

# LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CABINET

Tuesday, 17 May 2005

7.30 p.m. to 8.40 p.m.

### PRESENT:

<b>Chair:</b> 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 Loretta Hodges	Portfolio Holder, Housing
Councillor Chris Robbins	Portfolio Holder, Culture, Learning and Leisure
Councillor Barry Smith	Portfolio Holder, Community Safety and Protection
Councillor Graham Smith	Portfolio Holder, Health and Social Care
Councillor Simon Wright	Portfolio Holder, Regeneration

### Other Councillors Present:

N. Matharoo (Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission), D. Murray (Equalities Panel) and R. Wheatley (Chair, Equalities Scrutiny Panel)

### 177 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Jacquie Dean, Chief Executive.

### 178 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**179 MINUTES OF CABINET**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute number 173: Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

Paragraph three, first line – substitute the words ‘Safer Neighbourhood’ for the words ‘Neighbourhood Safety’.

**180 EQUALITIES PROGRAMME**

Cabinet noted the report, including the summary of the Equalities Scrutiny Panel’s recommendations and the action taken, or which is planned in relation to each recommendation, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

Cabinet also noted that it would receive a progress report at its meeting in October 2005.

Cabinet further noted that the Head of the Hate Crime Reduction Unit was representing the Council at a candlelit vigil being held in Stratford as part of the first day of action against homophobia.

**CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet noted the report and the action taken, and placed on record its thanks to the Equalities Scrutiny Panel for its work on this matter.

**181 FORWARD PLAN**

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

**182 CORPORATE ASSESSMENT AND PEER REVIEW: ACTION PLAN FOR 2005/2007**

**CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet agreed the Corporate Assessment and Peer Review Action Plan for the period 2005-2007, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

**183 MONTHLY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT (APRIL)**

Cabinet noted the report.

**184 IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

Cabinet noted the report.

**185 WARNER ESTATE LEASING SCHEME**

**CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet agreed:

- (a) To enter into a contract to lease up to 300 Warner Estate homes for 10 years from Circle 33 Housing Group, with break clauses, as described in paragraph 4.3 of the report.
- (b) To make capital funding of £1million available to Circle 33, with a “clawback” provision, as described in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

**186 FUTURE OF WALTON HOUSE DAY CENTRE**

**CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet agreed to close the day service at Walton House, and noted:

- (a) That those existing service users whose reassessments identify a need for day care will receive an alternative day care service.
- (b) That such services, referred to in (a) above, will be based upon the widely affirmed Morley Centre model and made available in a variety of settings.
- (c) That arrangements will be made for any service users who do not meet the Council’s eligibility criteria to attend a voluntary sector or outreach day club.

**187 RESTRUCTURE AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONNEXIONS NORTH LONDON**

The proposed Consortium Agreement, referred to in the report, was circulated at the meeting.

**CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet agreed:

- (a) That the Council enters into a contract on behalf of Connexions North London based on the Consortium Agreement, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, but subject to any further amendments agreed between the parties thereto, setting up the Connexions North London Consortium (including entering into any incidental funding arrangement to facilitate collaboration of interested bodies in the running of the Connexions Service in North London and to effect consequential cost savings).
- (b) That the Executive Director for Lifelong Learning be authorised to approve the final contract following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Learning and Leisure.

(c) That the agreement referred to in (a) above will include the appointment of the Executive Director of Lifelong Learning, or his appointed deputy, as the Council's representative on the Consortium.

(d) That the agreement be reviewed in 2006/2007 in the light of its operation and to take account of the implications of the Government's forthcoming youth green paper.

Cabinet placed on record its thanks to the London Borough of Haringey for taking on the administration of the Connexions North London Consortium.

## **188 COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY**

Cabinet noted the comments of the Head of Strategy and Social Inclusion and the action being taken in response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

### **CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet agreed the draft Community Cohesion Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to its revision to include appropriate wording to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual issues were also addressed.

## **189 INTERIM PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL STRATEGY AND ASSISTANCE POLICY**

Members were particularly concerned with the problem of unlicensed houses in multiple occupation and emphasised the need for urgent action in line with previous discussions.

### **CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet agreed:

(a) The approval and implementation of the interim Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy, subject to section 4.2 regarding the regulation and monitoring of houses in multiple occupation being strengthened, particularly in regard to action taken on two storey properties.

(b) The approval and implementation of the interim Private Sector Housing Renewal Assistance Policy.

(c) To allocate £240,000 to provide the following type of assistance (under the interim Private Sector Housing Renewal Assistance Policy):

- HouseProud Equity Release Support Grant
- Minor Repairs Assistance
- Environmental Intervention

(d) That the Interim Head of Housing provide Cabinet members with an

explanatory note on the Disabled Facilities Grants scheme.

**190 OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT ON WALTHAM FOREST LEA**

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Learning and Leisure highlighted the improvements made, reflected by the overall rating for the authority increasing from 'unsatisfactory' in January 2003 to 'highly satisfactory' now.

Cabinet placed on record its thanks to the staff involved in the Ofsted inspection arrangements and also to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Learning and Leisure for his work on the matter.

**CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet noted:

- (a) The findings and recommendations contained in the Ofsted inspection report.
- (b) The press notice and publicity leaflet produced to publicise it.
- (c) The action being taken in response to the Ofsted inspection report.

**191 HOUSING STOCK OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

Cabinet was informed that the following motion had been passed earlier in the evening at a meeting of the Tenants' Council, expressing opposition to the introduction of service charges:

'We wish to convey our concern that that we had to have a meeting at such short notice and at an earlier time than usual as we feel that this will have affected attendance by tenants' representatives who would have wanted to be consulted.

We note the recommendation before tonight's Cabinet Meeting.

We deplore the Government's imposed hoop which requires the Council to agree to service charges:

- (i) Before the publication of any new Rent Restructuring Formula;
- (ii) As well as the requirement to reach two-stars.

We remain opposed to the introduction of any service charges. We expect to be consulted post any new Rent Restructuring Formula and in good time to make representation to the Council about any proposals.

We wish the feelings of the Waltham Forest Tenants Council to be forwarded to the Government for London and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.'

**CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet noted:

- (a) That the Council may need to introduce service charges for tenants from 2007 in order to keep the Housing Revenue Account in surplus, unless the revised rent restructuring formula to be issued in the autumn renders this unnecessary.
- (b) That a further report will be submitted to the Tenants' Council and Cabinet once the results of the rent restructuring are known.

**192    REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

Cabinet noted the reports of Portfolio Holders.

**193    CONFIDENTIAL AND/OR EXEMPT REPORTS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Cabinet resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the consideration of the item 18 below.

**194    COUNCIL DESKTOP MANAGED SERVICE CONTRACT**

**CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet agreed:

- (a) To award the contract for the Provision of Desktop Managed Services to Dell Corporation Ltd.
- (b) To request the Head of ICT and E-Government Strategy to write to Cabinet members providing details as to the components of the service contract.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**195    DEPARTURE OF COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Cabinet noted that this would be its last meeting attended by David O'Loan, Head of Strategic Finance, and David Brown, Interim Head of Housing, and placed on record its thanks to both David O'Loan and David Brown for their work for the Cabinet and Council, and conveyed its best wishes to them for the future.

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Chair