

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

CABINET

MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 6.30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

Councillors Danny Thorpe (Chair), Denise Scott-Mcdonald, Sizwe James, Adel Khaireh, Chris Kirby, Sarah Merrill, Matthew Morrow, Anthony Okereke, Jackie Smith and Miranda Williams

Officers

Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Legal Services, Director of Finance, Director of Improvement and Managing Director of GSP Ltd and GSS Ltd, Director of Housing and Safer Communities, Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills, Director of Children's Services, Director Adults and Older People Services

Under Standing Orders

Councillor Nigel Fletcher (Leader of the Opposition) & Councillor Charlie Davis

Item

No.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence was received for Councillors Danny Thorpe and Miranda Williams

2 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

3 Declarations of Interest

Resolved -

That the list of Councillors' Membership, as Council appointed representatives, on outside bodies, joint committees and School Governing bodies be noted.

4 Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22 July 2020 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

5 2020 Housing Delivery Action Plan

The report was presented by the Assistant Director Planning and Building Control.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That it be agreed to approve the 2020 Housing Delivery Action Plan, attached at Appendix I and that the Action Plan be published on the Royal Greenwich website.

6. Contract Standing Orders - Exemptions and Variations

The report was presented and summarised by the Director of Finance.

Cabinet

Resolved -

That it be agreed to:

Note the summary of Exemptions to Contract Standing Orders reported for the period 1st September 2019 to 31st March, 2020, detailed in Appendix I.

Note the summary of Variations under Contract Standing Orders reported for the period 1st September 2019 to 31st March, 2020, detailed in Appendix II.

7. Treasury Management and Capital Outturn 2019/20

The report was presented by the Director of Finance.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That it be agreed to note the Treasury Management Outturn for 2019/20 and the Capital Outturn for 2019/20.

8. Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20

The report was presented by the Director of Finance who advised that the final Statement of Accounts would be presented at the November meeting of Full Council.

Cabinet

Resolved –

To consider the authority's draft Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 as submitted to Grant Thornton for audit on 28 August 2020 (Appendix A) and raise no comments.

That it be noted that the draft Pension Fund accounts was specifically considered by the Pension Fund Investment and Administration Panel on 7 September 2020.

That it be noted that the whole accounts will also be considered by the Audit and Risk Management Panel on 21 September 2020.

9. Revenue Budget Monitor 2020/21

The report was presented by the Director of Finance.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That the revenue monitoring position based on period 3 end of June 2020 data be noted.

That it be noted that management action will take place to contain expenditure pressures within existing resources wherever possible, to ensure that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) remains on track.

That it be noted that after taking account of the currently planned management actions, at this stage of the year, the General Fund budget is reporting a headline:

- forecast overspend pressure of £9.9m including the impact of Covid-19
- corporate overspend pressure of £2.0m related to “No Recourse to Public Funds”.

That it be noted that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is currently reporting pressures of £9.7m including the impact of Covid-19.

That it be noted that a Government Grant of £20m has been received to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on Council Services and that a ‘lost income’ claim scheme has been launched by the Government.

That it be noted that the Government has indicated that the estimated £10m pressure on the collection fund will be deferred to be met across the next three financial years.

That the £2.0m CCG contribution for NHS discharges be noted.

10. Medium Term Financial Strategy Update

The report was presented by the Director of Finance.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That it be recommended that Council agree the update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in this report.

That the impact that the Covid-19 has had on the Council's resources and the potential future impact be noted.

11. 'Towards Zero Waste' Strategy Update

The report was presented by the Director of Communities and Environment. In addressing the meeting, Councillor Charlie Davis welcomed the proposals and asked if the Council would be looking into the provision of compost for local residents, which could be used a tool to achieve zero waste.

In response to Councillor Davis's questions, Councillor Sizwe James the Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Transport confirmed that this is something that the Council was already considering.

In addressing the meeting, a Member of the community group Positive Plumstead raised concerns regarding the responses to the consultation and asked if an area-based approach could be carried out. She stated the Plumstead suffered from higher numbers of missed bin collections and fly tipping compared to other areas in the Borough. She noted that there would be concessions for some residents and asked for clarification on the criteria. She stated that waste from Houses of Multiple Occupation had not been fully considered and requested a timeline on when the proposals would be implemented.

In response to the points raised, Councillor Sizwe James the Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Transport confirmed that he was pleased with the response rate to the consultation and stated that any concessions to the proposals would be dealt with on a case by case basis. He confirmed that there would be a 2.5 year lead in time for the proposals and that the current focus was to promote a change of behaviour towards recycling in the Borough.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That the results of the Towards Zero Waste public consultation which was conducted between 3rd February and 15th March 2020 which have been used to help formulate these proposals (Appendix A) be noted.

That it be noted that the content of this report and appendices which seeks approval for waste and recycling policy and service delivery changes in the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG), will collectively take up to two and a half years to implement.

That it be agreed to approve the proposal to restrict the collection frequency of general waste (black top bin) to fortnightly for kerbside houses on wheelie bin collection rounds. To no longer accept collection of side waste. These policy changes will take up to two and a half years to implement (Appendix B).

That it be agreed to approve the proposal to limit the availability of free clear recycling sacks to properties which cannot safely store a recycling (blue top) wheelie bin and who must use the sacks to access the recycling service. These policy changes will occur in October 2020 (Appendix C).

That it be agreed to reject the introduction of a subscription fee for separately collected garden waste recycling but to introduce separate food waste collections by 2023 when mandated in legislation and when funded by central government. To note the requirement to review the MTFs baseline as revenue saving associated with this income stream will not be achieved (Appendix D).

That it be agreed to approve the proposal to no longer empty contaminated recycling bins and to place the onus on the householder to ensure blue and green top bins contain only good quality, clean material. To introduce an optional collection charge for contaminated recycling bins to be collected as general waste. These policy changes will take up to two and a half years to implement (Appendix E).

That it be agreed that the Council adopt the Towards Zero Waste update to the Municipal Waste Strategy (2016-2025) (Appendix F).

12. Digital Improvement Plan

The report was presented by the Director of Communities and Environment.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That the workstreams attached in the digital improvement plan be agreed.

That the capital funding envelope in principle: capital bids will be lodged separately be noted and agreed.

That the high-level roadmap included in the strategy and make any additional requests to be included.

The meeting closed at 6.41 pm

Chair