

Cabinet

Minutes



Monday 10 October 2022

PRESENT

Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of the Council
Councillor Ben Coleman, Deputy Leader
Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology
Councillor Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for The Economy
Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm
Councillor Rebecca Harvey, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety
Councillor Bora Kwon, Cabinet Member for Civic Renewal
Councillor Rowan Ree, Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform
Councillor Alex Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Children and Education
Councillor Frances Umeh, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Jose Afonso
Councillor Patricia Quigley
Councillor Zarar Qayyum

1. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 September 2022 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings, and that the outstanding actions be noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. BOROUGHWIDE CLEAN AIR NEIGHBOURHOODS PROGRAMME

Councillor Sharon Holder and Councillor Wesley Harcourt presented the report proposing the Clean Air Neighbourhoods programme seeking to reduce many

of the impacts of poor air quality and improve the health of residents. It proposed a range of measures and public realm area improvements, including new trees, greening, sustainable drainage systems, pedestrian safety improvements, cycling facilities and traffic access restrictions.

The Cabinet received four valid deputations on the proposals and each representative was permitted to address the Cabinet for 5 minutes.

With the Leader's permission Mr Leo Murray was the first speaker to present his deputation. He represented W6 Safe Cycling Families, comprising 114 parents who cycled locally with their children. He offered their welcome for the Clean Air Neighbourhoods plans and were thankful for the Safer Cycle Pathway on King Street. As people felt safer, the number of people cycling on the local streets had increased considerably. They greatly appreciated the Council's efforts to reduce the motor traffic to make local streets safer and lessen the air pollution.

Mr Murray stated that their three key priorities going forward were:

- the Weltje Road / Rivercourt Road delta was not working well for cyclists due to heavy traffic, particularly around school gates times. Ideally these roads should be closed to through traffic at the start and the end of the school day, He asked it his could be implemented as part of the Ravenscourt Park CAN.
- more cycle lanes on key main roads such as Wood Lane, Uxbridge Road and Goldhawk Road.
- School Streets to be included in the plans.

The Leader thanked Mr Murray and asked Ms Natalie Lindsay, representing Wandsworth Bridge Road Association, to present her deputation.

Ms Lindsay noted their appreciation for the Council commitment to addressing the serious problem of air pollution in the borough, which affected every resident, and their support to the initiative of Clean Air Neighbourhoods. However, they were concerned that the safety of pedestrians and cyclists risked being overlooked in the scheme, both on boundary roads and within the zones. They asked that the treatments of boundary roads on the plans also took into consideration the road safety of pedestrian and cyclists. Likewise, to prioritise changes to the road that would protect users and encourage local drivers to cycle instead of driving, while improving the air quality. They urged the Council to give equal importance to traffic calming measures within CANs to control speeding.

The Leader thanked Ms Lindsay and invited the third speaker, Ms Nikita Crocker, representing Hammersmith & Fulham Clean Air Parents, to present her deputation.

Ms Crocker stated that Clean Air Neighbourhoods was the first step in recognising and tackling the danger of the levels of pollution caused by car dependency, especially on children who were at greatest risk. They asked that the Council looked beyond today and also considered plans for the future. They appealed for the Council to consider measures to mitigate against short local trips to offer the required protection to children going to and returning from

school. The implementation of School Streets had been successfully tried and implemented elsewhere. She noted that 96% of primary school children and 76% of secondary school students were from within the borough. Therefore, School Streets should be included in the plans as they could change the habit of driving to school and encourage children and parents to feel safe to cycle instead.

The Leader thanked Ms Crocker and invited the fourth speaker, Mr Casey Abaraonye, representing Hammersmith & Fulham Cycling, to present his deputation.

Mr Abaraonye spoke in support of the Clean Air Neighbourhoods as it tackled air pollution, which affected everyone's health in multiple ways. However, he noted that the proposal needed to go further and be looked in conjunction with other factors. He noted that the majority of children going to the local schools lived locally. He added that the majority of traffic collisions happened within the proximity of the local residents homes, therefore local traffic should not be blocked without looking at other mitigation factors. In conclusion, he stressed that the Council should prioritise the safety of people in public spaces.

The Leader thanked Mr Abaraonye and noted that many of the things discussed by members of the deputation were in common with the proposals in the Clean Air Neighbourhoods plans.

Councillor Ben Coleman thanked the four deputations for their comments. He assured that the Council was considering a whole range of public realm improvements, such as sustainable drainage, new trees, greens, pedestrian safety improvements, cycling and traffic access, repurposing street spaces, which were all part of the Clean Air Neighbourhoods plans. It was also looking at tacking energy use and demand in the future. Currently the Council was looking at the way traffic operated across the borough by implementing trial schemes for a period of 6 to 18 months while consulting throughout the trial period with residents and making changes where necessary, like in South Fulham. At the end of the trial period if successful the Council would decide to make the scheme permanent. The Council's ambition was to reduce many of the impacts of poor air quality and improve the health of residents.

The Leader reiterated that the effect of air pollution had substantial effect on the health of residents. The Clean Air Neighbourhoods aim was not only about clean air but also about safer streets and a better place to live. In term of School Streets, it had not been implemented yet due to technical issues, such as lack of resources and a limited team. But it would be included as part of this plan with the schools' input. The cycle lane was meant to be finished in 2021 but it was delayed by one year also due to technical problems.

The Leader proposed creating a working group with residents led by Bram Kainth, the Strategic Director of Environment, to bridge the communication gap by explaining the Council's plans and to receive residents insights. His Chief of Staff would contact some of the deputation members to organise this working group.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. To approve the borough wide programme of Clean Air Neighbourhoods within the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (Appendix 1).
2. To delegate responsibility to the Strategic Director of Environment for decision-making and defining the parameters of the Clean Air Neighbourhood programme in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology.
3. To delegate responsibility to the Strategic Director of Environment to amend or modify the programme in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology.
4. To delegate responsibility to the Strategic Director of Environment for implementing projects to clean the air and enhance the public realm in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology.
5. To delegate responsibility to the Strategic Director of Environment to approve the making of Experimental Traffic Orders for the purpose of implementing the experimental phase of the Clean Air Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology.
6. To delegate responsibility to the Strategic Director of Environment to approve the making permanent of any Experimental Traffic Orders for the purpose of implementing Clean Air Neighbourhoods subject to the outcomes of public engagement, data collection, monitoring, and analysis, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology.

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. EARLY INTERVENTION STRATEGY

Councillor Alex Sanderson introduced the Early Intervention Strategy which outlined the Council's strategic ambition to work together as a local partnership

to support children, young people, and their families at the earliest opportunity from universal services through to targeted support where necessary. It aimed to create services which keep children safe, support them to thrive and ensure every child fulfils their potential.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

That Cabinet approves the publication of the Early Intervention Strategy attached at Appendix 1.

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. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITOR & BUDGET VARIATIONS, 2022/23 (FIRST QUARTER)

Councillor Rowan Ree stated that this report provided a financial update on the Council's capital programme and requests approval for budget variations to the capital programme.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. To note the net forecast increase in forecast 2022/23 capital expenditure of £0.9m. The variations are detailed in Appendix 2.
2. To approve the updated four-year capital programme 2022-2026 of £681m as detailed in Appendix 1.
3. To note the potential risks regarding the Housing Capital Programme, as summarised in paragraphs 21-23.

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.

7. HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE – ESSENTIAL WORK LEADING TO STRENGTHENING AND RESTORATION PROJECT

ITEMS 7 AND 8 WERE DISCUSSED TOGETHER

Councillor Sharon Holder stated that following the closure of Hammersmith Bridge in 2019, the Council was now working on the full strengthening and restoration of the Bridge and its re-opening to motor vehicles. The essential works proposed were required to move to the next stage. These works involved the removal of the two gas mains off the Bridge and diversion on an alternative route, the planning application for the innovative truss option, and further development of the contract and procurement of the full restoration so it was ready to progress once the stabilisation work was completed. This would ensure that the future project to strengthen the Bridge could be undertaken effectively with minimal technical risks.

The Leader stated that the original price estimate to stop the Bridge from collapsing into the river had been £46 million. He expressed his appreciation for the innovative approach led by Sharon Lea, the Interim Chief Executive, and Bram Kainth, Strategic Director of Environment, which not only considerably reduced the cost to stabilise the Bridge but also delivered better engineering results. The Council was legally obliged to reopen the Bridge but did not believe that residents should bear the cost of reopening. He stressed that the greenest and safest way to finally reopen the Bridge to motor vehicles was by introducing a toll to help covering the repair costs. He expected the stabilisation works to be completed by Christmas and the Bridge would be finally safe from collapsing. He thanked Councillor Wesley Harcourt for insisting on conducting a thorough reviewing of engineering on the Bridge which avoided its potential collapse.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. To approve a new capital budget of up to £5m in 2022/23, to be funded from borrowing (increase to the Capital Financing Requirement), pending confirmation of two thirds funding contributions from the Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport for London (TfL).
2. To approve this budget to fund:
 - I. a diversion of a Cadent gas mains off and away from the bridge.
 - II. the progression and obtainment of a planning application for a potential temporary truss.
 - III. the further progression of contract/procurement development for options for the full refurbishment of Hammersmith Bridge.

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. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR THE DELIVERY OF FULL RESTORATION AND STRENGTHENING OF HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. That Appendix 1 to this report is not for publication on the basis that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. To approve the Procurement Strategy for the full restoration of Hammersmith Bridge.
3. To approve the overall procurement timetable and proposed evaluation framework (set out in Sections 7 and 10 in the Detailed Analysis of the Report).
4. To note the financial matters set out in the Financial Impact Section of the Report.

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. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WASTE STREET CLEANSING AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Councillor Sharon Holder stated that the Council's current contract for the delivery of Waste, Street Cleansing & Recycling Services would expire on 29 January 2023. The new contract would help to meet the Council's

environmental objectives by allowing opportunities to minimise waste and increase recycling, including opportunities to collect more materials for recycling and reflecting the Council's commitment to collect food waste.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. That Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 are not for publication on the basis that they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. To approve the award of the Contract to Veolia ES (UK) Limited for a period of 9 years and 9 months from 30th January 2023 to 30th October 2032, with an option to extend up to a further eight years. As agreed in the Procurement Strategy, there is an option for the Council to end the Contract on the fourth anniversary of the Services Commencement Date.
3. To note that Food Waste collections will be implemented to eligible residential properties as prescribed by the Greater London Authority.
4. To agree that decisions relating to the detailed implementation of provisional services contained within the service specification (garden waste and wheeled bin collections), as detailed in Section 19 of the report, are delegated to the Strategic Director of Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Realm, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Ecology, and the Director of Finance.

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. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) STRATEGIC REVIEW - DELIVERING FUTURE SUSTAINABLE SERVICES IN LIGHT OF SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN INFLATION

Councillor Rowan Ree stated that the Council had worked hard to keep rents and service charges as low as possible but in order to be able to balance the Housing Revenue Account budget an increase was now necessary. However,

the Council was proud to have the second lowest rental increase across the whole of London.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. That Appendix 1 is not for publication on the basis that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) and/or information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. To approve an increase to the current rents that are charged to tenants, effective from 14 November 2022. This will be an additional 4.1% for the rest of 2022/23, bringing the total annualised rent rise for 2022/23 from 1.5% to 3.1%. Details are set out in paragraph 3.1.
3. To approve a change from fixed to variable service charges for tenants based on the up-to-date actual costs of providing tenant services, which will mean a variable level of increase for the majority of tenants (as set out in paragraph 3.2).
4. To approve the above changes to service charges with effect from 14 November 2022 and for future years.

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. WHITE CITY CENTRAL - NEW COUNCIL HOMES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

Councillor Andrew Jones introduced the report seeking approval of a procurement strategy for a principal construction contractor, along with other recommendations that would enable the construction of the White City Central development.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. That Appendix 6 is not for publication on the basis that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. To approve the Procurement Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1, to procure a construction contractor on a design and build basis for the Development via an established and independent framework, that is independent from any of the contractors, in accordance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
3. To delegate authority to the Strategic Head of Regeneration & Development, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to take any necessary steps to resolve matters arising from the grant of planning permission, including the authority to enter into any associated legal agreements arising from the delivery of the development and enabling deeds and agreements with statutory utility providers and third parties including the surrender and re-grant of a lease on existing sub-station, highways agreements, the granting of a new lease and any necessary appropriation of land which is surplus to requirements to expedite and secure the best use of the land.
4. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for the Economy, in consultation with the Director of Resources, to progress the appropriation of the Site for planning purposes and the use of powers under Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 in order to authorise any interference with easements, covenants and other rights in respect of the Site including authorisation to take all necessary steps required in relation to any associated claims, settlements and legal agreements so as to enable the Development of the Site.
5. To carefully considers the responses to consultation undertaken by the Council under Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 in relation to the Development. The Section 105 consultation process will be completed by early 2023.

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. NEW FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

Councillor Andrew Jones introduced the report seeking approval to enter into a funding agreement with the Greater London Authority (GLA), for the delivery of new affordable homes in Hammersmith and Fulham.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. That Appendix 1 is not for publication on the basis that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. To approve entering into a funding agreement with the GLA for the Affordable Housing Programme 2021-26 for funding the total amount of £32,304,000
3. To delegate approval of variations to the terms of the funding agreement with the GLA (including grant amounts per project) to the Strategic Director for the Economy, in consultation with Director for Finance.

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.

13. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Key Decision List was noted.

14. DISCUSSION OF EXEMPT ELEMENTS (IF REQUIRED)

There was no discussion of exempt elements.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 8.03 pm

Chair