

London Borough of Waltham Forest Minutes of the Cabinet

11 January 2024 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
Ian Buckle	Head of Electoral and Democratic Services
Joe Garrod	Acting Strategic Director, Place
Shazia Hussain	Deputy Chief Executive
Mark Hynes	Director of Governance and Law
Anthony Jackson	Democratic Services Officer

Rob Manning	Strategic Director, Resources
Debbie Porter	Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods and Environment
Rob Manning	Director of Return on Investment
Christopher Spencer	Interim Strategic Director, People

65. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

66. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

67. Minutes of Cabinet

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 7 December 2023, were approved and signed as a correct record.

68. Financial Monitoring: Month 8 (November)

Councillor Douglas introduced the report.

The Leader thanked Councillor Douglas and relevant officers for their continued hard work on the Council's finances.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the transfer of £0.075 million from the contingency fund to the conduct of elections budgets to ensure the cost of local elections is fully funded as per paragraph 3.48 of the report; and
- (2) approved the updated Write off Policy which is shown in Appendix 1 as per paragraph 1.3 of the report.

69. Building A Fairer and Healthier Waltham Forest: Our Response to the Marmot Recommendations

Councillor Asghar introduced the report and, in doing so, referred to the recent pandemic that had exposed inequality within different groups of residents which was now being addressed by the work being undertaken as detailed in the report. She confirmed that many neighbouring boroughs were using this work as best practice in efforts to replicate the work in their areas. Councillor Asghar stated that every resident in LBWF deserved the same opportunities and she added that this work

would go some way to reducing the pressures on the NHS. She went on to thank Councillor Deakin for her leadership and her help in shaping the response.

Councillor Deakin referred to the huge amount of work that had gone into the response and confirmed that it showed the breadth of the Council's ambition and the action taken to drive a cross-Council response. She said that the Marmot recommendations had had a real impact on the Council's work and on residents who experience the poorest health outcomes. Councillor Deakin confirmed that the report demonstrated a sustained commitment to health equity going forward and would be at the heart of the Council's strategies. She stated that the next step was to develop clear ways to measure and monitor performance. Councillor Deakin then gave thanks to all officers involved for their hard work and to Councillor Asghar for her leadership.

Councillor Ashworth said that the Council was fortunate to benefit from the expertise of Professor Marmot and his team and that it represented a big opportunity for the borough. She confirmed that the response to the recommendations were focused, ambitious and vital for improving health outcomes in LBWF. Councillor Ashworth stated that the report gave good examples of how voluntary sector partners were driving transformation with regard to health inequality, such as the health inequalities impact fund. She went on to say that she was pleased that prevention was at the heart of the Council's response and would help improve the prosperity of the borough.

Councillor Khan stated that the timing of this report was helpful for both the forthcoming Housing Strategy and Local Plan. He said that the report set out how housing could have a significant impact on residents' health and pointed out that there was now a focus on the designs of buildings to prevent future issues such as damp and mould. Councillor Khan then gave thanks to officers in the Public Health team and to Councillors Asghar and Deakin for their hard work.

Decision

Cabinet noted our commitments and ambitions to address the health inequalities that exist within our borough as set out in our 'Building a Fairer and Healthier Waltham Forest' report included in Appendix A to the report.

70. Waltham Forest's New Housing Strategy

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, said that there had been a corporate effort to raise the profile of the strategy and that it was a culmination of work across the Council with external partners. He explained that housing was the foundation for a healthy life for residents and that it could potentially reduce the financial demands on services. Councillor Khan stated that instances of homelessness were continuing to rise and referred to the increasing difficulties of securing housing locally for such residents. He then gave thanks to Mr Joe Garrod and his team, Mr Jonathan Lloyd and his team, Councillor Waldron and Councillor Baptiste for all their hard work.

Councillor Baptiste said that the strategy focused on long-term and intermediate outcomes and had a delivery plan which detailed key performance indicators and

timelines for each intervention. She stated that the strategy was cross cutting as it took into account climate change, health and crime and disorder. Councillor Baptiste then gave thanks to Councillor Khan for his guidance and leadership and to Joe Garrod and his team for their hard work.

Councillor Waldron stated that good housing equated to a safe and healthy life and said that it was an important cornerstone which enabled residents to build communities. She explained that residents' opinions formed an important part of the housing strategy and that she was pleased that it tackled some of the key issues which were regularly raised by residents, such as repairs and damp and mould. Councillor Waldron said that work was undertaken to enable residents to stay in their homes following work with private landlords and that she looked forward to seeing residents in more affordable and stable accommodation. She echoed words of thanks to Mr Garrod and his team, as well as to Councillor Khan and Councillor Baptiste.

The Leader thanked all involved for their hard work and stated that the approach was more cohesive under Councillor Khan's leadership.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) agreed the draft Housing Strategy (Appendix A to the report) and refer it to Full Council for its approval;
- (2) agreed the draft Delivery Plan (Appendix C to the report); and
- (3) delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, to make any necessary minor changes to the Strategy documents prior to Full Council.

71. Children's Residential Care & Independent Foster Care Services

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) granted approval to contract with the London Borough of Newham's Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) which will provide a pool of pre-approved providers for Children's Residential Care Homes and Independent Fostering Agencies for an initial two year and one month period (2 years and 1 month) with effect from 1st February 2024 – 8th March 2026 with the option to extend by four (4) further years until 8th March 2030; and
- (2) delegated authority to contract with the London Borough of Newham's Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) and contractual arrangements to the Corporate Director Children's Social Care.

72. School Admissions Determined Arrangements 2025/26

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report and, in doing so, confirmed that LBWF had a higher than the London average of children receiving their first-choice schools and she thanked all relevant staff who made that happen.

Decision

Cabinet is recommended to approve the school admissions determined arrangements for 2025/26 for community and voluntary controlled schools at Appendix A to the report.

73. Draft Local Funding Formula for Schools 2024/25

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report and, in doing so, gave thanks to relevant officer and schools for their hard work in this area.

The Leader added that the financial crisis extended to schools and that the Council had undertaken a significant amount of work with schools to ensure that they were resilient. She gave thanks to Councillor Gardiner and Mr Chris Spencer for their hard work.

Decision

Cabinet approved:

- (1) the draft Schools Block Local Funding Formula for 2024/25 for 5- to 16-year-olds at Appendix A to the report;
- (2) using the maximum Minimum Funding Guarantee permitted (+0.5%);
- (3) that, if after running the formula, there are unallocated funds, these are allocated through raising the rates for Basic Entitlement (AWPU) subject to the maximum permitted; and
- (4) that, if the rates for Basic Entitlement (AWPU) reach the maximum permitted, any further funds will be applied to the Growth Fund.

The meeting closed at 2.24 pm

Chair's Signature _____

Date _____

