
Councillor Joanne Gardner (Chairman of Public Realm Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Will (Lead Member)

PART A (PUBLIC) MINUTES

A1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lightfoot.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Feilding-Mellen to his first meeting as Cabinet Member for Civil Society and Councillor Paget-Brown to his first meeting as Deputy Leader.

A2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DECLARATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1972

There were none.

A11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

B1. MARLBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION PROJECT

Public summary of the decision:

Agreed to adopt the recommendations set out in the report.

B2. 195 PORTOBELLO ROAD, W11 - NEW LETTING

Public summary of the decision:

Cabinet agreed to approve the grant of a new lease at 195 Portobello Road, W11 2ED on the terms set out in the exempt appendix.

The meeting then went back into open session for the remainder of the proceedings.

A2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DECLARATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1972

There were none.

A3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

A4. TRI-BOROUGH WORKING

This report worked up the proposals considered by this Authority, the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster City Council in the report, 'Bold Ideas for Challenging Times' considered at the Cabinet meeting in February.

In introducing the report, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that it was intended to show progress across the five areas of joint working and that it was hoped to bring firm plans showing a move from design to refinement. Officers were working up the proposals in more detail, including robust costed business plans for each service and developing service operating models consistent with the sovereignty guarantee. He drew members' attention to the comments from Scrutiny Committees, staff and the general public which all showed broad consent with the idea of joint working.

He highlighted the main areas that Cabinet was being asked to note

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- (i) firm proposals for a three borough library service;
- (ii) firm proposals for combining fostering and adoption and youth offending services;
- (iii) firm proposals for the commissioning of adult social care and GP consortia;
- (iv) to mandate continued discussions with CLCH trust, with a view to reporting firm proposals to Cabinet later in the year

He confirmed that the £35m savings target was still viable. There was no clear indication at present of the delivery timelines but it was proposed that the final report in June would have more detailed projections.

RESOLVED - Cabinet agreed to endorse the report in full and in particular:

- (i) to note the positive public response to the proposals;
- (ii) to note the draft business case highlights continued confidence in achieving £35m savings target;

Adult Social Care

- (iii) to mandate continued negotiations with Central London Community Health around integrated health and social care services, with a view to putting before Cabinets firm proposals later in the year;
- (iv) to mandate continued discussions with GP consortia around joint commissioning arrangements;
- (v) to note the intention to put proposals for a single Director of Adults' commissioning and for the creation of a combined commissioning hub to June Cabinets;

Children's Services

- (vi) to note firm proposals for combined Fostering and Adoption and Youth Offending services, and for a single Local Safeguarding Children's Board - recommendations to endorse proposals to be put to June Cabinets;
- (vii) to note that firm proposals around a single management team to be recommended to June Cabinets;
- (viii) to note that proposals for a combined Education Service are being reviewed to ensure that they reflect current policy requirements and that a further report will be brought to June Cabinets;

Corporate Services

- (ix) to note progress to date in developing proposals and to note the intention to bring more detailed cases particularly for combined HR, IT and Finance services to June Cabinets;

Libraries

- (x) to note firm proposals around a combined library service and to invite public comment and views from scrutiny committees - recommendations to endorse further developed proposals to be put to June Cabinets; and

Environmental Services

- (xi) to note first stage proposals for a combined RBKC and LBH&F senior management team and plans to begin the process of reconfiguring services, with a view to WCC to later combine as contractual arrangements allow - a more detailed implementation plan to be brought to June Cabinets.

Action by: TCCE

A5. NORTH KENSINGTON ACADEMY AND LEISURE CENTRE

This report provided an update on the Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre project and sought approval to proceed with developing a combined project. It also sought to establish a procurement strategy to deliver the project.

The Chairman highlighted the options open to Members as set out in paragraph 4.1 and drew their attention to the effects on the proposed build should Partnerships for Schools fund the academy for £17.6m. This would lead to a constrained building with little flexibility to develop a sustained school. He referred to residents' expectations in terms of quality of design and that this would need to be considered when looking at the cost implications later in the year. By Christmas, a more definitive idea of what is deliverable on the site would be evident and options on taking this forward would be reported by December, including alternative funding strategies.

RESOLVED - Cabinet agreed -

- (i) That the decision be made in principle to continue to develop a combined Academy and Leisure Centre project;
- (ii) that consent be given to pursuing an independent procurement route, to allow the Royal Borough the freedom and flexibility to develop clearly defined employer's requirements and programme the scheme as is appropriate;

- (iii) that funding of £1,500,000 be made available to develop the scheme to contractor procurement stage and up to £353,000 to provide the Academy Education Development costs, to be agreed between the sponsors; and
- (iv) that once the scheme has been further developed, Property Services will return to Cabinet in December 2011 to present options and confirm budgets for the project.

Action by: EDELS/EDFCS

A6. WARWICK ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

This report updated Cabinet on progress on establishing a new primary school on the Charles House site, Warwick Road, W14. It provided information on the options for identifying the type of school, for the opening date of the school and for procuring the design and construction of the new school. The report sought Cabinet's views on how to progress the school.

In introducing the report, Councillor Campbell stated that this exciting project would be the first primary academy in the borough and would offer a diversity of choice to parents. She hoped that it would offer a specialism for hearing impaired children.

With regard to the proposed design, Cabinet noted that the local authority would be part of the design group and that the criteria for selection of the sponsor would include involvement in the design by the Council.

RESOLVED - Cabinet approved

- (i) the opening of a primary academy led by a sponsor and that discussions commence with the DfE on making an application for an academy and seeking a sponsor;
- (ii) that a further report be submitted in June 2011 on the Statement of Intent for a Primary Academy;
- (iii) that the decision on the lead sponsor be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education and Libraries in consultation with the Leader, following discussions with the DfE sponsor broker.

Action by: EDFCS

A7. PURCHASING POLICE OFFICERS

This report sought Cabinet approval to reduce the number of Police Community Support Officers purchased from the Metropolitan Police Association (MPA) from 76 to 64 and replace them with 10 uniformed Police Constables.

The 'buy one get one free scheme' to recruit more police officers would mean that for each police officer that the Council paid for, the Metropolitan Police would 'match fund' the post and recruit another officer. This would allow the Council to use the new posts to address specific local crime concerns, from tackling anti-social behaviour to targeting burglary or serious youth violence.

Members noted that funding for the scheme could be met from current underspend, which would purchase five police officers at a cost of £255,000 to lever in the five free ones under the offer. However there was no budgetary provision to meet the full costs of the scheme at the end of the three years if the offer ended then and the Council wished to continue purchasing the extra police officers. Should they decide to participate in the scheme, members needed to be confident that savings targets would be met.

Members considered whether it would be prudent to take the saving in the current climate and not participate in the scheme. Conversely the extra police officers would be of benefit to the whole borough and the proposed uses for them as outlined in the report would be very valuable.

During the course of the discussion, Members referred to the good relationship that the current PCSOs had with the local community and that many of the current PCSOs had professed an expressed wish to serve in the borough. Under this scheme, the Council would have real influence over the new police officers which would be very positive for the borough's residents. They discussed the benefits to the borough of additional police officers in lieu of PCSOs, recognising that police officers were less visible but would be a good additional resource in tackling some of the Council's priorities. Members were of the view that the best arrangement for the Council would be a negotiated agreement with the MPA for a reduced number of additional police officers which would allow for the Council to crystallise the savings as well.

RESOLVED - Cabinet agreed -

- (i) to participate in the 'buy one get one free' offer;
- (ii) to delegate authority to the Chief Community Safety Officer to negotiate with the MPA an agreement for six additional police officers;
- (iii) that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Civil Society to agree the roles that the additional police officers should perform;
- (iv) that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Civil Society to review and change the numbers of PCSOs deployed to Safer Neighbourhood Teams;

- (iv) to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Civil Society to approve the final terms of the agreement with the MPA.

Action by: CCSO

A8 2010/11 BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 4

Members noted the forecast £1.9m net shortfall from on-street parking income , which was not regarded as a consistent pattern and the budget was regarded as relatively robust at present.

RESOLVED - Cabinet agreed the following:

Housing, Health and Adult Social Care

- (i) The approval of a carry forward of £454,000 to fund a number of joint proposals with the health authority. The funding has been provided by the Department of Health;
- (ii) a transfer of £400,000 from Business Group underspends to the Severance Reserve;
- (iii) the underspend against the overcrowding grant be carried forward - this will enable the continuation of posts in 2011/12;
- (iv) a virement of £293,000 from underspends in the Adult Social Care budget be approved to meet the costs of redundancies and retirements within Environmental Health;
- (v) the underspend of £50,000 against DEFRA grants in Environmental Health be carried forward to support planned expenditure in 2011/12;
- (vi) the budget for Disabled Facilities Grants in 2010/11 be increased by £113,000 (funded £100,000 from underspends and £13,000 from Department of Health funding);
- (vii) the underspend on planned and responsive maintenance within the Housing Revenue Account be transferred to the Major Repairs Reserve for use on capital works to the housing stock;

Planning and Borough Development

- (viii) the approval of a carry forward of £40,000 to cover the anticipated cost of a new monitoring system;
- (ix) the approval of a carry forward to 2011/12 of £65,000 underspend in Planning and Borough Development to meet a one-off staffing cost arising from the need to extend funding for one staff member for twelve months to allow for a redesign of processes within the Business Group;

Whole Authority

- (x) that any remaining underspend after carry forward requests are finally agreed be transferred to and split equally between the Severance Reserve and the Capital Expenditure Reserve.

Action by: EDFISP

A9. 195 PORTOBELLO ROAD, W11 - NEW LETTING

This report sought Cabinet approval to the Council granting a new lease of vacant retail premises at 195 Portobello Road, W11 2ED.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the grant of a new lease at 195 Portobello Road, W11 2ED on the terms set out in the exempt appendix.

Action by: EDFISP

A10. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS

No further matters were raised under the public or private parts of the agenda.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

Chairman