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CABINET
21 OCTOBER 2013
(19.15 - 19.55)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Iain Dysart, Suzanne Evans, Oonagh Moulton and Peter Southgate

1 APOLOGIES (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Alambritis and Martin Whelton.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Judy Saunders stated that she is a member of Merton Priory Homes Board and was advised that this did not constitute a disclosable interest in respect of agenda item 5.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2013 (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2013 are agreed as a correct record.

ORDER OF THE AGENDA

With the consent of the meeting the Chair varied the order of the agenda to allow item 8 to be taken as the last item of business.

4 REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION – CONTROL OF NOISE NUISANCE (FORWARD PLAN REF: 1301) (Agenda Item 4)

Councillor Andrew Judge advised that, in respect of recommendation C in the report, initial discussions suggested that a six month pilot project would cost £12,000 and he recommended this approach to Cabinet.

At the invitation of the Chair Councillor Peter Southgate addressed the meeting, explaining that the figures considered by the task group suggested noise nuisance is a growing problem. It was felt important that arrangements are established and in place before the shared service becomes operational.

The Chair thanked scrutiny members for their work on this review.

At the request of Councillor Maxi Martin Chris Lee undertook to look into whether incidents of domestic violence are included in the noise nuisance statistics and how reports of such incidents are dealt with.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

(1) take account of the Commission's discussions relating to the noise nuisance service, set out in section 3 of the report;

(2) request further analysis of the pattern of calls to the noise nuisance service by hour of day and day of week for 2012/13 and 2013/14;

(3) noting that the Commission has suggested that a pilot with increased out of hours coverage would demonstrate whether there is actual demand for such a service and that some members of the Commission pressed for a 24/7 service to be commenced as soon as possible, agree to a six month pilot for an increased out of hours service, the costs of approximately £12,000 to be met from the corporate contingency fund, to demonstrate the demand for the service; and

(4) formally report back its decision on the above recommendations and any action taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

5 OUTCOME OF CALL IN OF THE DECISION TAKEN REGARDING MERTON PRIORY HOMES REGENERATION PROPOSALS (FORWARD PLAN REF: 1310) (Agenda Item 5)

Councillor Andrew Judge advised that a further report setting out substantive proposals is expected to be brought to Cabinet for decision in November and he recommended that the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations be considered alongside that report.

In the light of that information it was -

RESOLVED: That having considered the recommendations made by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Cabinet agree to note the recommendations at this stage and to take them into account when considering the report setting out the substantive proposals from Merton Priory Homes.

6 REVIEW OF LIBRARY OPENING HOURS (FORWARD PLAN REF: 1296) (Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Nick Draper introduced the report and Councillor Iain Dysart spoke in support of the proposals for West Barnes Library.

The Chair expressed gratitude for the work of the volunteers as well as the officers and councillors who provide support to the library service.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agree to –

(1) maintain current opening hours provision at five libraries (Wimbledon, Morden, Mitcham, Raynes Park and Pollards Hill); and

(2) extend library opening hours on a Friday at Donald Hope Library and to provide some additional staff support to West Barnes Library.

7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN FINDING OF MALADMINISTRATION REGARDING TOP UP FEES CHARGED BY A RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME (FORWARD PLAN REF: 1302) (Agenda Item 7)

Councillor Linda Kirby expressed disappointment that the Authority had been found at fault in this situation and Simon Williams confirmed that all residents concerned had been written to informing them that they should not be asked to pay top up fees.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report are noted and lessons learned for the future.

8 BUSINESS PLAN 2014-18 (FORWARD PLAN REF:1324) (Agenda Item 9)

Caroline Holland advised that the report will go forward for consideration at the forthcoming round of scrutiny meetings.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

(1) notes the latest draft MTFS 2014-18;

(2) agrees the draft Capital Programme 2013-2018 for consideration by scrutiny in November; and

(3) notes the indicative capital programme for 2018-23.

9 FINANCIAL MONITORING - AUGUST 2013 (FORWARD PLAN REF:1323) (Agenda Item 10)

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

(1) note the financial reporting data relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast underspend at year end of £1.07million (which is 0.65% of the gross Council Budget) after allowing for a £299k transfer to the Capital Programme and consider any relevant action they may wish to take in respect of variations;

(2) note the adjustments made to the Capital Programme in Appendix;

(3) note the contents of the Debt Report contained in Appendix 8;

(4) note current progress to date on savings and review for the budget update for August 2013, along with impact on future savings already in the MTFS; and

(5) approve the virement of £235,000 from the £441,864 Social Work Improvement Fund reserve proposed by CSF department.

10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED: That the public are excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following report on the grounds that it is exempt from disclosure by virtue of Part 4B, Paragraph 10.4 and Category 3 of the constitution.

- (a) AWARD OF MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
(FORWARD PLAN REF: 1288) (Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED: That Cabinet award a Mechanical & Electrical Term Maintenance Contract to the preferred bidder from 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2017 and with an option to extend for a further 2 years on a 1+1 basis at the discretion of the employer.