

Agenda Item 3

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CABINET

16 JANUARY 2017

(7.15 pm - 7.55 pm)

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah.

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 12 December 2016 are agreed as an accurate record.

4 ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND MERTON'S CHILD HEALTHY WEIGHT ACTION PLAN (Agenda Item 4)

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services introduced the report, which presents the Annual Public Health report, focussing on childhood obesity. They encouraged all Cabinet Members to consider ways to deliver the Child Healthy Weight action plan within each of their portfolios.

The Director of Public Health gave a short introduction to the report, noting the statutory duty to produce an Annual Public Health report.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Receive the independent Annual Public Health Report (APHR) 2016-17, note the key messages and endorse publication.
2. Endorse and champion the Child Healthy Weight Action Plan 2016 – 2018.

5 VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY (Agenda Item 5)

The report, which sets out the key recommendations from the Merton Partnership Executive Board Steering Group on the new Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy, was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities.

The Director of Community and Housing confirmed that the action plan emerging from the Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy draft recommendations will be refined and finalised once the strategy has been approved.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Leader encouraged officers to investigate the recruitment of volunteers from local businesses as part of their approach to corporate social responsibility.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Endorse the recommendations of the Merton Partnership's Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy Steering Group and that these form the basis for the Merton Partnership's Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy
2. Delegate the responsibility of approving the final version of the strategy to the Director of Community and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities.

6 LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS SCHEME SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2017/18
(Agenda Item 6)

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities presented the report which sought Cabinet approval for Merton's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme for 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approve the council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme 2017/18 as per the subscription set by London Councils Leaders' Committee on 6 December 2016.

7 CIRCLE HOUSING MERTON PRIORY GOVERNANCE (Agenda Item 7)

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing introduced the report which updated member on Circle Housing's plans to simplify the group structure and consolidate the nine housing associations in the group into one, and to seek members' agreement on the council's position on these plans.

Cabinet Members welcomed the robust approach taken by officers and members so far in negotiations around changes proposed by Circle Housing.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- A. Note Circle Housing plans to collapse the group structure and consolidate the separate housing associations into one association.
- B. Note the powers that the council has in order to affect and influence decision making.
- C. Note the proposed community panel for Merton.

- D. Note the recent Homes and Community Agency regulatory notice issued against Clarion Housing Group.
- E. Agree to recommend Full Council that these governance proposals should be supported, including how the Council will use its shareholder vote and whether to agree to the proposed variations to the Stock Transfer Agreement.

8 FINANCIAL MONITORING NOVEMBER 2016 (Agenda Item 8)

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report which details the financial reporting data for November 2016.

The Director of Corporate Services drew Cabinet Members' attention to paragraph 2.4 of the report which describes how the overspend will be addressed, and highlighted the use of general fund balances.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- A. Note the financial reporting data relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net overspend at year end of £6.325 million, 1.2% of the gross budget.
- B. Note the proposals set out in 2.4 to fund this shortfall without any impact on services in the current year.
- C. Approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme detailed in appendix 5b:

| Scheme | 2016/17 budget | Virements | Revised 2016/17 budget |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Improving Fin. Information systems | 506,160 | 50,000 | 556,160 |
| Mitcham Town Centre | 220,000 | 120,000 | 340,000 |

9 BUSINESS PLAN 2017-21 (Agenda Item 9)

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report, and highlighted a number of issues which will impact on the long term financial strategy.

The Director of Corporate Services pointed out the key changes to the report brought to Cabinet in December, including the revaluation of Business Rates detailed in paragraphs 2.2.6 and 2.2.7 of the report, and noted the reserves and balances, as laid out in paragraph 7.3.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- 1. Note the financial information arising from the Provisional Settlement 2017/18 and that the financial implications will be incorporated into the draft MTFS

2017-21 and draft capital programme 2017-21.

2. Note the latest update of the draft MTFS for 2017-21.