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CABINET

11 NOVEMBER 2013

(19.15 - 19.55)

PRESENT

Councillors Stephen Alambritis (in the Chair), Mark Allison, Nick Draper, Andrew Judge, Linda Kirby, Edith Macauley, Maxi Martin, Judy Saunders and Martin Whelton

Ged Curran (Chief Executive), Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Simon Williams (Director of Community and Housin), Chris Lee (Director of Environment and Regeneration), Yvette Stanley (Director of Children, Schools and Families), Tom Procter (Service Manager - Contracts & School Organisation), David Keppler (Head of Revenues and Benefits), Fiona Thomsen (Head of shared legal services) and Colin Millar (Democracy Services)

ALSO PRESENT

Councillors Iain Dysart, James Holmes, Oonagh Moulton, Peter Southgate and Peter Walker.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

None

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

None

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2013 (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2013 are agreed as a correct record.

4 PROVISION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES TASK GROUP - FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Agenda Item 4)

RESOLVED:

- A. That Cabinet endorses the report arising from the scrutiny review of the provision of secondary school places, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
- B. That Cabinet agrees to submit an Executive Response and Action Plan to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel at their January 2014 meeting outlining their response to the report and decision taken regarding the recommendations made, including actions to be taken to implement the agreed recommendations.

5 SCHOOL PLACES STRATEGY (Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED

1. Cabinet notes the current position on demand and supply of school places and agrees the contents of this report as the council's current school places strategy, and specifically:
2. That the council reviews the position on specific supply and demand of primary school places over the next 18 months and beyond before committing to any further expansion in permanent accommodation beyond the 21 forms of entry increase already being progressed
3. That officers progress the direction of travel for secondary and special school expansion outlined in paragraphs 2.26 and 2.30 of the report.

6 HOMELESSNESS CHANGE PROGRAMME - BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS TO 8 WILTON ROAD HOSTEL (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED:

4. That Cabinet notes the proposed improvement options for the council-owned homeless hostel at 8 Wilton Road presented in section 2.3 of this report, and agrees to build a new Annexe as part of the hostel improvement project.
5. Cabinet notes the funding options as set out in 2.7 of the report, and agrees to fund the entire improvement project cost of £530,000 from the Section 106 Housing funding pot, but that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Director of Community and Housing and the Cabinet Member, to approve any amended option using GLA funding should the GLA agree to more reasonable funding conditions.

7 CHANGE TO COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME (Agenda Item 7)

RESOLVED

That Cabinet agrees to the uprating changes for the 2014/15 council tax support scheme detailed in the report in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable residents

8 ADOPTION OF MERTON'S COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CHARGING SCHEDULE (Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet recommends that the Council adopts Merton's Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and that Merton's CIL is applied to the relevant new developments from 01 April 2014.

9 REFERENCE FROM SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - CALL IN OF DECISION TAKEN ON MERTON PRIORY HOMES REGENERATION PROPOSALS (Agenda Item 9)

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet thanks the Scrutiny panel for their comments and will take this matter forward in accordance with item 10 of this agenda.

10 MERTON PRIORY HOMES ESTATE REGENERATION PROJECT (Agenda Item 10)

The Cabinet noted that a report requiring substantive decisions was expected to be brought in June/July 2014.

11 FINANCIAL MONITORING - SEPTEMBER 2013 (Agenda Item 11)

RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet notes the financial reporting data relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast underspend at year end of £954k (which is 0.58% of the gross Council Budget) after allowing for a £418k transfer to the Capital Programme

B. That Cabinet notes the four schemes being re-profiled detailed in Appendix 5b and the Current Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 5a.

C. That Cabinet notes current progress to date on savings.

D. That Cabinet notes the update to the use of reserves

E. That Cabinet notes the update to Customer and Client Receipts

F. That Cabinet notes the Cash Flow Statement

G. That Cabinet notes the Key Strategic Risk Register as at September 2013 and approves the removal of the following four items:

- KSR 51 – Supply Chain Failure - One of Merton's key delivery partners or sponsor goes in to administration – Risk Ranked as 2
- KSR 52 - Data quality of management information - Failure to provide accurate performance data – Risk Ranked as 2
- KSR 57 - Agency staff - Use of agency staff following changes to employment rights – Risk Ranked as 2
- KSR 59 - Business rates - Localism agenda - review of business rates Inc. discretionary reliefs – Risk Ranked as 2

12 BUSINESS PLAN 2014-18 (Agenda Item 12)

RESOLVED

That Cabinet agrees the proposed amendments to savings and incorporates the financial implications into the draft MTFS 2014-18

13 ALLOCATION OF S.106 CONTRIBUTION TO 19TH WIMBLEDON SCOUTS HUT PROJECT (Agenda Item 13)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet authorises the allocation of a £60,000 S106 contribution to the 19th Wimbledon Scouts Hut project in keeping with the S106 agreement associated with the redevelopment of the Atkinson Morley Hospital site as detailed in the body of this report.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 14)

The exempt information was not discussed and the public were not excluded.

(a) ALLOCATION OF S.106 CONTRIBUTION TO 19TH WIMBLEDON SCOUTS HUT PROJECT - EXEMPT APPENDIX (Agenda Item 14a)

The exempt information was not discussed.