

# **LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

**07 July 2022 at 2.00 pm**

## **PRESENT:**

<b>Chair:</b>	Councillor Grace Williams	Leader of the Council
<b>Cabinet Members:</b>	Councillor Clyde Loakes	Deputy Leader (Climate and Air Quality)
	Councillor Ahsan Khan	Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration)
	Councillor Naheed Asghar	Portfolio Lead Member - Health and Wellbeing
	Councillor Vicky Ashworth	Portfolio Lead Member - Jobs, Social Inclusion and Equalities
	Councillor Paul Douglas	Portfolio Lead Member - Public Service
	Councillor Khevyn Limbajee	Portfolio Lead Member - Community Safety
	Councillor Louise Mitchell	Portfolio Lead Member - Adults
	Councillor Alistair Strathern	Portfolio Lead Member - Children and Young People
	Councillor Sharon Waldron	Cabinet Commissioner - Customer Experience
	Councillor Elizabeth Baptiste	Cabinet Commissioner - Shaping Places
	Councillor Kizzy Gardiner	Cabinet Commissioner - Youth Hubs and Engagement

(Cabinet Commissioners are appointed by the Leader to assist Cabinet in leading engagement with our community on three key priorities for the Council and to support our borough to recover from the pandemic. These Councillors are not Members of the Cabinet and do not have any voting rights nor decision-making powers.)

## **Officers in Attendance:**

Ian Buckle	Head of Electoral and Democratic Services
Heather Flinders	Strategic Director, People
Anthony Jackson	Democratic Services Officer
Stewart Murray	Strategic Director, Place
Kim Travis	Deputy Monitoring Officer
John Turnbull	Strategic Director, Finance and Governance

## **Others in Attendance**

Bushra Khursid

Member of the public

### **8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Rosalind Dore.

### **9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

### **10. MINUTES OF CABINET**

The minutes of the meeting, held on 9 June 2022, were approved as a correct record.

### **11. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI) - MAKING A LIVING STRATEGY**

The Leader asked that Cabinet mark the anniversary of the 7 July 2005 London bombings. She also referred to the current political uncertainty following the resignation of the Prime Minister which she said was not helpful for the public or local community. The Leader went on to say that cost of living crisis and climate change were already significant concerns and said that the political uncertainty added to that. She confirmed that LBWF would do what it could to address the crisis.

Councillor Ashworth introduced the report and, in doing so, said that the strategy was a Council-wide effort and had taken many years to get to this point. She gave thanks to Heather Flinders, Jonathan Lloyd - Director of Strategy, Insight and Communities, Ben Browne – Director of People and Organisational Development and Tony Stone – Policy Officer for Strategy and Change for their hard work. In addition, she gave thanks to the senior leadership team and the Leader of the Council for their leadership on the strategy and to Councillors Loakes and Khan for the work they had undertaken previously.

Councillor Ashworth referred to the need to think differently about ways to engage local residents and pointed to structural injustices and difficulties they experienced in obtaining meaningful and well-paid work. She said that the strategy looked in detail at those issues and had done extensive work with external organisations to sanity check findings.

Councillor Douglas confirmed that the strategy was being taken very seriously and that it was recognised that cultural changes were required. He said that the strategy proposed ways of addressing such issues such as mentoring and a commitment to better mental health in the workplace. He gave thanks to Councillor Loakes for his work in this area.

Councillor Khan thanked Councillor Ashworth for all her hard work on this area and confirmed that the strategy was resident-led. He thanked Councillor Williams for her great leadership and also echoed Councillor Ashworth's thanks to relevant officers.

Councillor Waldron also echoed her thanks to all that had worked on the strategy and pointed out that 26% of residents did not have the skills to interact digitally. She confirmed that the issue was being looked at to ascertain how improvements could be made and that a digital plan would be formulated to address the issue.

The Leader then invited Ms Bushra Khursid to address Cabinet. Ms Khursid made the following points:

- Ms Khursid referred to the Council services provided to members of the community, who have no other way of accessing that information. She pointed out that many women, and some men, were restricted from leaving their homes, and their movements were tracked by partners or family members. In some cases, women were only allowed out of their house to drop-off and collect their children from school.
- Ms Khursid made the point that many residents had difficulty accessing relevant Council services as, the current way they were set up, meant that residents had to go and find relevant services. She suggested that it would be helpful if certain places signposted residents to those services such as schools, doctors' surgeries, pharmacies and supermarkets. She said that some residents, particularly women, could only benefit from EDI if services were taken to those that needed them.
- In conclusion, Ms Khursid said that she felt that the Council should look into the best way of providing access to relevant services for women who were not allowed out of their homes. She added that such access would help women and their children to get out of abusive relationships and, in turn, improve their lives.

The Leader thanked Ms Khursid for her statement and confirmed that officers would give consideration to her comments. She then gave thanks to all the residents who had commented on the strategy, Rhona Cadenhead – the departing Strategic Director of Corporate Development, Councillors Ashworth, Khan and all other Cabinet Members who were involved in formulating the strategy.

## **Decision**

Cabinet approved the EDI Making a Living Strategy and initial action plan as set out in the report and appendices and noted that the full action plan will be brought to Cabinet later this year.

## **12. APPOINTMENTS TO SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE**

The Leader introduced the report.

## **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) agreed the appointment of the following Cabinet Members to the Shareholder Committee:
  - Leader of the Council (Chair)
  - Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration)
  - Deputy Leader (Climate and Air Quality)
  - Portfolio Lead Member for Public Service; and
- (2) noted that the terms of reference and quorum (at least 3 members) for the Committee remains unchanged.

### **13. EXTENSION OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER COVERING ALL PUBLIC SPACES NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD (A406)**

Councillor Limbajee introduced the report and, in doing so, gave thanks to Councillors Khan and Ashworth for their work in this area. He went on to say that community safety was a key concern for local residents and that the PSPO was a tool to give to the Police to enable them to tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB) and disorder. Councillor Limbajee said that he was pleased to report that the Police had confirmed that incidents of ASB experienced by residents had reduced as reported in Appendix 5 to the report.

Councillor Baptiste said ASB was a top issue for residents living in the north of the borough. She said that she was pleased to see that voices from the north of the borough were being listened to. Councillor Limbajee thanked Councillor Baptiste for driving the issue forward on behalf of residents who lived in the north of the borough.

## **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the information contained in the PSPO Consultation Document and Evidence Base at Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) noted the outcome of the public consultation regarding the proposed extension and modification of the PSPO at Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) noted the letter of support from the Metropolitan Police Service at Appendix 6 to the report;
- (4) agreed to the extension and modification of the PSPO at Appendix 3 to the report and PSPO coverage map at Appendix 4 to the report to begin on 5 September 2022 and to run for a period of three years expiring at midnight on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025;
- (5) noted the timetable for management and implementation of the proposed PSPO at Appendix 7 to the report;

- (6) agreed to delegate, to the the Strategic Director of People, responsibility for designating any additional PSPOs or introducing modifications where additional anti-social behaviours need to be managed in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Community Safety and the Director of Governance and Law;
- (7) agreed that Cabinet approval for PSPOs will only be sought where in the opinion of the Strategic Director of People, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Community Safety and the Director of Governance and Law, there are exceptional circumstances for doing so; and
- (8) noted that a review report will be taken to Cabinet or Full Council by way of update bi-annually.

#### **14. EPPING FOREST SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION STRATEGIC ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, stated that, with the number of people who visited Epping Forest, it was important to mitigate any damage and wear and tear. He added that LBWF was being asked for a fair contribution based on the data collected, however, he stated that some of that data was out of date and that LBWF were of the view that new data should be used.

The Leader confirmed that the approach was being looked at to ensure a fair deal for residents.

#### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the entering into and signing of the SAMMS partnership agreement at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to an immediate review of charges and cost apportionment between the partner authorities;
- (2) delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning and Delivery in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration and the Strategic Director for Finance and Governance to approve any amendments to the partnership agreement;
- (3) delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning and Delivery in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration to manage and report on the immediate review of the partnership agreement, and regular ongoing reviews thereafter, and to secure appropriate resulting amendments.

## **15. £75.00 COUNCIL TAX CREDIT FOR COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT RECIPIENTS RECEIVING LESS THAN 100% SUPPORT**

Councillor Ashworth introduced the report and, in doing so, said the support proposed was fair and needed by the most vulnerable of residents. She then gave thanks to John Turnbull and his team for their hard work.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the proposal to credit the Council Tax accounts of eligible households in receipt of CTS by up to £75.00 as outlined in section 3 of the report during the 2022-23 financial year; and
- (2) delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, following consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Jobs, Social Inclusion and Equalities, to vary the sum awarded should demand either increase or decrease significantly, leading to a projected under or overspend of the funding pot.

## **16. ECONOMIC GROWTH INVESTMENT AND HOME BUILDING PROGRAMME: PHASE 2 (2022 - 2026)**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, pointed out that local government had seen massive cuts since 2010. He said that the Council needed to work innovatively with the private sector to allow more funds into LBWF. He gave thanks to Stewart Murray and his team for their hard work.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the performance on economic outcomes and housing delivery and endorse the significant return on investment achieved through Phase 1 of the Council's Economic Investment and Home Building Programme between 2019 and 2022, set out in section 3 of this report, having only spent £1.33m of the original £2 million approved reserve; and
- (2) agreed the next phase of inclusive Economic Investment and Home Building programme (Phase 2) and necessary resources of £670,000 (the remaining amount from the original £2 million reserve) to deliver between 2022 – 2024 with further reviews thereafter, as set out in section 4 of the report, fully reflecting the Council's new priorities over this period.

## **17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Cabinet agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting by resolution during consideration of agenda items 11 and 12 in accordance with Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, on the grounds that consideration of the report and/or appendices may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Act.

## **18. IMPACT OF CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS ON MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, pointed out that inflation was an issue across key capital projects across the borough and confirmed that it was also a national issue. He then thanked Stewart Murray and his team for their work in this area.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the current risks and issues arising from global and UK economic conditions in relation to construction cost inflation, supply chain resilience, materials and labour availability and residential sales values, as set out in paragraphs 3.5 to 3.8 of the report.
- (2) noted the risks associated to delivery of the Council's major capital programmes in terms of time, cost and quality, as well as the measures being taken to mitigate the impact, as detailed in paragraphs 3.9 to 3.21 of the report.

## **19. OSBORNE PROPERTY SERVICES (OPSL) CONTRACT - FINAL ACCOUNT CLAIM**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, gave thanks to relevant officers, particularly Darren Welsh – Corporate Director of Housing and legal officers.

### **Decision**

Cabinet agreed the recommendations in the report.

This report and its appendices are exempt in accordance with Section 100(A-H) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Schedule 12A as amended, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1, paragraph 5 in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

**The meeting closed at 2.35 pm**

**Chair's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_