

Cabinet

Minutes



Monday 7 March 2022

NOTE: This meeting was held remotely. A recording of the meeting can be watched at on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhixTud9I2A>

PRESENT

Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of the Council
Councillor Sue Fennimore, Deputy Leader
Councillor Ben Coleman, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for the Environment
Councillor Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy

IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY

Councillor Adam Connell, Cabinet Member for Public Services Reform
Councillor Lisa Homan, Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Strategy

INTRODUCTION

The Leader began by condemning the atrocious attack in Ukraine by Russia. He informed that he had asked for extensive plans to be drafted to support refugees coming from Ukraine and added that they would be extremely welcomed in the borough. There had been many offers of help from local residents, and he was sure that everybody shared their deepest sympathy for the victims. The Council stood in solidarity with Ukraine and would continue to push for robust actions against Russia.

1. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 February 2022 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings, and that the outstanding actions be noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Max Schmid and Councillor Larry Culhane.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CCTV CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Leader stated that this report recommended a significant investment on CCTV works, raising to the challenges of crime. Protecting residents was the Council's No 1 priority.

Councillor Sue Fennimore stated that this report was part of the continuous commitment by the Council to keep its residents safe. This investment would enable the Council to expand and upgrade the CCTV, taking full advantage of modern technology, and work in partnership with the police to bring criminals to justice.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves one-off capital funding of £5.365m (across 5 years) for investment in the Council's CCTV infrastructure, to be funded from an expected West London Alliance (WLA) grant (£0.9m) and general fund borrowing (£4.465m).
2. Approves one-off revenue funding of up to £0.1m to fund a detailed condition survey of the Council's CCTV network, required to secure estimated inward investment of £0.9m from the West London Alliance, to be funded from the annual corporate contingency budget for 2021/22.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

5. ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS STRATEGY 2022 - 2027

Councillor Sue Fennimore noted that following the recent anniversary of Sarah Everard's murder, the Council's thoughts and warm wishes went out to her family and to all victims of abuse against women and girls. She stated that this report was creating a large amount of new support to the new Violence Against

Women And Girls Strategy, to keep them safe. This had been fully consulted upon with partners and residents.

The Leader thanked Councillor Fennimore for leading on this strategy and stressed that violence against women and girls was totally unacceptable. This strategy established the Council's zero tolerance against this type of violence.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

That Cabinet approves the contents and publication of Hammersmith & Fulham's Ending Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2022 - 2027.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

6. HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE - ESSENTIAL WORK LEADING TO STRENGTHENING AND RESTORATION PROJECT

Councillor Wesley Harcourt stated that this report requested funding to continue the full stabilisation, strengthening and restoration of Hammersmith Bridge. This would allow the Council to look at the feasibility design of Fosters/COWI proposal and to look at any risks involved, as well as other investigations.

The Leader added that Hammersmith Bridge had caused many issues over the years and had to be closed in 2020. It was partially reopened in 2021 to pedestrians, cyclists and river traffic while being closely monitored. Following numerous investigations the main problems had been detected and a Government Task Group had been set up, where it was recommended that the Council should pay a third of the restoration works. This was unprecedented given that normally TfL would pay for the majority of the works on bridges in London. Therefore, the Council was seeking to develop a toll or road charging scheme to finance the Council's contribution to the project, which would also help with the future maintenance of the bridge. The new works proposed by this report would allow the Council to move to the next stage and fully reopen the bridge once all works were completed.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. To approve a new capital budget of up to £3.5m in 2022/23 to progress concept design and associated works leading to the strengthening and

restoration works to be initially funded by Council borrowing (increase to the Capital Financing Requirement).

2. To approve the procurement approach set out in paragraph 4 given the specialist nature of the works.
3. To approve the appointment of the preferred technical experts to complete the work for the amounts set out in paragraph 4, subject to a client held contingency being used where required.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

7. ADOPTING THE WLA LOW-CARBON PROCUREMENT POLICY

Councillor Wesley Harcourt stated that this paper was seeking approval to adopt the West London Alliance (WLA) low carbon procurement policy, which had been developed collaboratively by the Council and eight west London boroughs. It presented a unified expectation of suppliers for council contracts on tackling the climate emergency across the subregion.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

That Cabinet:

1. Adopts the West London Alliance low-carbon procurement policy.
2. Approves the inclusion of the accompanying low-carbon charter in all future tenders as a precondition for successful tenderers.
3. Approves that the charter be sent to all current suppliers to encourage them to voluntarily agree to its principles.
4. Approves the inclusion of climate impact considerations in the development and evaluation of all future procurements, supported by the low-carbon toolkit and other support and advice available from the climate unit and elsewhere.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

8. FLOOD RISK MITIGATION PROGRAMME

Councillor Wesley Harcourt reported that In the summer of 2021, the borough was hit by a storm that caused over 300 properties to flood causing incredible hardship for many of the residents. This report proposed flood mitigation measures do deal with future storm which were likely to become more frequent due to climate change. The Council had also appointed a Flood Mitigation Czar, led by Councillor Helen Rowbottom and had a meeting with Thames Water recently where a number of key actions were agreed. Each individual project would be subject to further approval.

The Leader added that he Chaired the meeting with Thames Water, attended by residents affected by the flood. They had since managed to get Thames Water to agree a series of key action and appointed a Flood Mitigation Czar and were making some progress. It was also critical to discuss the insurance issues in a future meeting as many people were not able to get insurance for having homes in a flood plain.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. That detailed proposals for the flood mitigation measures described in the report be developed.
2. That subject to funding being secured, the progression and implementation of the flood mitigation measures are delegated to the Strategic Director of Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

9. SCHOOL BUDGET (DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT) 2022/23

The Leader stated that this report proposed the increase of the special education inclusion fund budget. He added that the former special education needs transport service was provided by a company without any knowledge of disability and children's special needs. Since then, many new investments had been done, including opening a new centre for disabled children, demonstrating a genuine commitment for improving children services. The Council wanted to ensure that special education needs children would get equal chances in life. He thanked Jacqui McShannon, the Director of Children's Services, for her great work on this matter.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

3. Schools Block Budget 2022/23 Financial Year:
 - a. To approve the Local Authority formula for allocating resources to Hammersmith & Fulham schools for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1, the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for setting school budgets.
 - b. To approve the National Funding Formula (NFF) transitional funding formula factor rates (as set out in Appendix 1) as the basis for calculating the 2022/23 schools funding formula, together with a 1.5% per pupil Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protection for individual schools versus 2021/22 levels with respect to pupil led funding.
 - c. To approve the transfer of £0.556m (0.5% of the total schools' block allocation) from the schools' block to the high needs block in the 2022/23 financial year. This is to support high needs education expenditure for special educational needs in Hammersmith and Fulham.
 - d. To approve the proposal to top-slice the 2022/23 Schools Block to the value of £0.200m or 0.18% of the total for the Falling Rolls protection fund in 2022/23. Allocations to mainstream schools from the agreed fund would be agreed by a sub-group of the Schools Forum.
 - e. To approve de-delegation budgets of £0.666m for maintained mainstream schools only.
 - f. To approve the education functions budgets of £0.258m for maintained mainstream schools only, as confirmed by Schools Forum on 18th January 2022.
4. Central Services Schools Block Budget 2022/23
 - a. To approve the proposed budget allocation for Central Services Schools Block DSG totalling £2.817m.
5. Early Years Block Budget 2022/23
 - a. To approve the 2022/23 draft budget of £15.173m for 3- and 4-year-olds in line with grant conditions, including the proposed distribution

of an increase in the hourly Base Rate paid to providers from £6.26 to £6.39 and the high level central Early Years budget of £0.759m.

6. High Needs Block Expenditure 2022/23
 - a. To note the significantly increased funding allocation for High Needs and special educational needs education in 2022/23, planned expenditure by category and commissioned places with special education providers in 2022/23.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

10. AFFORDABLE WORKSPACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Leader reported that a letter had been emailed earlier on the day to all Cabinet Members on behalf of Land Securities, Legal and General, Romulus and Stanhope PLC, expressing their concern with regard to the recommendation on this report.

Councillor Andrew Jones stated that this was a special planning guidance document around affordable workspace, which was a core part of the Council's local industrial strategy and the White City innovation district. This guidance would enable the Council to support local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Start-ups and the not-for-profit sector. The guidance had been informed by independent and technical evidence and had been subject to public consultation at the end of the previous year. This guidance was a starting point for negotiation with any developer and specified 20% of the floor space to be allocated to affordable workspace.

Councillor Andrew Jones added that in relation to the letter mentioned by the Leader he had been advised that, after careful consideration, it did not raise any new issues from previous responses to the document.

Joanne Woodward, Chief Planning Officer, reiterated Councillors Jones' response in relation to the letter received and added that the issues raised by it had been dealt with during the consultation at the end of the previous year. The letter received earlier on the day from Gerald Eve LLP, on behalf of a number of developers, was an updated version of the one they had sent in November, with no new issues raised. At the time of the consultation in November, Joanne Woodward and her team had fully considered all the issues raised in the letter from Gerald Eve LLP.

The Leader expressed his disappointment at receiving this letter because the innovation district was positively transforming the borough, particularly White City. The innovation district was a first of its kind where the Council had established a formal relationship with a university and invited a business board to generate business in the borough. The aim was to dominate the economy in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, media and medicine. This issue had been widely consulted upon and with the help of local business entrepreneurs the business strategy had been created. It laid out that in order to attract Start-ups and Scale-ups, the Council needed to provide extensive affordable flexible office space. He added that the industrial strategy was thinking long term and would create many jobs in the decades to come.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. That Cabinet carefully considers the public consultation responses in Appendix 4.
2. That Cabinet approves the SPD for adoption incorporating amendments following the public consultation.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

11. RAILWAY ARCHES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Councillor Andrew Jones stated that this was another supplementary planning guidance to the local plan concerning the many railway arches in the borough, which were very important to its heritage. The railway arches were home to many SMEs and a wide range of amenity uses with multiple owners and planning arrangements. This guidance had been widely consulted upon with residents and businesses taking a holistic approach to all railway arches across the borough. This document contained guidance for taking planning decisions in future to support small and medium-sized enterprises and addressed residents' concerns.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. That Cabinet carefully considers the public consultation responses in appendix 4.

2. That Cabinet approves the SPD for adoption incorporating amendments following the public consultation.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

12. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Key Decision List was noted.

13. DISCUSSION OF EXEMPT ELEMENTS (IF REQUIRED)

There was no discussion of exempt elements.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 7.35 pm

Chair