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MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING Council Chamber - Town Hall Wednesday, 16 December 2015 (7.30 - 8.30 pm)

Present:

	Cabinet Member responsibility:
Councillor Damian White (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)	Housing
Councillor Robert Benham	Environment
Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson	Adult Social Services and Health
Councillor Meg Davis	Children and Learning
Councillor Osman Dervish	Regulatory Services and Community Safety
Councillor Melvin Wallace	Culture and Community Engagement
Councillor Clarence Barrett	Financial Management
Councillor Ron Ower	Housing Company Development and OneSource Management

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillor Roger Ramsey.

Councillors Ray Morgon, David Durant, Keith Darvill, Stephanie Nunn, Barry Mugglestone, Ray Best, Joshua Chapman and Jody Ganly (for part of the meeting) also attended.

There were no members of the press or public present.

Unless otherwise indicated, all decisions were agreed unanimously with no Member voting against.

29 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

30 THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Councillor Damian White, Deputy Leader of the Council, introduced the report

Cabinet was reminded that when the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his Autumn Statement to the House of Commons on 25 November 2015 it built on the previous announcements made in the Summer Budget and provided details of the spending reductions facing government departments for the next parliament. In the second term of office, the Chancellor was planning far deeper cuts than in any other major economy with Local Government at the forefront of any reductions.

The Local Government Financial Settlement (LGFS) was expected to be announced during the week commencing 14 December at which point the implications for Havering's financial strategy would be considered further. It was planned that a detailed report would be presented to Cabinet on 20 January setting out the implications for Havering.

Reasons for the Decision

It was essential that the Council's financial strategy took due account of Government plans and any other material factors where these were likely to have an impact on the Council's financial position. The report represented a further significant step in developing the Council's budget strategy for the next three years and reflected the expected continued Government approach of reduced levels of funding.

Other options considered:

None. The Constitution requires this as a step towards setting the Council's budget.

Cabinet:

1. **Noted** the Government's announcements affecting Local Government as set out in the Autumn Statement.
2. **Noted** that a more detailed report would be made to Cabinet in January 2016 following the publication of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2016/17.
3. **Noted** that Councils would be permitted to increase Council Tax levels by up to 2% to meet the increasing costs of Adult Social Care.
4. **Agreed** to extend the budget consultation exercise to include consideration of an additional Council Tax increase of up to 2% for Adult Social Care.

31 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

Councillor Damian White, Deputy Leader of the Council, introduced the report

Cabinet was reminded that on various occasions its approval had been given to the disposal of a number of Council owned sites which had been identified as surplus either as a result of specific projects or more general property reviews carried out by Strategic Property Services.

Because the Council had pursued a policy of selling surplus sites for many years it was becoming more difficult to identify new sites for disposal which did not pose challenges either technically or in terms of planning and especially in respect of objections to disposal which arose in many cases. Constant and on-going appraisal of property assets to identify disposal opportunities nonetheless remains a requirement for all local authorities and at Havering it was essential in providing capital receipts to fund spending to support and enhance Council services.

The report before members identified further sites that did not appear to meet the Council's approved criteria for property ownership and therefore needed to be considered as being appropriate for disposal.

Reasons for the decision:

The Council should regularly review assets to ensure that they met the requirements of the Asset Management Plan and made the best possible contribution to the aims of the Council.

Other options considered:

The only other option immediately available would be to not sell these sites. They are considered to be surplus to the Council's requirements and retaining them may not maximise their contribution to the Council's aims.

Cabinet:

- 1 Declared as surplus the freehold interest in the properties listed in the report and **authorised** their disposal and **authorised** the Head of Property in consultation with the Director of Legal & Governance, oneSource to deal with all matters arising including the appropriation for planning purposes and thereafter to complete the disposals.
 - Land at Logan Mews, Romford
 - 38 Regarth Avenue, Romford
 - 1 and 3 Widecombe Close, Harold Hill
- 2 (a) **Agreed** to declare surplus and dispose of the freehold interest in the properties listed below and **authorised** adverts to be placed in a local newspaper in order to comply with the statutory requirements relevant to the proposed disposal of

open space under Sections 122 and 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and for the appropriation of open space for planning purposes.

- Land at Hubbards Chase, Emerson Park
- Land adjacent to Tweed Way Hall, Rise Park
- Land adjoining former Whitworth Centre, Harold Hill
- Land at Priory Road, Harold Hill
- Land at Rainham Road, Hornchurch

(b) **Agreed** that any representations made in response to these advertisements be formally considered and in the event that disposal of land was confirmed, **authorised** the Head of Property in consultation with the Director of Legal & Governance, oneSource to deal with all matters arising and thereafter to complete the disposals.

- 3 **Authorised** the land at Wingletye Lane as shown on the plan within Appendix 1 to the report be made available for public recreational use subject to the usual park byelaws and subject to the land at Hubbards Chase proceeding to disposal.

32 ATTESTATION OF PARKS PROTECTION OFFICERS

Councillor Melvin Wallace, Cabinet member for Culture and Community Engagement, introduced the report

Cabinet was informed that the report before it sought a decision on whether to attest of the permanent Parks Protection Officers. Attestation would provide the Officers with the same powers as Police officers and would allow them to better deal with the more serious incidents that could arise in parks and open spaces.

All current Parks Protection Team officers have had previous experience in policing and were either formerly trained by the Metropolitan Police or as parks police constables. Further supplementary training - as changes of legislation arose - would be arranged with West London Parks Police, a much larger parks police service.

Reasons for the decision:

To more effectively deal with the more serious incidents that could arise in the borough's parks and open spaces.

Other options considered:

The option of not proceeding with attesting the Parks Protection Officers was considered but rejected on the grounds that a number of different types of serious incidents in parks and open spaces could not be addressed unless the officers had attestation powers.

Cabinet:

1. **Authorised** the permanent members of the Parks Protection Team to be attested and secure the same powers as police officers, but only to be exercised within the boundaries of Havering's parks and open spaces.
2. **Authorised** the permanent members of the Parks Protection Team to use batons but only in self-defence and in relation to dealing with dangerous animals.
3. **Authorised** the Parks Protection team to develop new partnership arrangements with the police service so that the more serious incidents which might occur in parks and open spaces were more effectively dealt with.
4. **Agreed** to receive a progress report once the attestation powers had been in place for a 12 month period.

33 HAVERING LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Osman Dervish, Cabinet member for Regulatory Services and Community Safety, introduced the report

Cabinet was reminded that in December 2014 it had approved the preparation of a new Local Plan for Havering to replace the previous Local Development Framework and had agreed the consultation questionnaire for the first stage of the statutory consultation.

The report before Members provided an update on the progress of the Local Plan to date - particularly the considerable work that had been done to build a robust evidence base. It also sought Cabinet approval to publish an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was a statutory document setting out the plans and policy documents that would be prepared and a timetable for their delivery.

The report also provided an update on recent changes to national policy for wind turbines and informed Cabinet on how this would be dealt with in the emerging Local Plan.

Reasons for the decision:

The decision to publish an up- to-date Local Development Scheme had been taken for the following reasons:

- An up- to- date Local Development Scheme was a statutory requirement under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA) as amended
- The current Local Development Scheme did not reflect the latest timeframe for the preparation of the Local Plan
- The publication of an up-to-date LDS on the website reduced the number of telephone and email queries.

Other options considered:

The option of not publishing an up-to-date LDS was rejected as the current version was out-of-date and did not reflect the latest time-table for the preparation of the Local Plan.

Cabinet:

1. **Noted** the progress to date on the Havering Local Plan.
2. **Approved** the Local Development Scheme for publication (attached as Annex 1 to the report).
3. **Noted** the changes to national policy with regards to wind energy.

34 **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 (2015/16)**

Councillor Clarence Barrett, Cabinet member for Financial Management, introduced the report

The Corporate Performance Report before Cabinet provided an overview of the Council's performance for each of the strategic goals (Clean, Safe and Proud). The report identified where the Council was performing well (Green) and not so well (Amber and Red).

Where performance was more than the 'target tolerance' off the quarter target and the RAG rating was 'Red', 'Corrective Action' was included in the report. This highlighted what action the Council would take to address poor performance.

Also included in the report are Direction of Travel (DoT) columns, which compared:

Short-term performance – with the previous quarter (Quarter 1 2015/16)

Long-term performance – with the same time the previous year (Quarter 2 2014/15)

79 Corporate Performance Indicators had been measured this quarter. Of these, 77 had been given a RAG status. In summary:

55 (71%) had a RAG status of Green.

22 (29%) had a RAG status of Red or Amber.

The current levels of performance needed to be interpreted in the context of increasing demand on services across the Council. Also attached to the report (as Appendix 2) was a Demand Pressure Dashboard that illustrated the growing demands on Council services and the context that the performance levels set out in the report had been achieved within.

The feasibility of being able to achieve the targets associated with certain indicators (performance against which was RAG rated as “Red” for Quarter 2) was currently being reviewed in the context of the increasing levels of demand.

The outcomes of this review would be considered as part of the Council’s budget strategy as well as the corporate and service planning processes for next financial year, as additional budget and / or other resources would need to be allocated to these areas in order to improve their performance. The Council’s draft budget already recognised the demographic pressures illustrated at Appendix 2 however both the budget and / or the targets would be revised as necessary in light of the review of the level of additional resources required to achieve the targets as they were currently set.

Members were informed that in discussion with the Overview and Scrutiny Board and some of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees, consideration had recently been given to the current performance reporting arrangements and how they might be improved going forward.

Under the current arrangements, the quarterly and annual corporate performance reports were considered by the Cabinet first, then the Overview and Scrutiny Board and finally the various Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees. Depending on the meetings schedule in any given quarter, the whole cycle of reporting takes between four and seven months to complete.

Going forward, from the new financial year onwards, it was proposed that the quarterly and annual Corporate Performance Reports would be considered first by the individual overview and scrutiny sub-committees, then the Overview and Scrutiny Board and finally the Cabinet. This would allow the Overview and Scrutiny Board to maintain oversight of the value the individual committees were adding in monitoring and influencing performance and would also allow the Cabinet reports to reflect any actions or comments the overview and scrutiny committees might make to improve performance in highlighted areas.

Reasons for the decision:

To provide Cabinet Members with an update on the Council’s performance for each of the strategic goals (Clean, Safe and Proud).

Other options considered:

None appropriate.

Cabinet:

1. **Reviewed** the levels of performance set out in Appendix 1 to the report and the corrective action that was being taken, and **noted** the content of the Demand Pressures Dashboard attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

2. **Noted** and **approved** the proposed changes to the performance reporting arrangements from 2016/17.

35 **ROMFORD MARKET TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

Councillor Robert Benham, Cabinet member for Environment, introduced the report

Cabinet was reminded that it had considered and agreed the Romford Market Transformation Programme report on 18 November. Cabinet was informed that this decision had subsequently been requisitioned and that on 8 December it had come before the Overview & Scrutiny Board where the requisition was upheld.

Cabinet was therefore invited to review its earlier decision in the light of the Board's findings and recommendations and to decide whether to accept those findings and as a consequence set aside its earlier decision or to proceed with the earlier decision and provide reasons for so doing.

Cabinet:

1. **Resolved** to proceed with its original decision of 18 November 2015 (see appendix attached) because:
 - Romford Market was a significant part of the Town's heritage and its survival was the reason that Cabinet members fully supported the new vision for it as presented to Cabinet in November.
 - Doing nothing was not an option. The borough's residents, visitors and traders deserved a market that was thriving and catered for their needs. There was a significant call for change and the November report had been presented in order to allow the Council to pursue this.
 - The November report had made clear that any investment of Council capital in the programme would be subject to the provision of more detailed information including a comprehensive and viable business plan.
 - Cabinet anticipated that further reports would come forward as the programme developed and Cabinet was desirous to have the input from Overview and Scrutiny in that process.
 - Both Cabinet and officers accepted that more detail would have been advantageous in the November report and accepted the Overview and Scrutiny Board's comments on that, but that report had been presented with the intention of providing the broad vision of the programme and of

securing the necessary funding ahead of detailed planning.

- The imperative was that the Council needed to act immediately to secure the funding from the London Regeneration Fund for the programme to commence.
- Cabinet remained committed to working with and supporting the traders of Romford Market and it was to pursue this policy that the November report had been submitted and accepted.

Appendix

Extract from Cabinet Minute 26 - 18 November 2015

Cabinet:

1. **Endorsed** the main proposals developed with the assistance of consultants 20:20 Ltd, as identified in section 4 of the report and tasked officers to progress implementation.
2. **Authorised** officers to engage with traders, retailers and partners in the delivery of the changes described in the report.
3. **Delegated** authority to the Group Director of Communities and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to finalise the grant application for capital investment in the market to the Mayor of London's London Regeneration fund.
4. **Delegated** authority to the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Group Director of Communities and Resources to submit further funding applications (e.g. Veolia and HLF) or to other funding sources relating to the market and Market Place consistent with the programme outlined in the report.
5. **Noted** the appointment of architects to cost and develop full proposals for the physical development of the Market Place and to **recommend to Council** the allocation of £1m Council capital funding of the programme subject to securing sufficient match-funding from other sources subject to a business case being signed off by the Finance Business Partner and Group Director, Communities & Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.
6. **Agreed** to utilise transformational funding to support the market transformation programme as part of the Council's 'invest to save' model and **authorised** the Group Director of

Communities and Resources to release funds accordingly, subject to both the Group Director and Finance Business Partner signing-off a business case in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.

Chairman