

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST MINUTES OF THE CABINET

8 June 2023 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Grace Williams	Leader of the Council
Cabinet Members:	Councillor Ahsan Khan	Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration)
	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 - Finance and Resources
	Councillor Khevyn Limbajee	Portfolio Lead Member - Community Safety
	Councillor Louise Mitchell	Portfolio Lead Member - Adults
	Councillor Alistair Strathern	Portfolio Lead Member - Children and Young People
	Councillor Kizzy Gardiner	Portfolio Lead Member - 15 Minute Neighbourhoods
	Councillor Rosalind Doré	Cabinet Commissioner - Destinations
	Councillor Elizabeth Baptiste	Cabinet Commissioner - Renters
	Councillor Catherine Deakin	Cabinet Commissioner - Health Equity

(Cabinet Commissioners are appointed by the Leader to assist Cabinet in leading engagement with our community on four key priorities for the Council and to support our borough to recover from the pandemic. 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
Heather Flinders	Strategic Director, Families
Joe Garrod	Corporate Director, Housing
Shazia Hussain	Deputy Chief Executive
Mark Hynes	Corporate Director, Governance and Law
Anthony Jackson	Democratic Services Officer
Rob Manning	Strategic Director, Resources

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clyde Loakes and Sharon Waldron.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. MINUTES OF CABINET

The minutes of the meeting, held on 20 April 2023, were approved and signed as a correct record.

The Leader then welcomed Councillors Kizzy Gardiner and Catherine Deakin into their new Cabinet roles.

4. THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO DAMP AND MOULD

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, confirmed that damp and mould was a key priority both nationally and for the Council, following the tragic death of Awaab Ishak in November 2020. He added that the issue in relation to damp and mould on Montague Road highlighted the importance of going over previous cases to ensure that the Council had done all it could. Councillor Khan gave thanks to Mr Joe Garrod - Corporate Director for Housing and his team for their hard work.

The Leader highlighted the importance of looking at health equity and pointed to the new Cabinet Commissioner role, held by Councillor Deakin, which would focus on that area. She went on to say that access to decent homes was paramount for residents and that the Council was keen to ensure that both its own housing stock and that of the private rented sector would meet a certain standard. The Leader then thanked officers for the joined up working approach and Councillor Khan for his approach and leadership on the issue.

Councillor Limbajee stated that it was known that there were some issues in the private rented sector in relation to damp and mould and he said that the report highlighted many of them. He thanked Councillor Khan, Mr David Beach – Corporate Director of Regulatory and Contingency Planning Services and his team for their work on the subject. The Leader added that Councillor Baptiste was the Cabinet Commissioner for Renters and, in that capacity, would emphasise the support available to tenants and strengthen the Council's approach.

Decision

Cabinet noted:

- (1) the Council's overall response to tackling damp and mould across all housing tenures via a councillor-led Task & Finish Group and a Taskforce made up of specialist officers; and
- (2) the work that is being undertaken by Regulatory Services to strengthen the Council's response to complaints of damp and mould in privately rented homes.

5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Cabinet agreed not to exclude the press and public from the meeting by resolution during consideration of agenda items 6 and 7 in accordance with Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, on the grounds that consideration of the appendices may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Act.

6. CREMATORIUM NEW BUILD

This item was deferred to a later Cabinet meeting.

7. JAZZ YARD - SALES STRATEGY FOR UNSOLD HOMES

Councillor Khan introduced the report.

The Leader commended the report highlighting the fact that full occupancy was ensured. She added that the report was testament to the excellent work of the Council's Housing team.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) agreed the purchase by the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) of the private sale homes from Sixty Bricks at a purchase price of £5.40m, funded through £1.62m of shared ownership sales receipts, £2.16m of Right to Buy receipts and £1.62m of HRA borrowing;
- (2) agreed the change in tenure of the 13 remaining one bed flats at the Jazz Yard from private sale to shared ownership; and
- (3) delegated authority to the Commercial Director of Property and Delivery to dispose of the 13 shared ownership units on the open market.

The meeting closed at 2.11 pm

Chair's Signature _____

Date _____

