

Cabinet

Minutes



Monday 5 December 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=NBFuaZ49314>

PRESENT

Councillor Ben Coleman, Deputy Leader
Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology
Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm
Councillor Rebecca Harvey, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety
Councillor Alex Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Children and Education
Councillor Frances Umeh, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Adronie Alford

ALSO PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Councillor Rowan Ree, Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Leader the Deputy Leader, Councillor Ben Coleman chaired the meeting.

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

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held On 7 November 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 Stephen Cowan, Councillor Andrew Jones and Councillor Bora Kwon. Councillor Rowan Ree attended virtually and did not vote.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR MAJOR REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS FORMING PART OF THE HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23-2025/26

Councillor Frances Umeh introduced the report requesting to approve a procurement strategy to enable the Council to appoint contractors for a series of major refurbishments on 22 schemes across the borough, including window replacement, structural works and insulation improvements. There was a need to invest in Council's housing stock and this work would also help progressing with the Council's ambitions including cutting carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency, tackling fuel poverty, and complying with statutory fire safety regulations.

Councillor Adronie Alford, the Conservative Spokesperson for Housing, pointed out that Chasemore House & Donnelly Court were not getting the same works as most of the other blocks as there was no mention of replacement windows. These two blocks were situated in the middle of the redevelopment of Hartopp & Lannoy and they suffered from a lack of insulation. She hoped that once works commenced they would also get more than cosmetic works.

Councillor Frances Umeh replied that the works listed for the schemes on this report were based on a housing stock condition survey to improve residents homes and included more than just cosmetic works. These properties had been severely under invested in over many years due to the lack of funding coming from Central Government. She assured that Chasemore House & Donnelly Court would not be overlooked.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. That Cabinet approves the procurement strategy proposing the use of the South East Consortium's suite of public sector frameworks to source works contractors to enable the delivery of projects outlined in Appendix 1.
2. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Strategic Director for the Economy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, to approve future amendments to the proposed projects and programmes in Appendix 1 for operational reasons where such amendments can be contained within the overall approved budget envelope and available resources.
3. That Cabinet notes that any external grant funding secured will be in addition to the estimated budgets identified in 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.

5. PLANNING OBLIGATIONS DRAW DOWN REPORT 2021/22

Councillor Rowan Ree introduced the report virtually via Zoom.

Councillor Adronie Alford stated that the report seemed to be misleading as Hartopp & Lannoy was situated on Pellant Road and there was no other area on the road for a redevelopment. The pictures on the report implied that there were two developments, Hartopp & Lannoy and Pellant Road, therefore it should be clarified that it was just one scheme.

Councillor Ben Coleman replied that they would take her point into consideration.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

That Cabinet approves the 2021/22 drawdown of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies as set out in this report and in the 2021/22 Drawdown Report attached at Appendix A, to fund expenditure of £17,484,381.15 including £377,210.49 of s.106 and CIL monitoring and administration costs.

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. ANNUAL EMERGENCY PLANNING & BUSINESS CONTINUITY REPORT

Councillor Rebecca Harvey stated that the Council had responsibilities to plan and respond to emergencies and to have business continuity arrangements in place to reduce the risk of service disruption. This annual report provided an overview of activity over the previous year and the priorities and work plan for the forthcoming year.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

That Cabinet notes the report which looks back on work undertaken over the last 15 months (running 01/07/21 to 30/09/22) and the work plan for the remainder of 2022/2023.

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.

7. HOME CARE AND INDEPENDENT LIVING - IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SUPPORT WE OFFER RESIDENTS AT HOME

Councillor Ben Coleman stated that since 2015 the Council was providing home care in the borough for free at the point of need, being the only Council in the country to do so. The Council was also committed to supporting residents with independent living, enabling them to live their lives with greater control. This report was seeking agreement for the procurement of a newly named Home Care and Independent Living service. The aim was to provide a range of care at home to support independent living and improves on the quality of the service residents currently received. It was extremely important to attract and keep an excellent workforce to keep consistent good quality of care.

Councillor Adronie Alford asked whether there would be a monitoring process to control quality of care.

Councillor Ben Coleman replied that currently they were being monitored through a vigorous performance management and with the various new providers there would be continuous strong measures of the quality of care provided. This was one of the key Council's priorities.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

4. Cabinet to approve the procurement strategy set out here. The contracts will be awarded for five years, with the option to extend for another two years. The financial implications are set out in exempt Appendix A.
5. Notes that Appendix A 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).

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. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Key Decision List was noted.

9. DISCUSSION OF EXEMPT ELEMENTS (ONLY IF REQUIRED)

There was no discussion of exempt elements.

Meeting started: 7.04 pm

Meeting ended: 7.18 pm

Chair