

CABINET
16 OCTOBER 2017
(7.15 pm - 7.50 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Stephen Alambritis (in the Chair), Mark Allison, Tobin Byers, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Nick Draper, Ross Garrod, Edith Macauley MBE, Katy Neep and Martin Whelton

Ged Curran (Chief Executive), Hannah Doody (Director of Community and Housing), Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Chris Lee (Director of Environment and Regeneration), Yvette Stanley (Director, Children, Schools & Families Department), Paul Evans (Assistant Director of Corporate Governance), Dr Dagmar Zeuner (Director, Public Health) and Bronwen Pickering (Senior Communications Officer - Media Relations)

ALSO PRESENT Councillors Abigail Jones, Sally Kenny, Gilli Lewis-Lavender and Peter Southgate

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies were received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2017 are agreed as an accurate record.

4 BUSINESS PLAN 2018-22 (Agenda Item 4)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report which set out the financial challenges facing the Council, partly as a result of Government austerity, and a proposed framework for addressing those challenges.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that at this stage it was difficult to predict the figures and therefore they would be subject to change. All proposals would be subject to consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Panels.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed amendments to savings set out in Appendix 1 be agreed; and the financial implications be incorporated into the draft MTFs 2018-22; and

2. That the latest draft Capital Programme 2018-22 detailed in Appendix 3 be agreed for consideration by scrutiny in November; and the indicative programme for 2022-27 be noted.

5 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2017-18 - AUGUST 2017 (Agenda Item 5)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report, setting out the proposed adjustments.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that a further £1.4m would need to be identified to address the current overspend. Work was being carried out in Adult Social Care on a number of management actions to address their overspend.

The Leader welcomed the investments made in both Adult Social Care and Children, Schools and Families to address the challenging times, as both were important areas for the Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the financial reporting data relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net overspend at year end of £1.9million, 0.4% of the gross budget be noted.
2. That the adjustments to the Capital Programme contained in Appendix 5b to the Cabinet report be noted.
3. That the following adjustments to the Capital Programme be recommended to Council for approval:

Scheme	2017/18 budget	2018/19 budget	2019/20 budget	Narrative
Council and Cabinet approval				
Capital bidding fund	(560,100)	0		Virement
Parks – Canons Parks for the People	180,450	1,117,470	195,540	HLF Funding
Mitcham Area Regeneration – Parks for the People	638,780	2,032,100	301,040	HLF Funding & Virement
Total	259,130	3,149,570	496,580	

4. That the following adjustments to the Capital Programme be approved:

Scheme	2017/18 Budget	Narrative
Cabinet only approval		
Morden Park House Courtyard	125,000	£48k Donation and £77k Revenue Contribution
Total	125,000	

6 MERTON'S NEW LOCAL PLAN - HAVE YOUR SAY (Agenda Item 6)

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Regeneration and Housing presented the report, outlining the background to the development of the strategy and the process

for the 6 week consultation which would be publicised widely around the Borough. He looked forward to receiving the submissions and hoped that there would be a wide range of consultation responses from the community.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the proposed consultation was timely, due to the expected publication of the Mayor's draft London Plan consultation in Autumn 2017, which would set out housing targets for Merton. The consultation had also been considered by the Scrutiny Panel.

The Cabinet Member for Finance welcomed the opportunity to bring the new regeneration projects in the Borough together under the Plan, and stressed the need for new homes in the Borough.

The Leader welcomed the involvement of the Scrutiny members in the process.

RESOLVED:

1. That the first six week consultation on the new borough-wide Local Plan, to run for six weeks between October and December 2017 be approved.
2. That approval for the short consultation leaflet be delegated to the Director of Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

7 CONTRACT AWARD- ADULT INTEGRATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE (Agenda Item 7)

The Leader asked members to note that although item 7 contained an exempt appendix, Cabinet would not discuss the content of this appendix and could therefore stay in public session.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health presented the report, outlining the background to the service.

The Director of Public Health advised that a rigorous process had been followed and that the proposed provider would build on existing links to address the Community Plan priority of Bridging the Gap between the east and west of the Borough in terms of health inequalities.

RESOLVED:

1. That the award of a contract for the provision of the Adult Integrated Substance Misuse Service to Organisation A in the exempt appendix to the Cabinet report be approved.

The value of the contract over three years is £3,785,219.

The contract will commence on 1 April 2018 and be for a period of three years with the option to extend for a further period of up to 24 months, subject to satisfactory performance, availability of budget and continued need at the sole discretion of the Council. The maximum possible contract period would be no more than five years.

2. That the Cabinet delegates to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, the authority to extend the contract by the further increment of up to 24 months (as above).

8 TACKLING LONELINESS IN MERTON - FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY TASK GROUP REVIEW (Agenda Item 8)

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health introduced the report, stressing the importance of the topic and its implications for vulnerable residents. He welcomed the contribution made by the Task Group.

The Director of Community and Health advised that this presented a unique opportunity to work with the Borough's vibrant Third Sector. The Director of Public Health welcomed the initiative of the Task Group and advised that the recommendations were framed around a positive outcome of increasing the feeling of connectedness through social prescribing.

Councillor Sally Kenny, Chair of the Task Group, presented the report, highlighting the role of Councillors in tackling loneliness in Merton and the current action being taken to address the issue.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix A to the Cabinet report) arising from the scrutiny review of Tackling Loneliness in Merton be noted.
2. That the implementation of the recommendations through an action plan being drawn up by officers working with relevant local partner organisations and Cabinet Member(s) to be designated by Cabinet be agreed.
3. That the action plan be submitted to the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration, with no prior approval by Cabinet.

9 REFERENCE: CONSIDERATION OF CARE LEAVER ACCOMMODATION (Agenda Item 9)

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services introduced the report and welcomed the work of the Task Group.

Councillor Abigail Jones, Chair of the Task Group presented the report and thanked all those involved in the collaborative effort.

Cabinet welcomed the recommendations and thanked the Task Group.

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations made by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel (set out in paragraph 2.3 of the Cabinet report) be noted and endorsed.

10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 10)

Cabinet noted that the content of the exempt appendix contained in Item 11 would not be discussed and therefore the meeting remained in public session.

11 CONTRACT AWARD- ADULT INTEGRATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE - APPENDIX (Agenda Item 11)

The Cabinet noted that the content of the exempt appendix would not be discussed; and the decision is set out under Item 7.