

Agenda Item 3

CABINET
16 SEPTEMBER 2013
(19:15 – 19:58)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Suzanne Grocott, Maurice Groves, Russell Makin, Peter Southgate and Ray Tindle

Announcements:

On behalf of the Cabinet, the Leader welcomed Councillor Judy Saunders to the Cabinet in her capacity as the newly appointed Cabinet member for Environmental Cleanliness and Parking;

Cabinet noted that Councillor Mark Allison is now appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council;

Cabinet placed on record its sincere thanks to Councillor Mark Betteridge for his service during his time as Cabinet member and Deputy Leader of the Council; and

Cabinet placed on record its thanks to Mr David Dunford, Assistant Head of Democracy Services, for his service to the Council during the past 24 years.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 1)

None advised.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 2)

None advised.

3 MINUTES (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 1 July and 9 July 2013 are agreed as a correct record.

4 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ADULT SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY (Agenda Item 4)

Councillor Ray Tindle made a number of introductory comments to the report.

Cabinet had regard to the recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

“A. That Cabinet considers the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix 1) arising from the scrutiny review of adult skills and employability undertaken by the Sustainable Communities O&S Panel;

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 Cabinet Member(s); and

C. That Cabinet decides whether it wishes to formally approve the action plan accompanying any agreed recommendations prior to the Executive

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Response and Action Plan being submitted to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 12th November 2013.”

Councillor Maxi Martin commented that due regard should be given to care leavers (18-25 age group) when considering apprenticeship schemes etc.

It was noted that there was to be an employment conference held with the business community and when it was anticipated that a number of large employers would be present. It was considered that recommendations 7, 8 and 9 arising from the scrutiny review would have added value by virtue of the the outcomes arising from that conference.

Therefore, in view of these matters, Cabinet

RESOLVED: That

A. the report and recommendations (attached as appendix 1 to the submitted report) arising from the scrutiny review of adult skills and employability undertaken by the Sustainable Communities O&S Panel are noted; and

B. a further report is presented by the council’s officers having particular regard to the outcomes of the pending employment conference with the business community.

5 ARTICLE 4 (NON-IMMEDIATE) TO REMOVE PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR THE CONVERSION OF OFFICES TO RESIDENTIAL IN WIMBLEDON TOWN CENTRE AND MERTON’S INDUSTRIAL ESTATES (Agenda Item 5)

Councillor Andrew Judge introduced the report.

Cabinet had regard to the recommendations and supporting narrative in the submitted report and, upon the Chair putting the recommendations to the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That approval is given to the undertaking of a non-immediate Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights for the conversion of offices to residential use for Wimbledon town centre and the industrial estates at Willow Lane, Garth Road, South Wimbledon (Morden Road) Durnsford Road, Dundonald Road, Plough Lane and Prince George’s Road (Colliers Wood).

6 LAND AT THE BROADWAY, WIMBLEDON, SW19 KNOWN AS P4 (Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Andrew Judge introduced the report.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration commented that the submitted report covers all the issues raised by scrutiny and deals with the matters that will enable Cabinet to reach a conclusion. Having regard to a letter submitted by the ‘Wimbledon Society’ (circulated at the meeting), the Director referred to the last point made in

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relation to 'Planning' which stated:

"The Council's current proposals for the P4 site in its 'Sites and Policies' document (site 28, page 342) are due to be examined by the Inspectorate in the Autumn, and it would be prudent to hold back the disposal project until the Inspector's decisions are available. These planning criteria will be a very significant element for intending bidders, and clarity would ensure that all bids are made on even basis."

In particular, the Director commented that the Council would not move forward with disposal until the outcome of the Inspector's decision is known.

Councillor Suzanne Grocott was invited to address the meeting and commented that:

The report does state that there is a bid under the 'Localism Act' that is being progressed at the moment and that that bid should be determined prior to any other decision being taken.

Councillor Peter Southgate was invited to address the meeting and commented that at the call-in meeting held to consider this matter, the sale of the site was not disputed but that rather, the concern related to the under-valuation of the site. The report before Cabinet advises of a higher valuation and, therefore, the objective of the call-in to achieve a reappraisal has been achieved.

Councillor Mark Allison referred to the community group that wishes to purchase the site and the need for their affording the market price. Now that the property market is improving now is the time to take this issue forward and that any organisation that wishes to do anything different needs to come up with clear alternative. A suggestion that Councillor David Dean made at the scrutiny meeting regarding building something on top of the car park is something that could potentially be considered.

Councillor Nick Draper commented that the site offered the opportunity to plan for the future and that the Council should be prepared to look at everything for the future of the site.

Cabinet had regard to the recommendations and supporting narrative in the submitted report and, upon the Chair putting the recommendation to the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That the resolutions of Cabinet made at its meeting of 11 March 2013 are upheld.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT 2013-14 (JULY DATA) (Agenda Item 7)

Reason for urgency: The chair has approved the submission of this report as a matter of urgency as it provides the latest available monitoring information for 2013/14. This requires consideration as it has implications for current and future years' budget monitoring and management.

Councillor Mark Allison introduced the report.

Cabinet had regard to the recommendations and supporting narrative in the submitted report and, upon the Chair putting the recommendations to the meeting, it

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was

RESOLVED: That

A. the financial reporting data relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast underspend at year end of £1.2 million (which is 0.76% of the gross Council Budget) after allowing for a £299k transfer to the Capital Programme is noted;

Bi. Approval is given to the new schemes and additions to current schemes highlighted with a * in Appendix 5b of the submitted report;

Bii. the adjustments made to the Capital Programme in Appendix 5b of the submitted report are noted;

C. the Key Strategic Risk Register June 2013 as attached as Appendix 5d to the submitted report is noted;

D. the current progress to date on savings and review for the budget update for 13 August, along with impact on future savings already in the MTFS is noted; and

E. agreement is given to the relevant revenue virements proposed by E&R department as detailed in the submitted report.

8 BUSINESS PLAN 2014-18 (Agenda Item 8)

Reason for urgency: The chairman has approved the submission of this report as a matter of urgency as it provides the latest available information on the Business Plan and Budget 2014/15 and requires consideration of issues relating to the Budget process and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-2018. It is important that this consideration is not delayed in order that the Council can work towards a balanced budget at its meeting on 5 March 2014 and set a Council Tax as appropriate for 2014/15.

Councillor Mark Allison introduced the report.

Cabinet had regard to the recommendations and supporting narrative in the submitted report and, upon the Chair putting the recommendations to the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That

1. the rolled forward Medium Term Financial Strategy and draft Capital summary for 2014 – 18 is noted;

2. confirmation is given to the latest position with regards to savings already in the Medium Term Financial Strategy;

4

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3. agreement is given to the approach to setting a balanced budget over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-18 and agreement is given to the proposed savings targets for each department based on controllable expenditure; and

4. agreement is given to the timetable for the Business Plan 2014-18 including the revenue budget 2014/15, the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-18 and the Capital Programme for 2014-18.

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