
Cabinet

Minutes of
09 July 2024 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Chair:

Committee Members:

Councillor Grace Williams	Leader of the Council
Councillor Ahsan Khan	Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration)
Councillor Clyde Loakes	Deputy Leader (Climate and Air Quality)
Councillor Naheed Asghar	Portfolio Lead Member - Inclusive Economy
Councillor Vicky Ashworth	Portfolio Lead Member - Stronger Communities
Councillor Rosalind Doré	Portfolio Lead Member – Libraries, Culture and Sports and Leisure
Councillor Paul Douglas	Portfolio Lead Member - Finance and Resources
Councillor Kizzy Gardiner	Portfolio Lead Member - Children and Young People
Councillor Khevyn Limbajee	Portfolio Lead Member - Community Safety
Councillor Louise Mitchell	Portfolio Lead Member - Adults and Health

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

15. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

16. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Khan and Asghar declared pecuniary interests in agenda item 9 - Private Sector Property Licensing - as they were both private landlords. The Director of Governance and Law confirmed that both councillors would need to leave the room during discussion of agenda item 9.

17. Minutes of Cabinet

The minutes of the meeting, held on 4 June 2024, were approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Loakes' MBE

On behalf of Cabinet, the Leader congratulated Councillor Clyde Loakes on receiving an MBE. She explained the MBE was awarded in recognition of Councillor Loakes' hard work which included Enjoy and Mini-Holland – projects which had transformed the borough. The Leader praised the way Councillor Loakes worked with local communities and his focus on what was important for residents. She described his work as inspirational and said the MBE was thoroughly deserved.

New Labour Government

The Leader said she was pleased to preside over the first Cabinet meeting under a new Labour Government and was heartened to see that ministers were already getting on with the job. She went on to say that LBWF had seen 14 years of instability and cuts to funding which had affected the residents and borough as a whole. The Leader said that she looked forward to working under the new administration and to delivering in areas most important to residents.

18. Communities Scrutiny Committee, Mini-Themed Review 2023-24 - Combatting Serious Violence in Waltham Forest

Councillor Limbajee introduced the report and, in doing so, referred to the recent stabbing incident in Lea Bridge Road. He said that his thoughts were with the victim's family.

Councillor Gardiner echoed Councillor Limbajee's sentiment and said that she was proud of the excellent work undertaken to develop youth spaces which she hoped would help strengthen the grip on serious youth violence in the borough.

The Leader said she was pleased to see worthwhile contributions from scrutiny and gave thanks to relevant portfolio lead members and officers for their work on the report.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the Communities Scrutiny Committee Mini-Themed Review; and
- (2) approved that the recommendations outlined in the report be adopted and taken forward as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2 to the report, including where recommendations have been amended.

19. Capital and Revenue Outturn 2023-24

Councillor Douglas introduced the report and, in doing so, gave thanks to officers in the Finance department, particularly Rob Manning and Ursula Gamble – Director of Financial Services. He explained that it had been a difficult year and that the Council was overspent due to various aspects including inflation. Councillor Douglas stated that much of the overspend was due to the actions of Central Government which had had a negative effect on the Council. He went on to say that the need for transformation was recognised and would take place, however he pointed out that there were no quick fixes and that it would take years to repair.

The Leader pointed to the need to take tough decisions now rather than in the coming years. She said that the service budget needed transformation and management action to ensure the ability to balance the budget. The Leader stated that it was important that residents understood actions that the Council was taken.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the Revenue and Capital Outturn for 2023/24;
- (2) approved the Capital slippage figures in Appendix 2(i) to the report; and
- (3) noted the movement in Reserves in Appendix 3 to the report.

20. Delegation of Planning Powers from London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the adoption of the Leyton Mills Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, praised the good engagement from Councillors at Hackney Council. He also gave thanks to relevant officers including Joe Garrod, Ian Rae – Director of Regeneration, Planning & Delivery and Sarah Parsons - Assistant Director of Place and Design.

Councillor Limbajee commended what he described as a strong piece of work and that he was pleased to see the commitment to environmental value.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) endorsed and recommended to Full Council to agree the proposal by the LLDC to approve a first interim delegation scheme to enable the delegation of a limited range of planning functions, including the determination of planning applications and other applicable applications, from the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) to the Council from 1 September 2024 to 30 November 2024;
- (2) in the event that the relevant Statutory Instrument (SI) to formally transfer all of the LLDC planning functions back to the Council on 1 December 2024 is not laid in time, to endorse and recommend to Full Council to agree the proposal by the LLDC to approve a second interim delegation scheme to enable the delegation of LLDC planning functions to the council from 1 December 2024 until such time as the SI receives parliamentary approval and the planning functions are formally transferred;
- (3) agreed to the principle of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LLDC and the Greater London Authority (GLA), to secure the key features listed in Appendix 3 to the report;
- (4) authorised the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Planning & Delivery, in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law make any further amendments to the MOU after negotiation with the LLDC and GLA;
- (5) adopted the Leyton Mills Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Appendix 4 to the report); and
- (6) authorised the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Planning & Delivery to make any further minor amendments necessary to the Leyton Mills SPD prior to its publication.

21. Local Plan Part 2 (Site Allocations) and redesignation of the Highams Park Neighbourhood Forum

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, said that the Council was in a strong position due to the level of detail and a strong focus on exemplar design. He then gave thanks to Joe Garrod, Ian Rae and Sarah Parsons for their hard work.

The Leader stated that the level of consultation to engage councillors and others had been very impressive. She gave thanks to the Highams Park Neighbourhood Forum who continued to engage with the agenda and to all councillors who had engaged with the process.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) approved for inclusion in Local Plan Part 2 (Proposed Submission Document) the sites identified in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) delegated authority to finalise Local Plan Part 2 (Proposed Submission Document) ahead of consultation, to the Corporate Director – Regeneration,

Planning & Delivery in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration;

- (3) delegated authority to publish Local Plan Part 2 (Proposed Submission Document) for statutory consultation to the Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning & Delivery in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration;
- (4) delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Regeneration, Planning & Delivery in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration to submit Local Plan Part 2 to the Secretary of State for independent Examination in Public; and
- (5) redesignated the Highams Park Planning Group as a Neighbourhood Forum in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

22. Exclusion of Press and Public

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, Cabinet agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

23. Private Sector Property Licensing

[Councillors Khan and Asghar left the room for discussion of this item.]

Councillor Limbajee introduced the report and, in doing so, gave thanks to relevant officers for their hard work.

The Leader pointed out that a higher proportion of people in LBWF were renting and, as a result, the scheme was much needed. She thanked Councillor Limbajee for his leadership and relevant officers for their hard work.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) considered the outcome of the consultation process detailed in the Consultation Report (May 2024) [Appendix 1 to the report], in particular the representations received, written responses received from Stakeholders [Appendix 1A to the report] and the Summary of representations made to the Consultation and the Council's Considerations and Responses to, these representations [Appendix 2 to the report];
- (2) noted that the Document to support undertaking this public consultation (December 2023) [Appendix 3 to the report] and Housing Conditions and Stressors Report (December 2023) [Appendix 3a to the report] which highlight the scale of problems relating to poor housing conditions and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the private rented sector, identifies the objectives of the

proposed selective licensing designation would help the Council achieve and alternatives to licensing which have been considered;

- (3) noted that the Document to support undertaking this public consultation (December 2023) [Appendix 3 to the report] and Housing Conditions and Stressors Report (December 2023) [Appendix 3a to the report] also highlight the scale of problems relating to poorly managed HMOs in the private rented sector, identifies the objectives that an additional licensing designation would help the Council achieve and alternatives to such a designation which have been considered;
- (4) upon consideration of the matters at (1) and (2) and using its powers under s.80 Housing Act 2004, agreed to the designation of 20 wards (excluding Hatch Lane & Highams Park North and Endlebury) of Waltham Forest as a selective licensing area from 1 May 2025 as delineated and edged red on the map at Appendix 4 to the report;
- (5) upon consideration of the matters at (1) and (3) and using its powers under s.56 Housing Act 2004, agreed to the borough wide designation of Waltham Forest as an additional HMO licensing area from 1st April 2020 as delineated and edged red on the map at Appendix 5 to the report;
- (6) agreed the proposed scheme objectives as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report;
- (7) agreed to the proposed fee structure for licence applications made under the selective and additional licensing schemes at Appendix 7 to the report;
- (8) agreed the proposed licence conditions that would accompany any granted selective licence at Appendix 8 to the report;
- (9) agreed the proposed licence conditions that would accompany any granted additional licence at Appendix 9 to the report;
- (10) considered and had regard to the result of the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 10 to the report;
- (11) delegated to the Portfolio Lead Member for Community Safety and the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Environment responsibility for agreeing the final document requesting confirmation of the selective licensing designation from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law; and
- (12) delegated to the Portfolio Lead Member for Community Safety and the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Environment authority to agree changes to the proposed administration, implementation and enforcement of the schemes where necessary and to ensure that all statutory notifications are carried out in the prescribed manner for the designations and to take all necessary steps to provide for the operational delivery of any licensing schemes agreed by Cabinet including but not limited to the Council's published documents setting out its Enforcement Policy, its policy for determining licence applications received under Part 2 and Part 3 Housing Act 2004 and its policy in relation to the payment of licence fees in respect of an application to license one or more Part 3 Houses or an HMO under Part 2 of the Housing Act 2004.

24. Affordable Housing Strategic Sites Delivery Programme

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, stated that it was testament to officers that the Council had got to this position so quickly as, within a few months, there were potentially viable schemes which demonstrated the strength of the relationship between LBWF and the Greater London Authority (GLA). Councillor Khan added that the scheme had the potential to benefit thousands of families. He then gave thanks to Joe Garrod, Ian Rae and Meera Kumar – Director of Regeneration.

The Leader pointed to the challenge around building such a large number of homes, that residents needed, during such a difficult financial time. She also gave thanks to Councillor Khan and relevant officers for their hard work.

Councillor Mitchell pointed to over 350 shared ownership homes being delivered in the Chapel End Ward and gave thanks as a Chapel End Councillor.

Decision

Cabinet:

- (1) agreed in principle the allocation by the GLA of grant funding for the delivery of affordable homes across a portfolio of five sites of strategic importance; Avenue Road & Montague Road (the Housing Estates) and Lea Bridge Station, Willow House & Patchworks (the Development Sites);
- (2) approved the allocation of existing and anticipated S106 monies, of up to £10m, as a council contribution, alongside GLA grant, to enable delivery of the Development Sites;
- (3) delegate approval of an Outline Business Case and procurement of a delivery partner for Avenue Road Estate to the Strategic Director of Resources, the Strategic Director of Place and the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing & Regeneration;
- (4) approved that a procurement process is undertaken to secure a delivery partner for Avenue Road Estate;
- (5) noted that on completion of the procurement process for Avenue Road, Cabinet approval will be sought to finalise the appointment, of the delivery partner;
- (6) delegated approval of an Outline Business Case and the principles of the Landlord Offer for Montague Road Estate to the Strategic Director of Resources, the Strategic Director of Place & the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing & Regeneration;
- (7) approved a Resident Ballot at Montague Road in line with the Mayor's estate regeneration best practice guidelines;
- (8) noted that a further report will be brought to Cabinet on the outcome of the Resident Ballot and the proposed next steps for Montague Road Estate.

The meeting closed at 2.31 pm

Chair's Signature _____

Date _____