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CABINET

10 NOVEMBER 2014

(19:15 - 21:52)

PRESENT Councillor Stephen Alambritis (in the Chair),
Councillor Mark Allison, Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah,
Councillor Nick Draper, Councillor Andrew Judge,
Councillor Edith Macauley, Councillor Maxi Martin,
Councillor Judy Saunders and Councillor Martin Whelton

Ged Curran (Chief Executive), Paul Evans (Assistant Director of, Corporate Governance), Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), James McGinlay (Head of Sustainable Communities), Chris Parsloe (Leisure and Culture Development Manager), Yvette Stanley (Director Children, Schools and Families), Cormac Stokes (Head of Street Scene and Waste), Simon Williams (Director Community and Housing) and Hilary Gullen (Democratic Services Officer).

ALSO PRESENT Councillors David Dean, Peter Southgate and Oonagh Moulton

1 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

No pecuniary declarations were made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

None

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October were agreed as an accurate record.

4 INCONTINENCE AMONGST WOMEN OF CHILD BEARING AGE (Agenda Item 4)

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet noted the report and recommendations arising from the scrutiny review on incontinence amongst women of child-bearing age and the response to the report from Merton Clinical Commissioning Group.
- B) That Cabinet agrees to the implementation of the recommendations through an action plan being drawn up by officers working with relevant local partner organisations and designated Cabinet Member, Councillor Cooper-Marbiah.

- C) That Cabinet does not need to formally approve the action plan prior to being submitted to the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

5 VARIATION OF THE GOVERNING AGREEMENT FOR LONDON COUNCIL'S TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet agrees that the functions delegated to the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee to enter into the arrangements with the British Parking Association, were and continue to be, delivered pursuant to section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- B) That Cabinet agrees to delegate the exercise of section 1 of the 2011 Act to the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee for the purpose of providing and appeals service for parking on private land under contract on a full cost recovery basis.
- C) That Cabinet agrees to delegate the formal signature on the Memorandum of Participation to the Director of Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

6 SOUTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP – ESTABLISHMENT OF STATUTORY JOINT COMMITTEE AND RESOURCING OF PARTNERSHIP (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet approves, for its part, the establishment of a Joint Committee with neighbouring boroughs in the South London Partnership with the terms of reference and remit as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- B) That Cabinet notes the Procedure Rules for the Joint Committee will be brought to a future meeting of Council for approval.
- C) That Cabinet appoints the Leader of the Council to serve as the Council's representative on the Joint Committee
- D) That Cabinet agrees to increase the Borough's subscription to £35k per annum in order that the Partnership is adequately resourced for what it needs to do.
- E) That Cabinet agrees that Richmond be the host Borough for staffing, with costs and liabilities shared between the constituent boroughs.

7 PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REFRESH 2012 AND PROPOSAL FOR ACTIVITY BEYOND 2015 (Agenda Item 7)

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet noted the progress made since 2012 on delivery of activities through the Council's Refreshed Economic Development Strategy 2012-2015 shown in Appendix A of the report.
- B) That Cabinet agrees to taking forward a stage two Economic Development Strategy (EDS2), including the proposed activities shown in Appendix B of the report.

8 COUNCIL TAX EMPTY HOMES PREMIUM (Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED

That Cabinet agrees that the Council will implement the council tax empty home premium of an additional charge of 50% on the council tax for long term empty properties (over two years empty) from 1st April 2015.

9 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME (Agenda Item 9)

RESOLVED

That Cabinet agree to the uprating changes for the 2015/16 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.

10 FINANCIAL MONITORING SEPTEMBER (2014/15) (Agenda Item 10)

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net overspend at year end of £4.37 million, 2.69% of the net budget, a decrease of £0.9m from last month.
- B) That Cabinet approves the virements in Appendix 5B of the report:

New Scheme:

Jan Malinowsky Centre (JMC) Extension £200,000

Virement:

Street Scene Enhancements (£235,000)

Restoration of South Park Gardens £40,000

Figges Marsh Changing Rooms £50,000

Machinery for highways Grounds Maintenance £25,000

Dilapidations £65,000

Rebuild Unsafe Wall (with 'charge' placed on property) £55,000

Joseph Hood Primary Expansion (£136,480)

Poplar Primary Expansion £136,480

- C) That Cabinet approves the virement for the additional social work capacity required in Children, Schools and Families. The required virement of £127,900 from the corporate contingency.
- D) That Cabinet approves the virement of £216,000 over 2 years from OCPB reserves for temporary resources required for the Procurement Strategy to make procurement plans robust and deliver the council's transformational needs and efficiency savings requirements.
- E) That Cabinet approves the virement of £200,000 over 2 years from OCPB reserves for the SLLP to provide the legal support for the above procurement activity.
- F) That Council is requested to add the conversion of 'The Gables', costing an estimated £577,300 to the Capital Programme, subject to reviewing the need for the legal charge/financial penalties and clarification of the financial benefit to the Authority.

11 MORDEN LEISURE CENTRE (Agenda Item 11)

Carl Schneider and Jane Plant addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- A) That Cabinet agrees the Project Scope for the new Morden Leisure Centre.
- B) That Cabinet agrees to develop a new Morden Leisure Centre using the priorities for the facility mix as determined by the 2014 public consultation, in so far as the budgets set aside will allow.
- C) That Cabinet agrees site MLC3 as being the preferred location for the new facility with site MLC1 being the reserve site, should MLC3 for any reason not be possible.
- D) That Cabinet agrees to re-profile the capital expenditure into future years in accordance with the details figures in paragraph 6.2 of the report.

12 SLWP - OPTIONS FOR JOINT PROCUREMENT OF WASTE COLLECTIONS, STREET CLEANING AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES (Agenda Item 12)

Terry Downes, Tom Walsh and Councillor David Dean addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet agrees the proposal to jointly procure through London Borough of Croydon the services set out in Section 1.1 of the report, as part of the South London Waste Partnership, using the competitive dialogue procurement route.

- B) That Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Chair of the Management Group in consultation with the Management Group, Strategic Steering Group, the SLWP Legal Lead and members of the Joint Waste Committee to deselect bidders and agree the specification at each stage up to and including the invitation to submit final tender.
- C) That Cabinet agrees to receive a report in spring 2016 recommending Preferred Bidder and subject to approval, recommend that the London Borough of Croydon, as lead procuring authority, award the contract.

15 ADULT EDUCATION IN MERTON: OPTIONS APPRAISAL (Agenda Item 15)

Isabelle McGrath addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet consider the six options in the report, and give an indication of their preferred option
- B) That Cabinet agrees the fundamental principle that the council continues to offer adult education services in the borough, and that option 6, ' Merton ceases to offer adult education services', is explicitly ruled out.
- C) That, on balance and taking into account all the evidence and the financial pressures, Cabinet agrees its preferred option is that the council move to a commissioning model for the provision of Adult Education Services.
- D) That Cabinet agrees that a consultation be established to enable the public to input into the model of delivery and the content of adult education courses being offered.

16 BUSINESS PLAN 2015-19 (Agenda Item 16)

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet agrees the proposed amendments to savings, including replacement savings, set out in Appendix 1 of the report, and incorporate the financial implications into the draft MTFS 2015-2019.
- B) That Cabinet agrees the addition of a capital scheme for £1.3m to be funded from revenue resources and recommend to Council that the scheme be added to the Capital Programme.

13 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 13)

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded for agenda item 14 as given in section 10 of Part 4B of the constitution, 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

14 CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF A SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICE FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES (Agenda Item 14)

RESOLVED

- A) That Cabinet approves the award of a contract to Choice Support for the provision of a Supported Living Service for Adults with Learning Disabilities.
- B) That Cabinet agrees the contract will commence on 1st January 2015 and be for a period of three years with the option to extend (exercisable at the Council's sole discretion) by two further increments of 12 months each. The maximum possible contract period would be no more than five years. The new contract value per annum is £979,889, which is a reduction of £411,314 per annum compared to the existing contract value.
- C) That Cabinet agrees that the decision to extend the contract by two further increments of 12 months each, as detailed in recommendation 2 of the report, be delegated to the Council's Director of Community and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member.