

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST MINUTES OF THE CABINET

22 September 2022 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Grace Williams	Leader of the Council
Cabinet Members:	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 Rosalind Doré	Cabinet Commissioner - Culture
	Councillor Sharon Waldron	Cabinet Commissioner - Customer Experience
	Councillor Elizabeth Baptiste	Cabinet Commissioner - Shaping Places
	Councillor Kizzy Gardiner	Cabinet Commissioner - Youth Hubs and Engagement
	Anthony Jackson	Democratic Services Officer

(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:

Martin Esom	Chief Executive
Ian Buckle	Head of Electoral and Democratic Services
Shazia Hussain	Deputy Chief Executive
Mark Hynes	Director of Governance and Law
Anthony Jackson	Democratic Services Officer
Darren McAughthrie	Director of Adult Care and Quality Standards
Stewart Murray	Strategic Director, Economic Growth and Housing Delivery
John Turnbull	Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Leader reminded Members that an Extraordinary Council meeting was scheduled for 6.45pm later that day to pay tribute to the late Queen and to welcome King Charles III. She confirmed that a minute's silence would be observed at the meeting.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Clyde Loakes.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

22. MINUTES OF CABINET

The minutes of the meeting, held on 7 July 2022, were approved and signed as a correct record.

23. FINANCIAL MONITORING: MONTH 4 (JULY)

The Leader introduced the report and, in doing so, confirmed that officers would continue to take necessary actions to balance the budget.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) agreed that Strategic / Executive / Service Directors continue to identify management actions to mitigate any reported pressures and report those mitigations to the Director of Financial Services, which is in line with financial ground rules reaffirmed by Cabinet in May 2022 budget monitoring report;
- (2) agreed the purchase of 4 Beehives with an initial outlay of £10,344 and an annual cost of £4,200 to be funded as part of the Fair Deal programme;
- (3) agreed funding of £25,000 from contingency to support the delivery of Homes for Ukraine regulation based on 100 properties;
- (4) noted that the anticipated outturn at month 4 shows £10.258m million in-year pressure. This will be reviewed over the coming months and actions taken to achieve a balance position for the year end, following service mitigation / plans provided (agreed in 2.1.1), and the potential use of corporate resources to maintain a balanced position at year-end; and
- (5) noted that from month 3, the format for reporting of services is revised to reflect the new senior management restructure.

24. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THEMED REVIEW 2021-22: VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Limbajee introduced the report and, in doing so, said he was pleased to bring forward such an excellent piece of work. He confirmed that the violence reduction partnership brought together stakeholders, aimed to reduce violence and racial disparity in the borough and provided assistance to those most susceptible to violence. Councillor Limbajee then gave thanks to Councillor Bellamy, as Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Committee, and to all other committee members. In addition, he thanked Laura Butterworth – Head of Violence Reduction, Jane Brueseke – Youth Engagement and Participation Manager and the Young Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) for their hard work.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the Communities Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report; and
- (2) adopted and took forward the recommendations outlined in the report as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2 of the report.

25. GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THEMED REVIEW 2021-22: COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR JOB GROWTH

Councillor Ashworth introduced the report and, in doing so, gave thanks to Councillor Pye and members of Growth Scrutiny Committee for their hard work. She went on to say that inequality in access to employment was an issue, particularly for women and young people. Councillor Ashworth confirmed that the Fair Deal for Jobs programme would target the issue. She also gave thanks to all officers involved.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) note the Growth Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report; and
- (2) adopted and took forward the recommendations outlined in the report as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2 to the report.

26. HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THEMED REVIEW 2021-22: PRIMARY CARE

Councillor Asghar introduced the report and, in doing so, thanked the Health Scrutiny Committee for putting forward the recommendations contained within the report. She then spoke of the success of the community engagement programmes and said that residents would now have access to appropriate interventions at the right time. Councillor Asghar referred to the importance of understanding people's individual needs and the communities in which they reside. She also spoke of the need for stakeholders and Council departments to work together effectively to align staff resources and the importance of primary care being adequately funded.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) note the Health Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report; and
- (2) adopted and took forward the recommendations outlined in the report as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2 of the report.

27. HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THEMED REVIEW 2021-22: RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

Councillor Khan introduced the report and gave thanks to the Housing Scrutiny Committee and officers involved for their hard work.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the Housing Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report; and
- (2) adopted and took forward the recommendations outlined in the report as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2 of the report.

28. NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THEMED REVIEW 2020-21: CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Leader introduced the report in the absence of Councillor Loakes and, in doing so, confirmed that the review by the Climate Commission had been very helpful. She referred to the fact that the previous Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee had been renamed as the Climate Scrutiny Committee which gave a strong signal of the Council's focus. The Leader added that it was important to consider how to broaden education in relation to climate change.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report; and
- (2) adopted and took forward the recommendations outlined in the report as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2 of the report.

29. BUILDING SAFETY - WAKING WATCH PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Councillor Khan introduced the report.

Decision

Cabinet approved that the Waking Watch Contract be re-procured in accordance with the strategic approach set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

30. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Cabinet agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting by resolution during consideration of agenda items 12 and 13 in accordance with Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, on the grounds that consideration of the appendices may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Act.

31. TACKLING HOMELESSNESS - SECOND JOINT VENTURE HOUSING SCHEME WITH MEARS

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so referred to the fact that there was a significant housing crisis and, as such, the proposals contained within the report were necessary. He also referred to the risk around the Bank of England's rising interest rates.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) agree to proceed to with the joint venture (the second joint venture) with Mears to procure up to 400 homes to provide more settled accommodation for households who would otherwise be placed in temporary accommodation;
- (2) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Housing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, the Strategic Director Finance and Governance, and the Director of Governance and Law, to:
 - a. approve the Financial Model and Business Plan for the second joint venture with Mears, and
 - b. to agree terms and enter into legal agreements on behalf of the Council to set up and operationalise the joint venture;
- (3) agree to suspend operationalising the joint venture should the Council and Mears, acting as the joint venture, not be able to secure a financially viable bond rate and enter into legal agreements by 31 March 2023; and
- (4) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Housing and the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, to approve the allocation of Right to Buy receipts funding to support the joint venture property acquisition programme.

32. AVENUE ROAD DEED OF VARIATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, said that the Council was fortunate to receive the Greater London Authority (GLA) grant and said that the viability of the scheme meant that the regeneration of the estate might not happen without the Council's intervention. He added that the deed of variation would enable the Council to assist with some of the costs.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) authorised the Deed of Variation to the Development Agreement to be entered into by the Council with Bellway Homes Limited for the Avenue Road Regeneration;
- (2) delegated the final terms of the Deed of Variation to the Corporate Director of Housing, in consultation with the Commercial Director of Property and Delivery, the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and the Director of Governance and Law;
- (3) agreed to exercise the option to acquire up to 54 additional units at Avenue Road as set out in the exempt Appendix C of the report; and
- (4) delegated the final number of units to be acquired and financial terms to the Corporate Director of Housing, in consultation with the Commercial Director – Property and Delivery, and the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance.

The meeting closed at 2.22 pm

Chair's Signature _____

Date _____