

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **CABINET** held on **WEDNESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 2023** at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET PRESENT

Councillors Adam Harrison (in the Chair), Meric Apak, Danny Beales, Marcus Boyland, Sabrina Francis, Richard Olszewski and Anna Wright

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ABSENT

Councillors Georgia Gould, Pat Callaghan and Nadia Shah

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Sagal Abdi-Wali

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Cabinet and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Callaghan, Gould and Shah.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadcasting of the meeting

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being broadcast live by the Council to the internet and could be viewed for twelve months thereafter and then archived and made available on request. Anyone who had asked to address the meeting was deemed to be consenting to having their contribution recorded and

broadcast and to the use of the sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes.

4. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

5. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was no notification of urgent business.

6. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ABOUT WHY THE MEETING SHOULD BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no representations received.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

8. MATTERS REFERRED FROM A COUNCIL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no matters referred.

Please note that there were no alternative options considered or rejected by the Cabinet for the following items, unless indicated, although Cabinet Members duly considered, where applicable, options listed within the reports.

9. CAMDEN YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023-25 (SP/2023/15)

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families.

RESOLVED –

THAT the Council be recommended to approve the Youth Justice Plan 2023-25.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

10. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT 2024/25 (CS/2023/19)

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living.

In response to a question, the Cabinet Member remarked that officers were looking into the possibility of extending council tax support to shared lives carers and it was hoped to be able to make this change to the scheme in the near future. In response to a further question regarding the impact of the recent financial settlement, he added that the Council was committed to the council tax support scheme and, whilst the financial situation was not helpful, he did not see any immediate risk to the scheme.

RESOLVED –

THAT the Council be recommended to agree:-

- (i) That the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme, updated with minor wording amendments to reflect legislative changes and prescribed requirements made by central government (as explained in paragraph 2.4 of the report), and as set out in Appendix B of the report, continues from 1 April 2024, and that a review be carried out by summer 2024 in order for a decision in January 2025 to consider options for the Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2025/26; and
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance to make changes to the approved scheme during 2024/25 to reflect any requirements set by Government to either the prescribed regulations for pensioners or the local working age scheme to ensure that the scheme remains legally consistent and up to date as the legislation changes.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

11. DRAFT NEW LOCAL PLAN (SC/2023/38)

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for New Homes, Jobs and Community Investment.

RESOLVED –

THAT, having had due regard to the equality impact assessment at Appendix B of the report, the results of the consultation set out in Appendix C, and having had due regard to the obligations set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (i) The draft Camden Local Plan (as set out in Appendix A of the report) be approved for public consultation; and
- (ii) Authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Regeneration and Investment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for New Homes, Jobs and Community Investment, to make minor changes to the draft Camden Local Plan prior to consultation as required, including factual updates, corrections and non-material wording changes.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**12. REVIEW OF THE CAMDEN MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY
(CS/2023/17)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living.

In response to a question, the Cabinet Member remarked that the Council was facing significant financial pressures but its strong record of long term financial planning meant that it was in a relatively robust situation in comparison to some other authorities.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the continued challenging and uncertain funding and economic outlook for the Council, including the in year forecast outturn position set out in section two of the report, be noted;
- (ii) THAT the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account, along with proposals to improve its financial sustainability detailed in paragraphs 2.31 to 2.40 of the report, be noted;
- (iii) THAT the rent policy for Highgate Newtown Housing, detailed in paragraphs 2.14 to 2.16 of the report, be agreed;
- (iv) THAT, in relation to fees and charges discussed in section 2.24 and Appendix A of the report

Cabinet - Wednesday, 20th December, 2023

- (a) Authority be delegated to the relevant Executive Director to decide increases to existing fees and charges up to a maximum of 7%, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders.
- (b) The particular content in Appendix A of the report, setting out supporting information for the new fees and charges and the fees and charges where the proposed increase is over 7%, be noted;
- (c) The new fees and charges, and the increase in fees and charges where the proposed increase is over 7%, as shown in Appendix A, be agreed and authority be delegated to the relevant Executive Director to introduce those changes;
- (d) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director Corporate Services to reduce specific fees and charges in exceptional cases as outlined in paragraph 2.25 of the report;
- (v) THAT the Council's planned use of reserves, summarised in Appendix B of the report, be agreed;
- (vi) THAT the Council's forecast finance position at Quarter Two of 2023/24, as outlined in paragraphs 2.41 to 2.44 and Appendix C of the report, be noted; and
- (vii) THAT the risks outlined in section four of the report be noted.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

13. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT AND MID-YEAR STRATEGY (CS/2023/15)

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living.

RESOLVED –

THAT the annual report and mid-year strategy be noted and recommended to Council for approval.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**14. CAMDEN CAPITAL WORKS FRAMEWORK PROCUREMENT
(SC/2023/41)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Better Homes.

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT the procurement strategy for the construction and property framework and supporting mechanisms be approved, and it be noted that the value of the procurement is approximately £300m over the four-year period and that, to provide maximum flexibility, the contract notice advertising the framework will include a maximum potential value of £500m;
- (ii) THAT authority be delegated to the Executive Director Supporting Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Better Homes, to award the Framework contracts for the Camden Construction and Property Works Framework;
- (iii) THAT authority be delegated to the Executive Director Supporting Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Better Homes to approve the procurement strategy for contracts procured under the proposed Framework (“call-off contracts”) where the value is £5m or more; and
- (iv) THAT authority be delegated to the Executive Director Supporting Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Better Homes to award contracts procured under the proposed Framework (“call-off contracts”) where the value is over £5m but below £10M.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.31pm.

CHAIR

Cabinet - Wednesday, 20th December, 2023

Contact Officer: Vicky Wemyss-Cooke
Telephone No: 020 7974 5726
E-Mail: vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk

MINUTES END