

Cabinet Supplementary Agenda

Place To Be Held Remotely

Date Wednesday, 24 February 2021

Time 5:00 PM

Councillors

Danny Thorpe (Chair)	Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Communications and Corporate Services
Denise Scott- McDonald (Vice- Chair)	Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills
Sizwe James	Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Transport
Adel Khaireh	Cabinet Member for Culture and Communities
Chris Kirby	Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Sarah Merrill	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth
Matthew Morrow	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Anthony Okereke	Cabinet Member for Housing
Jackie Smith	Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement
Miranda Williams	Cabinet Member for Health and Adult's Social Care

Members are reminded that officer contacts are shown at the end of each report and they are welcome to raise questions in advance with the appropriate officer. This does not prevent further questioning at the meeting.

If you require further information about this meeting please contact the
Committees Services Manager:
Anthony Soyinka
Telephone: 020 8921 4350
Email: committees@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Agenda

4 Minutes

To agree, as a true and accurate record, the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 27 January 2021.

No motion or discussion may take place upon the Minutes except as to their accuracy, and any question on this point will be determined by a majority of the Members of the body attending who were present when the matter in question was decided. Once confirmed, with or without amendment, the person presiding will sign the Minutes.

Date of Issue
Wednesday, 24
February 2021

Debbie Warren
Chief Executive

Remote Meetings

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ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

CABINET

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2021 AT 6.30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

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

Officers:

Director of Legal Services, Director of Finance, Director of Communities and Environment, Director of Improvement and Managing Director of GSP Ltd and GSS Ltd, Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills, Director of Children's Services, Assistant Director Regeneration, Committee Services Manager and Committee Services Officer.

Item

No.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Cllr Jackie Smith

2 Urgent Business

Members were asked to note that a Supplementary agenda had been published.

3 Declaration of interest

Councillor Sizwe James declared a financial interest in item 9, 'Council Tax Base 2021/22', as owner of a second property within the borough. Councillor James left the meeting prior to the consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or the vote.

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 16 December 2020 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

5 Schools Forum Consultation

The report was presented by the Director of Children's Services.

Councillor Matthew Morrow, Cabinet member for Children and Young People said he was grateful to officers for running the consultation and putting the options together. Adding that the preferred option D is the choice of the school's forum members and he looked forward to working with the new school's forum as constituted.

Cabinet

Resolved -

That it be noted the outcome of a four-week consultation exercise on the content of the Schools Forum constitution with schools and the public as set out in Appendix 1.

That it be noted the comments and feedback from Schools Forum on the draft proposals and recommendations as set out in Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

That it approved the proposed recommendation of Option D and the updated constitution for approval and implementation.

6 Hawksmoor School Conversion to Academy Status

The report was presented by the Director of Children's Services.

Cabinet

Resolved -

That it be noted the receipt of the Academy Order in respect of Hawksmoor School dated 3 May 2019 and the selection of Endeavor Partnership Trust (EPT) as the Academy Sponsor by the Secretary of State for Education (SoS). Notwithstanding the clear policy of Full Council agreed on 31 October 2018 to resist further academisation, the Council is required, by law, to take reasonable steps to facilitate the academy conversion process.

That it be delegated to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, the overall management and timing of the conversion process working with all relevant parties.

That it be noted that Hawksmoor School is a Foundation School and as such, the Governing Body (GB) is deemed the employer of staff and owner of the main school land (edged red on the plan in Appendix A). The GB is not an active trust, and as such, the school's academy conversion process is being treated as if it was a local authority-maintained school.

That it be delegated to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Directors of Children's Services and Legal Services, the authority to support the GB in the completion of the formal agreements for the transfer of staff under TUPE arrangements (as detailed in Section 5.4), as well as the authority to negotiate and agree the terms of the Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA), which relate to the Council.

That it be agreed for the Council to acquire the freehold of the main school land (edged red on the plan in Appendix A) from the GB at £nil cost and then grant a 25-year academy lease of the acquired land to EPT at a peppercorn rent, in accordance with the relevant standard documentation produced by the Department for Education (DfE).

That it be delegated to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills (DRES) in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Legal Services, the authority to negotiate and agree the detailed

terms of the 125-year academy lease. Delegated to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills (DRES) in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Legal Services, the authority to negotiate and agree the detailed terms of any other documentation which the Council need to enter into to facilitate the academy conversion process.

That it approved a total capital budget of £550,000 (Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds) from the Children's Services' 2020/21 school capital maintenance contingencies, for undertaking any identified immediate health and safety related works at the school. Delegate to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, the authority to implement and vary the scope of identified capital maintenance works in accordance with identified priorities.

That it be delegated to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, the authority to negotiate and agree with the relevant stakeholders, details of any interventions deemed required and/or necessary for the Council to exercise its statutory obligations in regard to the safe operation and sustainability of the school.

7 Short Breaks Award

The report was presented by the Director of Children's Services.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That it approved the award of grants to the organisations listed in appendix A for the delivery of the Short Breaks Programme 2021- 2023.

That it be agreed total grant funding of £643,403.88 (£321,701.94 per annum) for the 7 new organisations detailed in Appendix A.

That it be noted that Providers who are awarded grants will be expected to sign up to a service level agreement setting out clear service, performance, and quality assurance expectations.

8 Health and Adults Vision

The report was presented by the Director of Health and Adult Services.

In addressing the meeting, the co-chair of Greenwich Association of Disabled People (METRO GAD) shared concerns around the consultation and engagement of the proposed new vision and felt it was not accessible, they welcomed the proposed changes to the health and social care vision for the borough. However, she asked that the rights of disabled people be at the heart of the proposed care vision document. She advised Cabinet of the history of ill-treatment disabled people had received adding that they had fought for over 50 years to have their rights recognised which culminated in the passing of national and international legislation namely, the Disability Discrimination Act of 1995, 2006 and 2010 Equality Act. She called on Cabinet to support disabled people and defend their human rights.

In response, Councillor Miranda Williams, the Cabinet member for Health and Adults' Social Care stated that the Health and Adults Vision had no intention on marginalising any groups and adopted a holistic view which was about all the adults living in the borough. She stated that following further correspondence with METRO GADs, she had suggested that the definitions of both Co-production and independent living be included as an appendix to the main vision documents. She advised that the document has yet to be finalised and she would ask officers to work with METRO GAD and other organisations in the borough through co-production to try and reach consensus as to what is published.

The Cabinet member stated that her and the Director of Health and Adult Services had agreed to meet with METRO GADs on a quarterly basis and the invitation would also include the chair of the appropriate scrutiny panel and other groups.

In addressing the meeting, Councillor Danny Thorpe the Leader of the Council summarised the discussion and stated that he was aware of the ongoing work and commitment between the Council, METRO GADS, a range of other partners and people with interest in the work in respect of Health and Adult Social Care. He emphasised that it was the intention and belief of Cabinet that the rights of people and the approach that it took towards people was at the heart of its work and it was clearly not the intention for anyone to be or feel marginalised. He reiterated that the Cabinet Member was deepening and strengthening the work in this area moving forward.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That it approved the Royal Greenwich Health and Adults Vision (2021 – 2024) ‘Working together to live the best life you can in Royal Greenwich’

9 Council Tax Base 2021/22

Councillor Sizwe James declared a financial interest in item 9, ‘Council Tax Base 2021/22’, as owner of a second property within the borough. Councillor James left the meeting prior to the consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or the vote.

The report was presented by the Director of Finance.

Cabinet

Resolved to recommend to Full Council –

That it be agreed a council tax base for the whole authority area for 2021/22 of 82,858.74 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

That it be agreed an additional council tax base for the Gloucester Circus Garden Square area of the authority for 2021/22 of 97.76.

That it be agreed a continuance in 2021/22 of the Council Tax discount of 0% on Class A & Class B dwellings (second homes) and Class C & D dwellings (empty homes).

That it be agreed a continuance of a Council Tax premium of 100% in 2021/22 in respect of Long-Term Empty dwellings for dwellings empty for up to 5 years.

That it be agreed a continuance of a Council Tax premium of 200% in 2021/22 in respect of Long-Term empty dwellings, for dwellings empty between 5 and 10 years.

That it be agreed a Council Tax premium of 300% in 2021/22 in respect of Long-Term empty dwellings, for dwellings empty longer than 10 years.

That it be agreed a continuance in 2021/22 of the Council Tax discount of 100% in respect of Royal Borough of Greenwich resident care leavers, aged under 25, in line with the decision of Council in March 2017.

That it be agreed that no changes will be made to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme adopted by the Council on 29 January 2020 and the Scheme will be continued for 2021/22.

That it be noted that the council tax base relevant to the Southern Region of the Environment Agency for flood defence levy apportionment purposes in 2021/22 is 8,287.71.

That it be noted that the council tax base relevant to the Thames Region of the Environment Agency for flood defence levy apportionment purposes in 2021/22 is 74,571.03.

10 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22

The report was presented by the Director of Finance.

Cabinet

Resolved –

That it be noted that the impact of a decade of government austerity has led to the council facing around £150m of pressures over that period, when combined with huge demographic demands and price inflation, leading to a structural deficit of £18.5m in gross service spending (Section 3.1)

That it be noted the number of properties rated for council tax has grown by less than 1% year on year for the first time in eight years (Section 8.22)

That it be noted the effect which COVID has had on employment, with a 12% increase in the number of working age claimants for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (Section 8.23)

That it be noted the impact of the Government's Provisional Financial Settlement and related developments around the MTFS:

- the Chancellor announced a one-year Spending Round only for 2021/22, which allows certainty for a one-year period
- the loss of funding of £4.6m from the New Homes Bonus Scheme (Section 8.18)

- the likely one-year break from the London wide Business Rates pooling arrangement (Section 8.12)
- the Schools funding position (Section 8.26) Agreed Greenwich investment decisions to provide for demographic and price pressures (£15.1m) (Section 9.3)

That it be agreed fees and charges for 2021/22 (Section 7.21 – Appendix A) to the extent the functions are executive functions

That it be agreed income / savings proposals of £10.7m in 2021/22 (Section 10 / Appendix B1)

That it be agreed measures to improve outcomes for residents reducing the structural deficit by £2.1m (Section 10 / Appendix B2)

That it be noted the Equality Impact Assessment of Appendices B1 and B2 (Appendix C) Agreed that £1.9m residual one-off resources are set aside against pressures occurring in year (Section 8.38)

That it be noted a £42m reduction in the overall resourcing forecast gap, down to £23m by 2024/25 (Section 13.15)

That it be agreed the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25 as set out in this report and subsequently recommend to Council for approval:

- the MTFS as per this report
- that the borough element of council tax is raised by:
 - o 3.00% adult social care precept
 - o 1.99% main council tax rate
- a balanced budget for 2021/22
- fees and charges to the extent that they are in respect of nonexecutive functions

That it be noted the potentially significant financial risks to the MTFS going forward (Section 13.18)

That it be noted the contribution that a Continuous Improvement programme will have upon the authority's residents and finances. (Section 12)

That it be noted the outcome of the results of the public consultation between 23 December 2020 – 17 January 2021 (Section 14)

That it be noted the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 January 2021 (Appendix D) and Agreed to forward the Cabinet's response to Council.

11 Sites for development by a Community Land Trust

The report was presented by the Director of Housing and Safety Communities and the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills.

In addressing the meeting, a resident of over 30 years, Rector of Saint James church in Kidbrooke and the Chair of Greenwich Citizens for Housing advised of the difficulties in buying a property in London. He stated that Greenwich Citizens Housing (GCH) wanted to see more genuinely affordable housing built in the borough, housing with prices accessible to local people based on the income of local people. GCH wanted Housing that would help those who have the most acute needs and would enable people from across the borough looking for affordability, innovation, and participation. Consequently, GCH was delighted that Greenwich council was proposing using the community land to facilitate this and that to release land in this way, was an investment and an expression of confidence in the life of the community. He stated that it would provide for now and for future generations, homes which are genuinely affordable and accessible to individuals and families. He explained that the houses would not be sold off for profit but will remain an asset for the whole community. In closing he said that GCH aim to work with their neighbours to build not only homes but a greater sense of community and engagement with local people who know their area best and have the strongest desire to see their area thrive.

Councillor Anthony Okereke the Cabinet Member for Housing said he was pleased with the proposals set before Cabinet as it fell in line with the Council's cooperative principles. He thanked the activists for their hard work in partnership with the Council, also extending thanks to the Leader, Councillor Chris Kirby as the preceding Cabinet Member for Housing, and officers for their commitment towards delivery of the proposals.

In closing the Cabinet Member recounted when he was elected and a motion on Community Land Trusts (CLTs) brought forward by Councillor John Fahy acknowledging its contribution to the current position of the proposals, stating that this was local government in action.

In addressing the meeting, Councillor Danny Thorpe the Leader of the Council stated that as a cooperative Council, Greenwich took models such as CLTs seriously and that it was great to be delivering on the cooperative council's agenda.

Cabinet

Resolved -

That it approved the principle of disposal of the freehold interest in the two Council owned sites listed in this report to suitably qualified Community Land Trusts (CLTs) on the terms set out in sections 5 and 6.

That it be agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills to undertake the procurement process to select suitable CLTs including issuing of relevant documentation and evaluating bids and to agree final terms for disposal of the land (including for nil consideration, as appropriate).

That it be agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills to determine the level and form of any development management advice and support that may be required to facilitate the development of the sites.

That it be noted that the information presented in the Appendix 2 is exempt under the provision of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A on the basis of 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information.

12 Disposal of Anchorage Point Industrial Estate

The report was presented by the Director - Regeneration, Enterprise & Skills and the Director of Children's Services.

In addressing the meeting, Councillor John Fahy thanked the Cabinet for allowing him to address the meeting. He stated that as ward councillor, he was speaking on behalf of his constituents and local businesses. He stated, the Charlton Riverside masterplan has 2 key objectives among several others, firstly on jobs for local people and the secondly building upon jobs currently provided. He stated that in his view the Disposal of Anchorage point was a direct contradiction of the master plan agreed by the council, adding that in he felt clarification was required in respect of the proposed decisions in the report particularly paragraphs 1.2.2 and 1.3. He raised concerns and questioned whether agreement of the report would result in those businesses struggling with the pandemic being forced to move and felt this would not be reasonable under the circumstances.

He said that paragraph 1.3 suggested that the council would assist the purchaser in obtaining possession and felt that there may be an issue of compulsion on the businesses that have been there for a significant period. He advised that taking this decision would give the green light to the Academy to press on regardless of the consequences, a message that would be disappointing to businesses.

He stated his concern about the development of a school in this area, adding the master plan very clearly set out the obligation in the development to provide for schools and from that point of view it seems that there may be the need for additional places in the short term in relation to primary provision. He stated that there would be health impacts associated with the school being in the middle of a building site.

He was concerned that this school project if agreed would be built by 2022/23, well in advance of the development of the Charlton Riverside and the Morris walk development. He explained that residents were already showing hostility about the replacement of the borough archives which were removed from the arsenal to this area at a cost of 600K with access continuing to remain a problem. He mentioned that that the report itself lacked some details as to the longer-term vision and suggested deferring decision on the report pending further discussions.

In addressing the meeting, two local residents raised the following concerns on the proposed plans:

- That the project appeared to be at an advanced stage without residents having a clear understanding of it.
- That the time frame for the delivery of the project was not included in the publicly available documents.
- That it was felt the site location was not wholly suitable for development of a school.
- That there were sites, currently in poor condition, better suited and more in need of development highlighting land from East to West Moore street, Penhall road and along Thames Path.
- That the location of Anchorage point was essential for all businesses due to its proximity to Blackwall tunnel, the M25 and A2.
- That the site was home to viable businesses which had served the local community for a number of years and their relocation could see businesses possibly pushed out of the area resulting in job loss and increased unemployment.

Residents both expressed that Anchorage Point was a thriving industrial estate which produced annual revenues and was an asset which would only increase in value and produce a steady stable income for the council. Thus, Cabinet should reconsider the proposal and look at identifying another site as suggested for this project, a site which would do the greatest possible public good for the borough as a whole, Charlton Riverside and the existing Charlton communities.

In response to the points raised, the Assistant Director for Regeneration acknowledged that the masterplan was clear on the council wanting Charlton Riverside to remain a working neighbourhood. He accepted as residents stated that the businesses in Anchorage point were good businesses which had been doing well and generated income for the Council however he disputed the income figure quoted. He noted the concerns raised about the impact of development during the pandemic on economic development and jobs which were vital to the council, economy, and the borough residents. He stated that this made the decision and recommendations put before Cabinet difficult however that there were school place planning needs. He advised that in respect of Charlton Riverside, Members had to consider the need to ensure that there was proper public infrastructure, schools, healthcare provision and that this was delivered early in the scheme rather than after housing pressures become evident.

The Assistant Director for Regeneration explained that if the council did not accept the locatED offer it would be required to find the land and fund the building of the school at an estimated cost of between 30 to 40 million pounds. Regarding schools transferring to Academy, He explained that under the law, the council had no choice but to transfer, hence its commitment to try and bring forward some social infrastructure early in Charlton Riverside. He assured all residents, business owners and councillors that the council was doing its best to make sure that they try and relocate as many people as they can into purpose-built units as close to where they live and work. He stated that the Leader and Cabinet members were clear about the needs to work with businesses to try and find appropriate alternative premises. He explained that he has been in discussions with the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust and they are unaffected by this decision however they would be affected in the longer term should money be secured to implement the road improvements. He reiterated that the Council was under pressure from the Government to make this decision otherwise the money would be withdrawn by March with the council then having to find the 30 to 40 million pounds to make the school provision a reality.

Councillor Sarah Merrill the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth provided assurance of the Council's commitment to look after residents and business owner's interest. She advised that a holistic approach was taken across the Charlton Riverside area and everything that is done was based on planning the whole of the area out and not just allowing piecemeal developments to go ahead. She explained that the provision for the school was highlighted early, and they were working with the community and Charlton together at every single stage. With regards to the disposal of this piece of land on Anchorage point, she stated that several cabinet members, officers and members of the community met on a site visit in December to talk specifically about the development and explanation was given then on, the financial implications to the Council if it refused the offer and that the archives would be unaffected.

Councillor Matthew Morrow, Cabinet member for Children and Young People stated that in respect of school places, there was a predicted need in this area. He explained that there were differences on distance rules as applied to primary school places as opposed to secondary school places. Hence the need for school places in this area, adding that the Harris Federation did have existing schools in the borough so had a commitment to serving the local population. He reiterated the need for urgency in deciding this matter due to the financial implications to the Council and did not agree that item be deferred as suggested.

Cabinet

Resolved -

That it approved the transfer of the Council's freehold interest in land and buildings at Anchorage Point Industrial Estate, Anchor and Hope Lane, London SE7 7SQ and as set out edged red on the plan within paragraph 2 of this report (the "Site") to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (the "Purchaser"), on behalf of the Department for Education to facilitate the provision of a new primary school.

That it be noted that the terms of the disposal provide an option for:

- The Council to acquire ('buy back') the freehold interest of the land not required for the school and as set out edged red and tinted purple and mauve on the red lined plan within the Exempt Appendix at nil consideration to assist with the regeneration of the wider area if and when required. This will be subject to a future report to Members.

- The Purchaser to require the Council to buy the Site back if neither the Council nor the Purchaser are able to secure vacant possession of Units 1-7 to allow the Purchaser to develop the Site as a new school by an agreed fixed date.

That it be agreed that the Council will assist the Purchaser in obtaining vacant possession of the units occupied by commercial tenants of the Site prior to disposal of the Site and assist the tenants in finding alternative premises within the borough.

That it be delegated authority to agree the final disposal documents relating to the Site, based on the heads of terms agreed and as set out in the Exempt Appendix of this report to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills in conjunction with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Legal Services.

That it be agreed that the contents of the Exempt Appendix to this report be exempt from publication on the grounds that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Paragraph 3, Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

That it be agreed that this exempt information contained in the confidential Appendices shall not be released to the press or public.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Chair