

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CABINET

Tuesday 22nd February 2005

7.30 pm – 8.10pm

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Clyde Loakes	Council Leader
	Councillor Keith Rayner	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder, Corporate Services
	Councillor Liaquat Ali	Portfolio Holder, Community Engagement and Equalities
	Councillor David Blunt	Portfolio Holder, Environment
	Councillor Jenny Gray	Portfolio Holder, Strategic Innovation, Performance and Learning
	Councillor Barry Smith	Portfolio Holder, Community Safety and Protection
	Councillor Graham Smith	Portfolio Holder, Health and Social Care
	Councillor Simon Wright	Portfolio Holder, Regeneration

130. APPOINTMENT OF JACQUIE DEAN AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Cabinet expressed its congratulations to Jacquie Dean on her appointment as Chief Executive, subject to ratification by Full Council at its meeting on 24th February 2005.

131. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Loretta Hodges, Portfolio Holder for Housing, and Councillor Chris Robbins, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Learning and Leisure.

132. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

133. MINUTES OF CABINET

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the meeting on 8th February 2005 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

Minute 129: Revised Proposal for the Redevelopment of the Arcade Site

Add as the first paragraph: 'This matter was considered under the Urgency Procedures set out in Part 8 of the Council's Constitution.'

Insert at the beginning of the third paragraph on page 14: 'It was noted that the Leader, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration were already aware of the financial details.'

134. FORWARD PLAN

Cabinet noted the Forward Plan for the period March 2005 to June 2005.

135. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT: MONTH 10 (JANUARY)

Cabinet received a report on expenditure up to the end of January 2005. The report concluded that the overall situation continued to be one of pressures on a variety of demand-led and income budgets, but no large-scale single problems, as seen in previous years, had so far emerged. Cabinet noted that although further potential pressures continued to arise, they were balanced in general by underspends and additional income. Cabinet also noted that cash flow remained very strong, and capital spending had picked up in the third quarter of 2004/05.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet noted the report, including the current position on capital expenditure.

136. IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT

Cabinet received a report that provided an overview of progress against key improvement priorities up to 31st January 2005.

Cabinet noted with pleasure comments made by the Portfolio Holder for Environment that, following extensive negotiations between the Council and Bywaters Ltd., agreement had been reached to establish a recycling centre in Auckland Road, E10, thus providing a recycling centre for residents in the south of the borough.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet noted the report.

137. CORPORATE ASSESSMENT: OUTCOME AND ACTION PLAN 2005/06

Cabinet received a report which set out recent achievements by the Council, as outlined in a report by the Audit Commission, and proposed a series of actions to address the recommendations contained in the Corporate Assessment report.

Cabinet noted with pleasure that the outcome of the Corporate Assessment was very positive for the Council and that the good progress that had been made, but Cabinet was also aware that there still remained much work to be done. Members discussed the action plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, which sought to address the main recommendations from the corporate assessment, and asked that it be given further consideration by officers.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet agreed:

1. To note the Audit Commission's Corporate Assessment report, dated 16th December 2004, attached as Appendix I to the report.
2. That officers report back to Cabinet with an updated Action Plan that has further measurable outcomes and incorporates action by Portfolio Holders.

138. DRAFT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Cabinet received a report that sought approval of the draft Local Development Scheme, which had been produced in accordance with the requirements of section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004. Cabinet noted that the Local Development Scheme would be submitted to the Government Office for London (GOL) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) for their agreement by the end of March 2005, so as to optimise the total amount of Planning Delivery Grant the borough might receive for 2005/6.

The Executive Director, Environmental Services was requested to ensure that early progress was made on future planning guidelines regarding residential conversions and Section 106 planning agreements.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet agreed:

1. That the draft Local Development Scheme, attached as Appendix I to the report, be submitted to the Government Office for London and the Greater London Authority.
2. To delegate authority to the Executive Director, Environmental Services, to make further minor amendments as are necessary, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

139. REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

The report of the Portfolio Holder, Environment was tabled at the meeting. Cabinet noted the following reports, and further information, provided by Portfolio Holders:

- a) The Leader
- b) Deputy Leader and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder
- c) Community Engagement and Equalities Portfolio Holder
- d) Environment Portfolio Holder
- e) Housing Portfolio Holder
- f) Culture, Learning and Leisure Portfolio Holder
- g) Health and Social Care Portfolio Holder
- h) Regeneration Portfolio Holder

- i) Community Safety and Protection Portfolio Holder
- j) Environment Portfolio Holder

140. LEN NORTON – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Chair informed Cabinet that this would be its last meeting attended by Len Norton, Executive Director, Environmental Services, before he left the Council to take up an appointment with the London Borough of Redbridge. Cabinet wished to place on record its thanks to Len Norton for the service he had provided to the Council and the residents of the borough, and wished him every success in his new appointment, and for the future. Len Norton responded by thanking Cabinet for its comments.

141. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cabinet resolved that the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7, 9 and 12 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

142. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF ICT NETWORK MANAGED SERVICES

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for the award of a contract for provision of ICT infrastructure network managed services.

Cabinet noted that the award of the contract would result in a reduction in costs, but that the savings would be used to enhance the service.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet agreed to award the contract for the provision of ICT network managed services to British Telecommunications PLC as recommended in the report.

(Chair)