



Waltham Forest Town Hall  
Forest Road  
E17 4JF

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## Cabinet

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Minutes of  
14 March 2024 at 2.00 pm

**Present:**

**Chair:** Councillor Ahsan Khan Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration)

**Committee 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 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:**

Ian Buckle	Head of Electoral and Democratic Services
Joe Garrod	Strategic Director, Place
Shazia Hussain	Deputy Chief Executive
Anthony Jackson	Democratic Services Officer

Rob Manning

Strategic Director, Resources

Debbie Porter

Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods and Environment

Chris Spencer

Strategic Director, Children Services

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received by Councillors Grace Williams and Kizzy Gardiner.

Councillor Ahsan Khan chaired the meeting.

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

## **3. Minutes of Cabinet**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22 February 2024, were approved and signed as a correct record.

## **4. Financial Monitoring: Month 10 (January)**

Councillor Douglas introduced the report.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved funding of £0.170 million from the budget strategy reserve to provide a one-off resource for the SEND team to support the data migration to the new case management system; and
- (2) approved capital funding of £1.364 million to fund the implementation cost for the replacement of the existing Community Protection and Regulatory Service IT case management system (Civica APP). This will be funded from capital contingency.

## **5. Annual Procurement Plan**

Councillor Douglas introduced the report.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the Annual Procurement Plan; and

- (2) noted that the detailed business case for each of the proposed procurements will be subject to approval by the Strategic Commissioning Board to ensure that it meets the Council's objectives regarding value for money, sustainability and legal compliance.

## **6. Individual School and Early Years Providers Budgets 2024/25**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so gave thanks to Chris Spencer and Duncan James-Pike – Strategic Finance Advisor, for their hard work in relation to the dedicated school grant.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the final 2024/25 Local Funding Formula for 5-16 year olds at Appendix A1 to the report and note the changes of the Local Funding Formula from 2023/24 at Appendix A2 to the report;
- (2) noted the 2024/25 individual budget share allocations calculated for all schools of £238.390 million at Appendix B to the report;
- (3) noted the 2024/25 indicative High Needs Block funding for mainstream schools of £14.484 million at Appendix C1 to the report;
- (4) noted the 2024/25 indicative High Needs Block funding for special schools of £7.5 million for place funding, £10.102 million top-up funding and £0.690 million special school additional funding at Appendix C2 to the report;
- (5) noted the 2024/25 indicative High Needs funding for Special Resource Provisions of £1.196 million for place funding and £2.155 million top-up funding at Appendix C3 to the report;
- (6) noted the 2024/25 indicative High Needs funding for Alternative Provision and Pupil Referral Units of £2.518 million for place funding, £0.134 million top-up funding and £0.038 million PRU HN additional funding at Appendix C4 to the report;
- (7) noted the 2024/25 indicative place-led funding for Post-16 providers of £1.608 million at Appendix D to the report;
- (8) noted the 2024/25 indicative individual budget shares allocations calculated for early years providers at Appendices E (2 year olds benefit related criteria £2.902 million); F (3&4 Year Olds universal £13.855 million); and G (3&4 Year Olds Working Families £5.782 million) to the report; and
- (9) noted that due to the recent implementation of Free Early Early years entitlement and non availability of previous census data, ESFA have used their estimate of the number of families that they think will take up the expanded offer. The DfE will carry out an additional census in the Summer 2024 term to capture data on the actual take up of places. As a result no annual budget estimates have been produced for 9 month to 2 year old children from working families cohort.

## **7. Northeast London Foster Carer Recruitment: Pilot Programme**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, gave thanks Abigail Adieze – Assistant Director of Corporate Parenting and Janice Horslen – Children’s Change lead for their hard work. He also thanked Councillor Gardiner for her leadership.

### **Decision**

Cabinet noted the progress of the pilot Fostering Recruitment and Retention programme since the funding bid was approved.

## **8. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, referred to the current housing crisis and the fact that councillors regularly received a large number of emails from residents who were being evicted by private landlords. He said that there was a focus on the best way to bring forward affordable homes. Councillor Khan highlighted the housing transformation programme which had brought forward new innovations, such as face to face appointments at Leyton library. He then gave thanks to Joe Garrod, Lindsay Megson – Director of Housing Options and Support and their teams for their hard work.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) agreed the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (Appendix 1 to the report) and refer it to Full Council for approval;
- (2) agreed the draft Delivery Plan (Appendix 2 to the report); and
- (3) delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Housing, 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.

## **9. Waltham Forest Housing Compact 2024**

Councillor Baptiste introduced the report and, in doing so, stated that residents, the Council and its partners needed a framework to help shape and drive positive outcomes for residents. She said that the promises outlined in the report ensured a resident focussed approach and that the governance of the Compact would ensure delivery through strong partnership links. Councillor Baptiste referred to the creation of the Compact Leadership Board as set out in the report and confirmed that the Board

would produce an annual report that would be presented to the appropriate scrutiny committee and Cabinet. She then gave thanks to Councillor Khan for his leadership and to Joe Garrod, John Coker – Assistant Director – Housing Strategy and their teams for their hard work.

Councillor Khan echoed the words of thanks to officers for their efforts on what he described as an excellent piece of work. He also thanked Councillor Baptiste for her hard work and leadership. He said that the Compact would be one of the key relationships of the Council and would offer best practice alongside the Council's wider ambitions through Mission Waltham Forest.

## **Decision**

Cabinet approved the Waltham Forest Housing Compact 2024 - 2029, included as Appendix 1 of the report, as the framework for working with housing associations to help deliver the Council's Housing Strategy and other resident wellbeing outcomes.

## **10. Exclusion of press and public**

Cabinet excluded the press and public from the meeting by resolution during consideration of items 11 and 12 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.

## **11. Sixty Bricks - Next Steps Proposal**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, pointed out that the conditions for house building had become very difficult due to Brexit, the pandemic, hyper-inflation and issues relating to the war in Ukraine. He said that the Council had taken the recommendation from the Affordable Housing Commission to review all of the Council's housing delivery models and, as a result, a number of projects to be delivered by Sixty Bricks were no longer viable. Councillor Khan stated that the Council had engaged Sixty Bricks to try and diversify their business plan and to come up with a model that was not so reliant on Council funding and land. He confirmed that the Council did not take dormancy lightly and pointed to the need to understand the drivers, such as the mini-budget by Central Government and how that had impacted borrowing rates for schemes which the Council had hoped to develop. Councillor Khan confirmed that the report had been considered at both Housing Scrutiny Committee and Shareholder Committee.

Councillor Khan gave thanks to Sixty Bricks staff and the Executive Board for all their hard work and confirmed that they would leave a lasting legacy. He also gave thanks to Joe Garrod, Mark Crane – Director of Housing Delivery, Craig Egglestone – Director of Capital Strategy and Portfolio Management.

Councillor Limbajee echoed Councillor Khan's words of thanks to officers and also thanked Councillor Khan for his leadership.

## **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved that Sixty Bricks is made dormant;
- (2) noted the implementation plan to make the company dormant and approved a budget of £150,000 to appoint the require specialist financial and legal advisory services; and
- (3) approved that the final terms of making the company dormant will be delegated to the Strategic Director of Resources, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Place.

## **12. Priory Court Tenure Switch**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, congratulated officers on the achievement of increasing the level of affordable housing from 50% to 100%, whilst retaining all the benefits such as CCTV and lighting improvements. He gave special thanks to Joe Garrod, Mark Crane and Rob Manning.

## **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the increase in the proportion of affordable housing from 50% to 100%, comprising a housing mix of a minimum of 21 social rented homes and maximum of 62 shared ownership homes;
- (2) approved the following funding strategy:
  - to allocate a capital investment of £38.08m in the General Fund to cashflow the development costs during the construction period, noting that interest costs of £1.18m will be accrued to be covered from General Fund reserves for up to 36 months, which will be repaid by the HRA on completion of the works;
  - to allocate a capital investment of £39.26m from the HRA to repay the General Fund loan of £38.08m and interest cost of £1.18m (at a 5% borrowing rate), within 36 months of the project start on site date;
  - that the HRA capital investment be funded through £14.17m of HRA borrowing, £11.73m of RtB receipts, £4.2m of GLA funding, £8.36m of shared ownership sales, and £798k of Brownfield Land Release Fund administered by One Public Estate;
- (3) agreed that works commence by the end of March 2024, which is required to retain the GLA grant and Brownfield Land Release Funding; and

- (4) agreed that, subject to the decision on the future of Sixty Bricks and as set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report, the contract for the delivery of the Priory Court scheme be novated to the Council.

**The meeting closed at 2.25 pm**

**Chair's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_