

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST MINUTES OF THE CABINET

05 October 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 - Finance and Resources
	Councillor Kizzy Gardiner	Portfolio Lead Member - Children and Young People
	Councillor Ahsan Khan	Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration)
	Councillor Khevyn Limbajee	Portfolio Lead Member - Community Safety
	Councillor Louise Mitchell	Portfolio Lead Member - Adults
	Councillor Elizabeth Baptiste	Cabinet Commissioner - Renters
	Councillor Catherine Deakin	Cabinet Commissioner - Health Equity
	Councillor Rosalind Doré	Cabinet Commissioner - Destinations
	Councillor Sharon Waldron	Cabinet Commissioner - Housing Transformation

(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:

Linzi Roberts-Egan	Chief Executive
Jarlath Griffin	Director of Neighbourhoods
Shazia Hussain	Deputy Chief Executive
Mark Hynes	Director of Governance and Law
Anthony Jackson	Democratic Services Officer
Rob Manning	Strategic Director, Resources

Daniel Phelps
Stewart Murray

Director of Children's Social Care
Strategic Director, Place

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

36. MINUTES OF CABINET

The minutes of the meeting, held on 12 September 2023, were approved as a correct record.

37. FINANCIAL MONITORING: MONTH 5 (AUGUST)

Councillor Douglas introduced the report and, in doing so, said there was a national crisis in underfunding of local authorities. He pointed out that some Councils that had operated well were struggling with finances and he highlighted the importance of Central Government taking the issue seriously.

The Leader agreed that the financial situation for local authorities had worsened and said that she was confident that LBWF officers and politicians would do their best for residents. She gave thanks to relevant officers for their hard work.

Decision

Cabinet approved the increase to the charge for replacement waste receptacles within the Neighbourhoods and Environment Directorate, from £20 to £22.50 from the 1st October 2023, due to their current cost exceeding the current charge.

38. PROCUREMENT OF PROVIDER FOR THE NEW SCORE CENTRE

Councillor Asghar introduced the report and, in doing so, said that the proposals were in keeping with the Marmot principles.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the procurement of a Provider to manage the new Score Centre in accordance with the process set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report; and
- (2) agreed to delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Neighbourhood and Environment in consultation with the Strategic Director for Resources and the

Portfolio Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing to award the contract once the procurement exercise is complete.

39. LICENSING OF PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR PROPERTIES - REVIEW AND PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE DESIGNATION

Councillor Limbajee introduced the report and, in doing so, said that the proposals in the report met the Council's aspirations in relation to health, climate change and antisocial behaviour. He gave thanks to Mr David Beach and his team for their hard work. Councillor Limbajee then stated that LBWF had set standards in this area, which included groundbreaking legal work in relation to enforcement rights.

Councillor Khan congratulated Councillor Limbajee on his work on this area and pointed out that private renters were one of the groups most affected by the housing crisis. He highlighted the importance of more action from Central Government in this area, such as ending no-fault evictions and increasing energy performance in private rented homes. Councillor Khan confirmed that the Council was doing as much as it could, through the licensing regime and the housing sustainment team, to provide support for private renters. He also echoed Councillor Limbajee's words of thanks to Mr Beach and his team.

The Leader referred to the recent Affordable Housing Commission which demonstrated the importance of the private rented market for LBWF residents and that it was an important area to develop. She said she was pleased to see how it related to the Council's wider priorities, such as health inequality and community safety. The Leader also thanked officers and relevant portfolio lead members for their joint working.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the significant progress in tackling poor property conditions and anti-social behaviour in the private rented sector that has been achieved through the Council's large-scale property licensing schemes;
- (2) agreed for further work to be undertaken to identify whether the relevant legal criteria are met to support a consultation upon a further selective licensing designation and/or additional licensing designation being implemented following the expiry of the current schemes;
- (3) delegated to the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Environment, in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law and Strategic Director of Resources, authority to identify the proposed nature and scope of any further designation, informed by the work described in (1) above, and authority to undertake consultation as necessary with landlords, tenants and other stakeholders regarding future scheme options;
- (4) noted that Cabinet will receive a further report with the finalised outcomes of any consultation together with recommendations in relation to designation of

discretionary property licensing schemes beyond the expiry of the existing schemes; and

- (5) noted that any decision to designate a further large-scale Selective Licensing scheme must be taken at a point which enables time for an application to be considered and determined by the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), and if confirmed, published before the current scheme expires on 30 April 2025.

40. NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (NCIL) ALLOCATION AND AMENDMENTS TO NCIL COLLECTION ZONES

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, thanked Mr Stewart Murray and his team for their hard work.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) agreed the changes to the process of allocating NCIL;
- (2) delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning and Delivery, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration and the Strategic Director of Resources to make minor amendments to the process of allocation of the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy; and
- (3) agreed the proposed amendments to the NCIL Collection Zones (as shown on the map in Appendix 2 to the report).

41. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Cabinet agreed not to exclude the press and public from the meeting by resolution during consideration of agenda item 9 as Members had agreed that the content of the exempt appendix would not be discussed.

42. WALTHAM FOREST RECYCLING STRATEGY 2024-34

Councillor Loakes introduced the report and, in doing so, stated that the strategy presented a substantial redesign of frontline services. He said that Central Government were not showing enough urgency in relation to the climate emergency despite all evidence indicating that action was needed. Councillor Loakes went on to say that changes could not happen overnight and gave thanks to the Communications team for their work in raising awareness as that was essential to make the strategy successful. He added that it was important to take examples of best practice from other local authorities that had implemented similar changes. Councillor Loakes thanked the Climate Scrutiny Committee for their pre-decision scrutiny and Mr Jarlath Griffin, Ms Kirsty Waugh – Head of Operations, Ms Charlotte

Goulding – Strategic Campaigns and Communications Manager, Mr Rob Manning and their respective teams for their hard work.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) noted and took into account the consultation undertaken with residents as set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 6 to the report;
- (2) agreed to introduce separate food waste collections to all residents and reduce the frequency of residual waste collections from households that have their own individual bins from weekly to fortnightly;
- (3) approved and adopted the Waltham Forest Recycling Strategy 2024-34 Appendix 1 to the report;
- (4) agreed to vary the Neighbourhood Services Contract with Urbaser SA to give contractual effect to the changes necessary as a result of adopting the Waltham Forest Recycling Strategy 2024-34; and
- (5) approval for the one off spend of £1,625,946 and the on-going costs of £937,617 as outlined in the financial implications section 7.1.4 of the report.

The meeting closed at 2.25 pm

Chair's Signature _____

Date _____