

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST MINUTES OF THE CABINET

20 April 2023 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Grace Williams	Leader of the Council
Cabinet Members:	Councillor Clyde Loakes	Deputy Leader (Climate and Air Quality)
	Councillor Naheed Asghar	Portfolio Lead Member - Health and Wellbeing
	Councillor Vicky Ashworth	Portfolio Lead Member - Jobs, Social Inclusion and Equalities
	Councillor Paul Douglas	Portfolio Lead Member - Public Service
	Councillor Khevy Limbajee	Portfolio Lead Member - Community Safety
	Councillor Louise Mitchell	Portfolio Lead Member - Adults
	Councillor Alistair Strathern	Portfolio Lead Member - Children and Young People
	Councillor Rosalind Doré	Cabinet Commissioner - Culture
	Councillor Sharon Waldron	Cabinet Commissioner - Customer Experience
	Councillor Elizabeth Baptiste	Cabinet Commissioner - Shaping Places
	Councillor Kizzy Gardiner	Cabinet Commissioner - Youth Hubs and Engagement

(Cabinet Commissioners are appointed by the Leader to assist Cabinet in proposing, formulating and advising upon Council policy under the guidance of the appropriate Portfolio Holder. These Councillors are not Members of the Cabinet and do not have any voting rights nor decision-making powers.)

Officers in Attendance:

Martin Esom	Chief Executive
John Turnbull	Strategic Director of Finance and Governance
Mark Hynes	Director of Governance and Law
Ian Buckle	Head of Electoral and Democratic Services
Stewart Murray	Strategic Director, Economic Growth and Housing Delivery
Shazia Hussain	Deputy Chief Executive
Daniel Phelps	Director of Wellbeing and Independence

Christopher Foxton	Democratic Services Officer
Daniel Greaves	Corporate Director of Community Safety and Resilience
Jarlath Griffin	Director of Neighbourhoods

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ahsan Khan, Heather Flinders and Debbie Porter.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

38. MINUTES OF CABINET

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2023 were agreed by Cabinet and signed by the Leader.

39. PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF CHINGFORD STATION ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

Councillor Williams introduced the report, noting the importance of the work that had taken place between residents, council officers and councillors to establish the conservation area. She thanked residents and Cabinet members for their involvement which had helped celebrate the unique character within North Chingford.

Councillor Baptiste added that new designated area would preserve the early modern character of the area. She explained that consultation workshops had taken place with residents, the Chingford Historical Society, Love North Chingford and the City of London Corporation. There had been two-hundred and thirteen written responses, which had created a combined response of three-hundred and fifty comments and interactions. Councillors Williams and Baptiste thanked everyone who had taken part.

Cabinet;

- Noted and considered the proposed Conservation Area Map (Appendix 1) and Summary of Special Interest (Appendix 2); and,
- Formally designated the proposed Chingford Station Road Conservation Area.

40. REVITALISATION OF VESTRY HOUSE MUSEUM

Councillor Williams introduced the report, noting the importance of the museum to residents. Cabinet members agreed with the importance of the venue and wanted to do more to make it more accessible and appealing, especially to young people, as it currently had been underutilised.

The report had outlined the funding that had been received from the Levelling Up fund bid and Councillor Williams confirmed that additional match funding of £800k committed to the project. She added that the next steps were important to ensure that the collection was accessible to residents across the borough.

Councillor Doré thanked officers for their contributions and their work in the consultation process. She explained that the report set out the next steps to ensure that the building was fully accessible and environmentally sound. She added the residents were passionate about the future of the Vestry House Museum and had established a new committee advisory panel to ensure that the collection was accessible and engage a new generation of young people.

Cabinet;

- Agreed the recommended next steps for Vestry House Museum:
 - (1) To seek partner organisations to work with the council to revitalise Vestry House Museum and to achieve agreed outcomes.
 - (2) To relocate the archives and local studies library to a more accessible location in the borough and expand the digitisation of the archival sources.
 - (3) To develop the museum collections so they better reflect the diverse histories of Waltham Forest.
 - (4) To approve the allocation of the £3.68million from the Levelling Up Fund for the revitalisation of Vestry House Museum and a further £800,000 required match funding, subject to external funding bids.
- delegated responsibility to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Leader and Strategic Director of Resources:
 - (a) for the selection of the partner organisation(s) to develop and deliver the ambitions for Vestry House Museum, following a formal procurement process.
 - (b) for permission to procure the design and delivery team to deliver the programme.

41. ALL-AGE CARERS STRATEGY (2023-26)

Councillors Mitchell and Strathern introduced the report. Councillor Mitchell and paid tribute to residents with caring duties for members of their family. She said that, nationally, carers provided thousand of hours of support and that the value of carers contributed over £132b to the economy each year.

Councillor Mitchell explained that the strategy built on the work that had taken place over the last three years and the work including during the Covid-19 pandemic. Members from the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee had visited the Dementia Hub to see the services that were being provided, and a new hair salon would be opened to provide services to those with dementia and their carers.

Councillor Strathern thanked officers for the work that had taken place, noting that care responsibilities could come to any person at any time. Many young carers wanted to think about education and their future, and it was important for the council to provide support and respite care to help empower them and allow them to be children. He thanked the work of Saddique Ahmed and Daniel Phelps in preparing the strategy and the officers who had supported in developing it.

Councillor Williams noted how the council was working with carers of all ages and the involvement of schools in supporting carers, thanking officers for their work.

Councillor Waldron echoed the importance of supporting carers, particularly carers who lived with those with dementia, and was encouraged by the inclusion of Dementia Buddy clinics.

Cabinet;

- approved the revised strategy (Appendix 1) and its refreshed commitments.

42. SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT 2020-2022 AND SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL STATEMENT 2023/24

Councillor Douglas introduced the report and explained that it demonstrated the council's commitment to social value. The policy would encourage to add social value to areas such as employment and the supply chain. He explained that many local businesses benefitted from support from the council.

Councillor Douglas added that the report drew attention to the social impact journey, now valued at £29m, and how this addressed the council's priorities. He thanked the work of Joanne Dahlgren, and the Social Impact and Social Return on Investment teams.

Councillor Williams thanked officers for their work noting the importance of communicating social value more clearly, showing the combined efforts of the work that takes place.

Cabinet;

- Noted the Social Value Impact Report 2020-2022
- Approved the Social Value Annual Statement 2023/24

43. EMD CINEMA - PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL UPDATE

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Cabinet as an opportunity to support the Community Programme at Soho Theatre Walthamstow was being explored by officers, if this is progressed, it would need to be included within the overall Cabinet decision.

44. LEYTONSTONE LEISURE CENTRE ROOF REPLACEMENT

Councillor Asghar introduced the report explaining that the decision would address a health and safety issue within the leisure centre. This was part of a wider redevelopment project for the site, but it had been decided that the roof was an urgent case. The wider redevelopment would be part of the '15-Minutes Neighbourhoods' strategy and ensure that residents have access to leisure facilities. Councillor Williams thanked the officers who had been involved with the report.

Cabinet;

- Approved a total budget of £3.08m for replacement of the roof.
- Noted that the £3.08m budget includes a previous CSAMG approval of £0.43m for design and contract supervision.
- Agreed that Officers progress the technical design and procurement of the works.
- Delegated Authority to the Strategic Director Place in consultation with the Strategic Director - Resource and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, to award the contract for works post-tender.

Cabinet members and officers then paid tribute to John Turnbull who would be retiring at the end of the month. Both the Leader and Councillor Loakes spoke of his stewardship and ability to find solutions in a time of challenging financial circumstances for local authorities, and to be a calm voice of reason for officers and members. Mr Esom paid tribute to Mr Turnbull for the good working relationship between the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer that had been built by him.

Councillor Williams thanked everyone for attending and observed that the next Cabinet meeting would take place in June.

The meeting closed at 2.31 pm

Chair's Signature _____

Date _____