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## CABINET

**Monday 10 October 2016 at 5.00 pm**

## MINUTES

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Cabinet Members:**

Councillor Matthew Bennett  
Councillor Jennifer  
Brathwaite  
Councillor Jim Dickson

Councillor Jack Hopkins  
Councillor Paul McGlone  
Councillor Jackie Meldrum  
Councillor Lib Peck  
Councillor Jane Pickard  
Councillor Mohammed  
Seedat

#### **Portfolio:**

Cabinet Member for Housing  
Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport  
Cabinet Member for Healthier and Stronger Communities  
(job-share)  
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business and Culture  
Deputy Leader of the Council (Investment and Partnerships)  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care  
Leader of the Council  
Cabinet Member for Families and Young People  
Cabinet Member for Healthier and Stronger Communities  
(job-share)

#### **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Jane Edbrooke and Councillor Imogen Walker

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were none.

### **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 September 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

### **3. LAMBETH CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

The report was introduced by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck, who informed Cabinet that there had been a considerable effort in

recent months to implement an extensive programme of improvement. The report provided an update on progress thus far.

The Interim Director for Children's Services, Annie Hudson, advised that:

- Children's Services improvement remained a key priority for the organisation and every effort was being made to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and families in the borough.
- The challenges were significant and there had been significant staff churn in the authority since Ofsted's judgement in May 2015. Whilst there were continued problems with the recruitment of permanent Team Leaders, a permanent Director of Children's Services was now in place and most senior management positions had also been filled on a permanent basis.
- The improvement programme moved beyond Children's Social Care and invoked change across the whole authority, statutory agencies and external voluntary organisations.
- Whilst progress had been made, it was evident that the quality of practice remained inconsistent. The new practice framework was now being embedded to alleviate inadequacies.

In response to questions from Cabinet Members, the Interim Strategic Director for Children Services advised that:

- The focus had shifted away from structural redesign towards improving quality of practice.
- Senior Managers were ensuring that frontline staff were working within defined frameworks which in turn would make operational decisions easier and more robust.
- The pace of change was challenging but feasible.
- There had been a cultural change within the service, achieved through engaging operational staff and working alongside them implement a clear practice framework. This approach would continue.
- Much of the support systems for Children's Services were located elsewhere in the council, so the improvement of the service was very much an organisational responsibility.

Councillor Lib Peck thanked officers for their work and agreed that improvement of Children's Social Care was an organisational responsibility which required a concerted effort from all parts of the council.

**RESOLVED:**

1. To note developments since March 2016, including the outcomes of the formal six month review meeting with the DfE held on 30 June 2016.
2. To note the progress which had been made in relation to Children's Social Care improvements, and also to note the areas of concern that continue and which must be appropriately addressed.
3. To note the feedback from the two Ofsted improvement visits which had taken place since the last Cabinet report.
4. To approve the priorities for improvement going forward and note that the progress which the DfE and their appointed improvement advisors, Morning Lane Associates, expected to see by January 2017 and those which Ofsted will expect to see by November 2016.

#### **4. LAMBETH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16 AND BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2016/17**

In introducing the annual report the Chair of the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), Andrew Christie, informed Cabinet that:

- In addition to the annual report, the agenda also included the plans for 2017/18.
- DFE improvement partner, Morning Lane Associates, had concluded their work with the LSCB as the necessary basic arrangements for the LSCB were in place and that was the basis of the annual report. Other agencies also reported a journey of progress.
- The next stage would focus on the four priorities set out in the report working with all partner agencies.
- Child sexual exploitation was still an area of vulnerability and more improvements in this area were needed.
- The LSCB did not want to duplicate the work of the Safer Lambeth Executive.

In response to questions from Cabinet Members, the Chair of the LSCB advised that:

- He was impressed with the commitment of other agencies within Lambeth.
- The LSCB and the council were providing effective leadership on safeguarding matters.
- Agencies were increasingly able to deal effectively with cases themselves rather than being overly cautious and referring all cases to the council.
- All the partners needed to contribute to the solutions and engage proactively with the council.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Chair of the LSCB for his work and was pleased to hear that the ethos between partners was strong and continued to develop and grow.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the key points arising from the LSCB Annual Report and actions being taken to address areas noted for improvement are noted.

#### **5. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER: STREET GAMBLING & GAMING**

The Cabinet Member for Healthier and Stronger Communities (job-share), Councillor Mohammed Seedat, introduced the report and noted:

- The proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) would help the police to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) associated with street gambling and gaming on Westminster Bridge and areas in its immediate vicinity.
- ASB on Westminster Bridge was a serious concern for local residents and a significant drain on police resources.
- Officers had conducted a consultation exercise which allowed for a joined up approach with Westminster City Council.

The Lead Commissioner for Crime and Disorder, Kristian Aspinall, added:

- ASB was a longstanding issue on Westminster Bridge and the proposed PSPO would allow a ban of street gambling and gaming on the bridge and surrounding areas. This would be the first cross-border PSPO and could be implemented on other Central London bridges if proven successful.
- The area of the PSPO was wider than the bridge and extended to the South Bank in order to prevent displacement.
- The consultation responses showed high levels of support for implementing the proposed PSPO.
- The PSPO would be implemented for three years and a review would be undertaken with Westminster City Council and the Police 12 months after the Order had come into effect.

Acting Chief Inspector Lance Lamnea from the Lambeth Metropolitan Police Service explained that ASB associated with street gambling and gaming on Westminster Bridge had been a key problem for Lambeth Police and a significant drain on resources for a number of years. The proposed PSPO would give the Police more power to combat the issue.

In response to questions from Members, Kristian Aspinall explained that the proposed boundaries of the PSPO were evidence based and could be extended to prevent unanticipated displacement if required.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck, thanked officers for their work and noted the importance of the PSPO in tackling ASB on Westminster Bridge and surrounding areas.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the implementation of the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order in the terms set out in Appendix A of the report.
2. Agree that the proposed Order should take effect from 31 October 2016 and remain in force for three years from that date.
3. Agree that a review of the impact of the PSPO should be undertaken with Westminster City Council and the Police following 12 months of the Order coming into force.

## **6. LAMBETH COUNCIL RESIDENTS SURVEY 2016**

In introducing the report, the Leader of the Council highlighted that:

- The survey had been completed by approximately 1000 people from a cross section of the community and it provided a valuable insight into the work of the council.
- The survey was completed annually to enable easy comparison of results.
- 72% of those respondents were satisfied with how the council provided services and the vast majority of people were satisfied with Lambeth as a place to live.
- The survey formed part of a broader picture of the data and

intelligence that would help inform the outcomes of the borough plan.

Cabinet Members made the following comments:

- The data collected in the survey would help the council make more informed decisions on projects such as CLIPS.
- Lambeth recorded the highest EU “remain” vote which was a clear endorsement of a multicultural society.
- The survey provided positive results but more work was required to improve the borough for residents. Street cleanliness remained a key area of concern for but the number of respondents citing it as a priority for improvement had fallen since 2015. It was hoped that this reflected good work being done to combat the issue.
- Once the public realm projects in Norwood were completed it was hoped that next year’s satisfaction figures (for Norwood) would increase.
- There were some concerns about the recycling figures and that was something the Cabinet Member would be looking into in more detail.
- It would be interesting to understand why there was backward step with regards to customer experience.
- The overriding message was positive but there no room for complacency.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**7. FINANCIAL PLANNING REPORT 2016/17 AND 2019/20**

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Investment and Partnerships), Councillor Paul McGlone introduced the report and noted:

- The financial settlement from central Government had locked the council into a further four years of austerity despite the fact that Lambeth had suffered some of the worst funding cuts and was one of the UK’s most deprived boroughs.
- The post-war consensus on Government funding had been broken and the council would have to face a variety of difficult funding decisions moving forward.
- A further £55m of savings were required over the next three years in order to manage the cut in core funding from Government, inflation, increasing demand and the transfer of risk from central Government around business rates and council tax support.
- Over the coming months, the council would continue to be honest with community and endeavour to prioritise the protection of services fairly.

The Director of Finance, Christina Thompson, added:

- Adopting the Government’s proposed financial settlement would allow for flexible use of capital receipts to support investment intended to generate savings.
- Funding figures were liable to change in light of the appointment of a new Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- The details around the retention of business rates were still being worked out at by the DCLG, LGA and London Councils. At this stage there was insufficient information available to assess the

impact of full devolution to Lambeth.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck, noted the extreme difficulty of the situation and explained that many of the council's funding streams were disappearing. Further details of forthcoming savings were expected at the next Cabinet.

**RESOLVED:**

1. To agree to accept the Government's offer of a four year finance settlement in line with the Local Government Finance Final Settlement in February 2016 covering the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.
2. To note the continued uncertainty with regard to elements of government funding, price and demand pressures and the need to ensure that budgets set each year are sustainable during the settlement period to 2019/20 and beyond.
3. To note the current financial position of the Council's budget and the actions in place to balance it over the period.
4. To approve the Council adopting the arrangements for flexible use of capital receipts to support investment intended to generate savings as detailed in this report.

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm

CHAIR  
CABINET  
Monday 28 November 2016

Date of Despatch: Friday 14 October 2016

Call-in Date: Friday 21 October 2016

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