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MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING Council Chamber - Town Hall Wednesday, 14 August 2024 (7.30 - 9.45 pm)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Councillor Gillian Ford

Councillor Oscar Ford

Councillor Paul McGeary

Councillor Paul Middleton

Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Councillor Christopher Wilkins

Councillor Graham Williamson

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Lead Member for Adults & Wellbeing

Lead Member for Children & Young People

Lead Member for Housing & Property

Lead Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services

Lead Member for Environment

Lead Member for Finance

Lead Member for Regeneration

214 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On behalf of the Chairman, there was an announcement about the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

215 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Councillor Natasha Summers.

216 **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

217 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

218 **A GOOD LIFE - DRAFT CULTURE STRATEGY**

Report: **Cabinet approval of the A Good Life – Draft Culture Strategy report**

Presented by: **Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services**

Summary

1. On 13 March 2024, Cabinet agreed to the incorporation of a company limited by guarantee wholly owned by the Council for the purpose of delivering the London Borough of Culture (LBOC) year (if awarded) and/or realising and delivering other cultural and place making opportunities. The application to be LBOC was unsuccessful.
2. During the application process for the LBOC, there were positive conversations with external funders who have expressed a desire to reverse the Borough's lower investment through external funding per head compared to other London Boroughs. These conversations have continued since the outcome for the LBOC.
3. A draft cultural strategy, A Good Life was appended to the report (Appendix A), has been written based on the LBOC application. Projects from the LBOC application have formed the focus of the strategy. This was following consultation with over a thousand people and over fifty groups and organisations.
4. The strategy has been developed by the public, private and voluntary sector in Havering, and represents the planned strategic work of a broad range of organisations and groups. It is a consortium strategy designed to act as a three -year catalyst for nurturing and growing the cultural life of a rapidly changing place. It is designed to be used by anyone developing, making and building cultural activity in Havering. It supports a shared vision across a networked borough.
5. A Good Life has the following vision:

A Good Life is a transformational approach to the long-term wellbeing of Havering's residents within a radically changing place. Empowering communities, nurturing social connectivity, addressing inequality, building a sustainable creative ecology, and promoting good physical and mental health are foundations of the strategy.
6. A Good Life has five principles:

Developing a creative health borough;
Intricately weaving the concept of long-term wellbeing through cultural activity.

Transforming the cultural ecology;

Capacity building to benefit from growth and seeking a levelling up in investment.

Redefining heritage for the 21st Century;

Rebalancing the widest definition of heritage, to better include the borough's new population.

Every child and young person engaging in culture;

Uniting education and arts partners to empower young people and make them feel proud.

Addressing social and environmental justice;

Helping lead the way in dismantling inequalities and addressing the climate emergency.

7. The principles are followed by a number of objectives:

- A bold new identity for Havering that celebrates all our people, places, and heritage.
- Harness culture to embrace and champion the fast changing nature of Havering's communities ensuring representation for all.
- Transform our cultural ecology, addressing structural inequalities, building new artistic legacies for Havering.
- Engage all people in culture, enabling access physically and digitally across every part of the borough.
- Empower talent and provide new opportunities for underserved and underrepresented communities, prioritising social justice and equity.
- Address health inequalities and the physical and mental wellbeing of all our residents.

8. It is recommended that progress with drafting a cultural strategy involving extensive consultation is noted and that the Council 'signs up' to endorsing the draft strategy.

9. There have been positive conversations with a number of strategic funding partners following the outcome of the LBOC application. One such conversation with Arts Council England (ACE) has resulted in an expression of interest being submitted. Subject to a successful outcome of the expression of interest, a full funding application will be submitted to ACE to part fund the delivery of A Good Life.

10. Arts Council England expect other funding to be secured as match funding for their contribution if successful. As such, other funding applications to a range of funders are also being prepared to raise sufficient funding to deliver all of the projects within A Good Life. It is

expected funding applications will be submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England, National Lottery Communities Fund, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, City Bridge Trust amongst others.

11. By delivering these projects subject to successful funding applications, the Council will be adhering to the Vision: The Havering You Want to be Part Of, and the principle, Place – a great place to live, work and enjoy. Outcome – Improve Havering’s art, history, leisure and culture offer.
12. This decision is required as external funding applications and the acceptance of the terms and conditions of any grants if successful require the sign off from the S151 Officer.

Cabinet:

1. Approved the draft Culture Strategy for 2025-2028, ‘A Good Life’ as attached at appendix A of the report.
2. Delegated to the Head of Leisure and Culture, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing the ability to amend and update the Culture Strategy from time to time, provided that such changes do not contravene the principles detailed in this report.
3. Delegated to the Head of Leisure and Culture, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing the ability to take all steps necessary to deliver the Culture Strategy including (but not limited to) applications for, acceptance of and spending of external funding.

219 **THE COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION POLICY**

Report: **Cabinet approval of the Consultation Policy**

Presented by: **Councillor Ray Morgon, Leader of the Council**

Summary:

The aim of the policy was to provide guiding principles and quality standards for consultation activities thereby promoting best practice to those officers engaged in consultation and ensuring that there was a consistent approach to these activities across the Council.

Within the overall aim, the following were the key objectives:

- To maximise stakeholder engagement by making consultation activities as inclusive as possible.
- To develop the Council's services to meet the range of needs of our residents, businesses, communities and service users.
- To co-ordinate consultation, develop best practice and centralise data and information.
- Through better co-ordination, reduce repetition, duplication and consultation fatigue.
- To develop the Council's ability to make effective use of consultation techniques.
- To maximise equality of consultation.
- To maximise opportunities for consultation.
- To better engage with groups we seldom hear from or those we may find hard to reach.
- To comply with the Equality Act 2010, the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation.

Cabinet Approved the Consultation policy.

220 **EXTENSION OF THE JOINT SEXUAL HEALTH CONTRACT**

Report: **Cabinet approval of the Permission to enact the final two year extension for the Integrated Sexual Health Service**

Presented by: **Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services**

Summary:

The report seeks the approval of the final extension of the Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Integrated Sexual Health Services Contract for the remaining 1+1 years for a maximum cost to Havering Council of £2.594 million up until 30th September 2026. It was noted that this would ensure continuity of service provision and stability within Havering, Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge and provide sufficient time to complete service recommissioning under new Provider Selection Regime (PSR) arrangements.

Cabinet:

- Approved the annual extension and agreed in principle to the final year extension of the Integrated Sexual Health Services Contract for the remaining 1+1 years available up until 30th September 2026, with a cost of £2.594m in total.
- Delegated to the Director of Public Health to agree the final year extension to the Contract subject to good performance

221 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Report: **Cabinet approval of the Home to School Transport Policy**

Presented by: **Councillor Oscar Ford, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

Summary:

The Department for Education (DfE) recently updated the statutory guidance replacing the previous Home to School Travel and Transport guidance from 2014. As a result changes to Havering's Policy were to fall in line with the new statutory guidance.

In response to the changes to the government guidance, Havering Council undertook a consultation on a new Home to School Transport policy. There was a good response rate to the consultation made over the statutory consultation period with a total of 575 individuals responding.

The new Home to School Transport policy was presented to Cabinet in May where it was agreed and endorsed based on the understanding everyone had been consulted with.

It was later discovered that a cohort of schools had not been included within the consultation. These were schools where parents were taking their children to school and reclaiming a fuel reimbursement.

There were 16 schools that had been omitted from the previous consultation due to internal systems recorded these recipients in a different database and were overlooked.

Parents and Carers brought these flaws in the consultation process to officers attention and the service has addressed these concerns.

A repeat of the consultation was undertaken with out of borough schools that supported Havering children and not just the 16 omitted schools from the initial consultation.

The consultation was carried out between 15 June 2024 and 14 July 2024. A total of 79 email invitations went out to individual schools and they were given 28 days to respond to the questionnaire of the consultation.

The consultation resulted in receiving 5 responses from the 79 invites a response of 6.3%

The consultation now shows overall 580 responses with the vast majority were from Parents/Guardians accounting for 82 % of the responses, followed by school or educational settings at 7%, the general public at 4% and children under 16 offering a 3.5% contribution.

Cabinet Agreed:

1. To quash the decision, it made at its meeting on 15 May to approve the Home to School Transport Policy
2. To conscientiously consider the further representations that have been received in the additional consultation exercise described in the report.
3. To take a fresh decision based on the totality of the consultation responses set out in this and the previous report.
4. To adopt the revised Home to School Transport policy attached at appendix A of the Cabinet report.
5. To not introduce a charge for Post 16 Travel at this time.

222 CHILDREN IN CARE SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY

This item was deferred for consideration at a later meeting.

223 1ST QUARTER REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2024/25

Report: **Cabinet approval of the 1st Quarter Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report 2024/25**

Presented by: **Councillor Chris Wilkins, Cabinet Member for Finance**

Summary:

The report provided an update on Period 3 revenue and capital monitoring position of the Council and included commentary on the variances to budget by service. The report also included an update on corporate items and progress on delivery of savings. The report included a section that outlined the progress on the capital programme as at 30th June 2024.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the revenue monitoring position for the Council and the financing of the overspend (section 8 of the report).
2. Noted the Capital monitoring position for 24/25 as set out in section 9 of the report.
3. Noted the progress towards delivery of the 2024/25 savings as set out in section 6.4 of the report.

Chairman