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CABINET
20 JANUARY 2014
(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, Chris Lee (Director of Environment and Regeneration), Yvette Stanley (Director of Children, Schools and Families), Simon Williams (Director of Community and Housing), Kate Herbert (Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships), Chris Pedlow (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Lynne Hartley (Democratic Services Officer).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Iain Dysart, Suzanne Evans, Suzanne Grocott, Richard Hilton and Peter Southgate.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

No declarations were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2013 (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2013 are agreed as a correct record.

4. ORDER OF THE AGENDA

With the consent of the meeting the Chair varied the order of the agenda to take items 9 and 10 as the last items of business.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair welcomed Chris Pedlow, who had recently taken up the post of Senior Democratic Services Officer.

6. FINANCIAL MONITORING – NOVEMBER 2013 (Agenda Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet –

- (1) note the financial reporting data relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast underspend at year end of £1,583k (which is 0.9% of the gross Council Budget) after allowing for a £510k transfer to the Capital Programme, £1,500k transfer to balancing the budget reserve, £1,255k carry forward of Public Health funds;
- (2) approve adjustments and capital virements detailed in Appendix 5b and the Current Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 5a to the report;
- (3) note current progress to date on savings; and
- (4) approve the virement of £457,560 from the revenueisation and miscellaneous corporate budget to fund the PFI required increase for 2013-14.

7. LONDON COUNCILS GRANT SCHEME SUBSCRIPTION 2014/15 (Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet –

- (1) approves the council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme 2014/15 as per the subscription set by London Councils Leaders' Committee on 12 November 2013; and
- (2) agrees to allocate the balance in the 2014/15 subscriptions budget to the Merton Partnership Voluntary Sector Grant Scheme.

8. RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL RESIDENTS SURVEY (Agenda Item 6)

Cabinet were pleased to note continuing improvements over previous year's results and affirmed its commitment to further improvements to address areas of concern and meet residents' aspirations.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet note the results of the Annual Residents' Survey 2013

9. EVALUATION OF THE COUNCIL'S WEBCASTING PILOT (Agenda Item 7)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet recommends that Council should agree to continue webcasting committee meetings held in the council chamber

10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING PEER CHALLENGE FEEDBACK (Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet –

- (1) receives the feedback from the Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge; and
- (2) agrees to publish the feedback report on the Health and Wellbeing Challenge on the Council's website

11. STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT -
OPTIONS REPORT (Agenda Item 11)

Reason for urgency: The Chair had approved the submission of the report as a matter of urgency for the reason stated in the report.

Chris Lee drew attention to the comments of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel set out in paragraph 14 of the report which officers were taking on board.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet notes the content of the report and delegates to the Director of Environment & Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration, the authority to extend the contract by two year, this to be subject to satisfactory finalisation of the negotiations referred to in the report.

12. BUSINESS PLAN 2014-18 (Agenda Item 12)

Reason for urgency: The Chair had approved the submission of the report as a matter of urgency for the reason stated in the report.

Caroline Holland advised that Appendix 4 to the report, the draft Treasury Management Strategy, was still to follow and would be available for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 31 January 2014. Updates on the business rates and pensions fund positions would also be available for that meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet notes the financial information arising from the Provisional Settlement 2014-18 and that the financial implications will be incorporated into the draft MTFS 2014-18 and draft capital programme 2014-18.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 9)

RESOLVED:

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

14. CONTRACT AWARD - SCHOOL CLEANING CONTRACT (Agenda Item 10)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet award a contract for provision of the school cleaning service for schools and other education buildings in Merton for a period of three years, with an option to extend for two further periods of up to one year's duration each at the discretion of the council to the contractor named in the recommendation in the report.