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CABINET

Monday, 26th July, 2010 at 7.00 pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cabinet Members:

Portfolio:

Councillor Lorna Campbell	Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Jim Dickson	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Rachel Heywood	Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety
Councillor Paul McGlone	Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor Jackie Meldrum	Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Florence Nosegbe	Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and the 2012 Games
Councillor Lib Peck	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Sally Prentice	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning, Employment and Enterprise
Councillor Steve Reed	Leader of the Council
Councillor Peter Robbins	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Apologies for absence

Also present:

Councillor Kingsley Abrams, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, Councillor Clive Bennett, Councillor Diana Braithwaite, Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Councillor Jeremy Clyne, Councillor Alexander Davies, Councillor Gavin Dodsworth, Councillor Jack Hopkins, Councillor Ashley Lumsden, Councillor David Malley, Councillor Daphne Marchant, Councillor Helen O'Malley, Councillor Jane Pickard, Councillor Imogen Walker and Councillor John Whelan

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 June 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. LAMBETH EMERGENCY BUDGET

(Report 53/10-11 and appendices, tabled reference from Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee (21.07.10)) (Key Decision – Call in period ends Friday 6 August 2010)

Councillor Jackie Meldrum declared an interest in that she was a member of the Lambeth Living Board but that it was not prejudicial and she would take part in the discussion.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources highlighted the impact of grant cuts from central government and further expected cuts following departmental funding negotiations in the autumn. However he stated that the Council were in a good position to deal with the challenge due to strong financial management and good reserves. Finally he highlighted the importance of protecting the most vulnerable from service cuts.

The Divisional Director for Corporate Finance stated that there would be tough choices to make but highlighted that the council had already started working on plans to reduce budgets by similar amounts to those proposed by the government and so was well advanced at looking at the issues this raised.

The Cabinet received the following representations:

- Councillor Gavin Dodsworth, Majority Opposition spokesperson for Finance expressed concern that the report did not contain detailed figures to enable Members to compare the proposals with other options for saving money. He also expressed concern that service cuts were being made before it was clear whether all possible efficiency savings had been identified.
- Councillor John Whelan, Leader of the Minority Opposition Group, stated his view that the Council should have started tackling this issue much sooner as it was clear that cuts were on the way. He also noted the increase in posts proposed for the Labour Group office.
- Representatives from the UNISON and NUT trade unions expressed opposition to the proposed changes and cuts proposed to the One O’Clock clubs and stated that the new proposals would cost more than the current service. The present service was appreciated by the many people who

made use of it. They also stated that it was not necessary to reduce staff by the numbers proposed and highlighted the importance of good Equality Impact Assessments. They also called on the Council to unite with people affected to campaign against government cuts such as in the Building Schools for the Future programme.

- Rita Fitzgerald, the Chair of Tenants' Council, welcomed the proposed Asset Strategy Scrutiny Commission and urged the Council to ensure it only disposed of the minimum necessary number of assets. She also asked the Council not to allow the introduction of large rent rises.

Cabinet Members proceeded to discuss the issues highlighted in the report including:

- The impact of cuts in the Children and Young People's Service on ethnic minority staff.
- Occasions when a government cut in a specific grant should not mean that that particular service should be cut but that other savings should be found instead.
- That the budget had to be balanced and so there would be hard choices ahead.
- The need to ensure that all possible efficiency savings were identified.
- Support for children of African heritage at Lambeth's schools.
- That worklessness was a key issue for Lambeth.

Finally it was noted that changes, such as those to One O'Clock Clubs, within the Children and Young People's Service were still in consultation and Members agreed that it was important to work with service users and staff to identify the best way of running services in the changed financial climate.

The Chair then highlighted the proposed change to recommendation 1/ix from the Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee and an officer request for a change of wording in recommendation 1/viii change from 'Noted....' to 'Agree...'.

RESOLVED:

(1) That Council is recommended to note or adopt the recommendations listed below and in particular to:

- i. Note that recent Government announcements regarding funding cuts equate to £3.1m of base budget, and £3.4m in one-off revenue grants; in the capital programme, there has been a fundamental revision to the Building Schools for the Future programme, resulting from the Government's intention to abolish a large part of the programme, which could be worth potentially up to £200m,

F&R/CF,
FR/L&DS

- pending final discussions.
- ii. Note the strategic outlook for funding streams over the next three years, and that there is an immediate urgency for the Council to reduce its expenditure levels now, and to plan to continue doing so into the medium term to 2013/14.
 - iii. Endorse the savings' target of £62m over three years, with acknowledgement of the immense scale of the task ahead facing this Council, and that this task will be facilitated through a rigorous Service and Financial Planning cycle.
 - iv. Note that action plans are being developed by Housing, Regeneration, and Environment to address pressures arising from Parking Services and Temporary Accommodation identified through the 2009/10 closedown.
 - v. Note that senior management teams across the Council are actively managing a top-level risk in a worst-case scenario of some 10% of net budgets in the General Fund, or over £30m, in 2010/11.
 - vi. Endorse the approach to continually actively managing down the significant outstanding risk of £8.9m in 2010/11, which is aiming to minimise the impact on front-line services as much as possible.
 - vii. Remove the savings target of £1.5m for Lambeth Living, in line with the proposed restructure and range of services that Lambeth Living are confident will deliver a 2 star service in order to obtain Decent Homes funding.
 - viii. Agree the ongoing budget commitment for the PFI scheme on Myatts Field North contained within the HRA.
 - ix. Within the context of the borough and wider partners, and in recognition of the new economic reality facing local government, endorse the underlying principle that reductions in specific grant are to be managed by reductions in expenditure informed by agreed Council priorities, the impact of the reduction on services, and economy, efficiency and effectiveness considerations.
 - x. Approve the amendments to the capital budget for 2010/11 as shown in section 6.
 - xi. Note the risks for the HRA if new disposal proceeds raised fail to match additional capital expenditure incurred, as set out in paragraph 6.4.
 - xii. Approve the amendments to the three-year capital programme as shown in section 7.
 - xiii. Note that in order to finance an Investment Programme over the coming years a fundamental review of the Council's ownership of properties is urgently required to raise the sufficient funds to simultaneously close the present capital funding

- gap, meet the ongoing needs of the infrastructure of the organisation, and to invest in new schemes.
- xiv. Approve the budget amendments as presented in section 8, as required by the Council's constitution.

(2) To approve the disposal of additional properties to the value of £17.2m, as laid out in section 6, in order to finance the expanded 2010/11 capital budget.

F&R/CF

(3) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Finance and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to collectively implement a programme of disposal of properties in order to close off the funding gap of the capital programme, and provide funding for an Investment Programme, prioritising disposals of expensive or strategically surplus properties. This process will be by means of the appropriate policy, governance structure and consultation mechanism for asset disposals.

4. JOINT WORKING BETWEEN LAMBETH COUNCIL AND NHS LAMBETH

(Report 52/10-11)

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing introduced the report, and referred to the recent Government announcement on the planned move of commissioning in the NHS from PCTs to GPs.

The Executive Director for Adults' and Community Services stated that it was intended to begin the process of implementation at the beginning of September.

Cabinet received the following representation:

- Councillor Ashley Lumsden, Leader of the Majority Opposition, supported the proposals. He referred to the fact that he had been a member of the cross-party working group set up to ensure closer collaboration between the Council and the PCT and that he was sure that there was room for efficiency savings as there was a large number of officers from the PCT dealing with commissioning. He also welcomed the fact that the proposals would make the Director of Public Health fully accountable.

On future commissioning proposals with the planned abolition of PCTs, the Executive Director for Adults' and Community Services advised that discussions had taken place with the PCT and GPs and that ways of engaging with GPs were being discussed.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a jointly accountable single commissioning function including procurement be adopted with NHS Lambeth. This

function would include mental health, substance misuse, learning disability, offenders' services including prison health services and social care services for older people, people with a physical disability or sensory impairment, and social inclusion services. This will be delivered through integrated staff management and aligned budgets with a single director accountable jointly to the Chief Executive of the PCT and the Executive Director of Adults' and Community Services.

ACS/S&C

- (2) That it be noted that the timescale was to be agreed but that it would be no later than December 2010 in order to achieve financial savings for both the Council and NHS Lambeth.
- (3) That a further report be received on commissioning services for children by November 2010.

5. STREATHAM HUB

(Report 54/10-11 and appendix) (Key Decision – Call in period ends Friday 6 August 2010)

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning, Employment and Enterprise introduced the report. She explained that the proposals ensured the continuity of ice. As Streatham Common was not viable the Popes Road site was the best alternative.

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and the 2012 Games moved that recommendation be changed to read 'That the progress on the temporary dry sports facility and swimming pool be noted'. The priority was to make sure that the Hub was functioning. Investigations had been made to see if there could be temporary alternatives for the Pool and the dry sports facilities but a lot of problems had been encountered. The present arrangements whereby users of Streatham Pool could use neighbouring facilities would continue.

Cabinet received the following representations:

- Councillor Alex Davies, Majority Opposition spokesperson on Culture spoke against the proposal as it did not provide for the ice rink to stay in Streatham whilst the development was taking place. This was against the wishes of Streatham residents. He referred to the fact that the proposal to relocate to 152 Streatham High Road had been rejected on cost grounds and considered that Tesco should be forced to pay any extra costs. He requested that the Cabinet defer the report until September subject to further discussions regarding where the ice facility could be temporarily relocated.
- Councillor David Malley, Ward Member for Streatham South Ward, acknowledged that this was a difficult subject that had been in existence for at least 10 years. He considered that the present proposals were the best available in the circumstances. The ice rink would be

moved temporarily to Popes Road Brixton and new facilities should be ready in Streatham within 3 years.

- Councillor Clive Bennett, Ward Member for St. Leonard's Ward expressed his view that the ice facility should remain in Streatham. He had also asked for an appointment to meet the Streatham Town Centre Manager to discuss the matter and noted that he had not received a reply to his email request.
- Saki Hajnal, Secretary of the Streatham Ice Skating Action Group stated that the previous Cabinet decision (29 March) that the Tesco store would not be able to open until the leisure facilities had been completed was not reflected in the current report. She was therefore concerned that Tesco would open its store before the ice facility and then would have no incentive to provide the Leisure facilities. She supported the proposals as long as there was a Section 106 agreement to ensure that Tesco could not open before the completion of the leisure facilities.
- Tim Barnsley, public user of Streatham Pool, stated that he was unhappy at the fact that there had not been any pool provision at Streatham for eight months and that there would be a further delay before it was restored. He was not sure that this would speed up delivery of the facilities. He considered that there was a failure to involve users and that they needed to be involved in discussions regarding the future facilities.
- Peter Newmark, representative of Hands Off Streatham Common, expressed his agreement to the fact that the temporary facility was not to be sited on the Common but asked that it be located elsewhere in Streatham and not in Brixton which had already received a lot of money for regeneration. He also referred to a petition that he had which had 2,100 signatures requesting that the temporary facilities stay in the Streatham area.
- John Gordon, Secretary of the Brixton Market Traders stated that the loss of Popes Road Car Park would kill Brixton Market and that the effects were already being seen. Much of the trade was in bulk produce and a lot of the customers were young mothers who would find it difficult to transport their purchases by public transport. There was also a lot of competition from other markets in the area such as Peckham and Croydon where there were good parking facilities. He stated that it had taken 50 years to build up a successful market in Brixton and that if the proposals were adopted it would be undone in the next three years.

Cabinet Members proceeded to discuss the issues highlighted in the report including:

- The fact that Brixton Market was successful

- There was provision for extra parking in the Brixton area in the proposals
- This was a pragmatic response to the problem
- The proposals were the best ones to enable the development to go ahead in Streatham and benefit the residents of that area
- As regards the amount of money allocated to the Brixton area, the only investment had been in the Brixton Rec twenty years ago and the recent opening of Windrush Square.

The Divisional Director of Regeneration and Enterprise stated that a further site had been investigated but that it was out of the borough and had planning issues which made it unsuitable. There would be a need for the Section 106 agreement with Tesco to be reviewed. This would be done at the same time as the necessary agreements for Popes Road were being progressed. Meetings would be held with stakeholders regarding the design of the temporary provision and there would be discussions with the Market Traders. She would also arrange for Councillor Clive Bennett to meet the Streatham Town Centre Manager.

The Divisional Director of Cultural Services stated that the plans for the design of the facilities at Streatham were the same as those already proposed.

Cabinet Members confirmed that the Tesco store would not be able to open until the leisure facilities had been completed.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the progress to date with the Streatham Hub development be noted
- (2) That Pope's Road Car Park in Brixton be the recommended temporary ice rink site and the proposals with regard to management, community safety and car parking associated with the temporary ice rink be noted.
- (3) That officers be authorised to seek any necessary permissions (excepting planning consent) to locate the temporary ice rink site at Pope's Road and to grant a licence to Tesco to provide, operate and decommission the temporary ice rink on this site and ensure that the temporary ice rink is operational prior to the closure of the current Streatham ice rink.
- (4) That it be noted that Tesco has expressed its intention to submit planning applications for the additional mezzanine floorspace in mid-July 2010 and intend to submit a planning application for the temporary ice rink in August 2010.
- (5) That the progress on the temporary dry sports facility and swimming pool be noted

HRE/R&E

6. **RESPONSE TO DOGS SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

(Report 50/10-11 and appendix) (Key Decision – Call in period ends Friday 6 August 2010)

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety welcomed the report and thanked all the officers, members and organisations who had been involved. She highlighted that the recommendations of the commission were being accepted and that they were attempting to identify resources to continue services such as the stray dogs 24 hour phone line which currently had funding up to the end of the year.

The Cabinet received the following representations:

- Councillor Imogen Walker, Chair of the Dogs Commission, expressed pride in the achievements of the Commission but stated that this was only the first step and that the real work started here and that a small amount of funding could prevent major, expensive, problems later. She also highlighted that the RSPCA had welcomed the opportunity provided to them to take part in the commission.

The Cabinet noted the value of the work completed and what still needed to be done including changing attitudes and using existing legal power and also how the issue cut across all service areas.

RESOLVED:

(1) To endorse the report of the Dogs Scrutiny Commission and officers' responses to the recommendations of the Commission. Additionally, that Cabinet thanks members of the Commission and those who advised and supported it for their work on this important matter.

ACS/ASC

(2) To direct officers to implement the Action Plan in response to the Commission's recommendations subject to additional resources being identified as set out in paragraph 3.

(3) That the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee monitors implementation and reports progress back to Cabinet. As part of its Annual Work Plan, an update on the implementation of the Action Plan will be provided to Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee in six and eighteen months following adoption.

EDHRE/PR,
ACS/ASC

7. **SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS SCRUTINY COMMISSION - RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN**

(Report 49/10-11 and appendix) (Key Decision – Call in period ends Friday 6 August 2010)

FR/L&DS

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People introduced the report and welcomed the successful cross-party work of the commission. He stated that it was important to reduce the number of

exclusions and to work to ensure exclusion was not a life changing event for children. He also reported that the Children and Young People's Service Scrutiny Sub-Committee intended to continue to work on issues around education exclusions.

The Cabinet received the following representations:

- Councillor Daphne Marchant, a member of the commission, highlighted concerns about potential budget cuts affecting this area.
- Councillor Donatus Anyanwu highlighted concerns that children were being given as little as one hours tuition a week to avoid having to exclude them but that this was having a detrimental impact on their education.

In discussion the Cabinet noted:

- The benefit of cross-party discussions.
- The involvement of head teachers and their attempted zero tolerance policy of exclusions.
- Continuing efforts to tackle exclusions of black children and the significant progress being made.

RESOLVED:

(1) To note the requirement for additional financial resources to be identified as part of the 2011/12 Service and Financial Planning process to ensure that the action plan is fully implemented in line with the recommendations set out by the commission.

CYPS/I&S

(2) To approve the action plan subject to additional resources being identified as part of 2011/12 Service and Financial Planning process.

8. END OF YEAR (2009/10) COUNCIL PERFORMANCE DIGEST

(Report 51/10-1 and appendix)

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and drew attention to the Economic Recovery statistics that had been introduced as a result of the 'credit crunch'. These would be closely monitored. She pointed out that last year there had been a rise of 20% in the number of Job Seeker Allowance claimants and a decrease of 12% in the number of vacancies. The statistics also showed a rise in the number of volunteers.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources referred to the figures for NI59 and NI60 regarding assessments carried out in childrens' social services and the fact that the targets had not been reached but that the Council was not always in charge of the processes required.

The Leader pointed out the increased achievement of children

attaining GCSE's.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the areas of improvement in performance and the achievements made by the Council during the 2009/10 financial year be noted.

9. RELOCATION OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE TEAMS TO AKERMAN ROAD NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE

(Report 48/10-11) (Key Decision – Call in period ends Friday 6 August 2010)

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing introduced the report and stated that this was a good example of joint provision.

Guillotine

During the discussion the guillotine fell at 9pm

MOVED by the Chair, and

RESOLVED: That in accordance, with Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.3.5, the meeting continue for a period of up to ten minutes.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a lease of the Akerman Road Resource Centre be taken for a period of 25 years on terms as set out in this report.
- (2) That it be noted that the lease costs will be funded from budgets within the Older Persons service.

ACS/DR

10. CABINET AND GROUP OFFICE SUPPORT

(Report 52/10-11)

The Leader of the Council highlighted the importance of transparency in making decisions about resources available to the political groups on the Council and stated that the proposals were in line with the support provided by neighbouring boroughs.

Cabinet received the following representations:

- Councillor Ashley Lumsden, Leader of the Majority Opposition, questioned whether the mechanism was fair and expressed concerns at the increase in support proposed when other areas of the Council were experiencing cuts. He requested that the proposals be deferred to allow better consultation.

RESOLVED:

(1) That dedicated Cabinet support be provided in accordance with paragraphs 2.6 and formalised at the level set out in paragraph 2.8.

FR/L&DS

(2) That backbench support be provided in accordance with paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8.

(3) That the Chief Executive be requested to ensure the delivery of this proposal, including the necessary staff consultation.

CE

11. COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 16 - 19 LEARNING, LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

(Report 47/10-11)

CYPS/I&S

REPORT WITHDRAWN by officers, as recent changes to the legislation meant that the Cabinet was not required to make a decision.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm

CHAIR
CABINET
Monday, 13th September, 2010

Date of Despatch: Friday, 30 July 2010
Call-in Date: Friday, 6 August 2010
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