

**LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CABINET
Tuesday, 23rd March 2004 7.30p.m. - 8.10p.m.**

PRESENT:

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| Chair: | Councillor C.W. Loakes | Council Leader |
| | Councillor T. Bhogal | Best Value Performance Portfolio Holder |
| | Councillor K. Rayner | Corporate Services Portfolio Holder |
| | Councillor C. Robbins | Life Long Learning Portfolio Holder |
| | Councillor E. Sizer | Environment (Streets) Portfolio Holder |
| | Councillor B. Smith | Community Safety Portfolio Holder |
| | Councillor G. Smith | Social Services and Health Portfolio Holder |

142 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Nasim, Partnerships Portfolio Holder and Councillor Hodges, Housing Portfolio Holder.

143 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

144 MINUTES OF CABINET

The minutes of the Cabinet Meeting on 24th February 2004 were agreed.

145 REFERENCES FROM SCRUTINY COMMISSION

(a) Recommendations of the Consultation Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Matthew Davis, a member of the Public Consultation Scrutiny Panel, introduced the report and the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations.

The Cabinet thanked the Members of the Scrutiny Panel for their work and indicated its general agreement with the Panel's recommendations subject to funding being identified where necessary.

During discussion of the report Councillor Davis asked that Management Board also consider the need to improve the representativeness of the Council's Residents Panels.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Effective consultation is essential to develop services that involve users and stakeholders, and is considered to be a vital element in ensuring a better performing Waltham Forest Council.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The range of options considered are set out in the Scrutiny Panel's report.

CABINET DECISION

To agree:

- (a) That Management Board consider how the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations can be implemented and report further on this matter to the next Cabinet meeting.
- (b) That Councillor Matthew Davis be invited to the next Cabinet meeting when the further report is considered.

145 CALL-IN REQUESTS

No items were called in for pre-decision scrutiny.

146 FORWARD PLAN

Cabinet noted the Forward Plan for the period April to July 2004.

147 BUDGET MONITORING: MONTH 11 (FEBRUARY)

Cabinet noted the monitoring report, particularly the further information available on parking income, and the action being taken to address cost pressures in Children and Families Services.

REASONS FOR DECISION

It is best practice for Members to monitor the Council's budget, focusing on high- risk areas on an exception basis.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet noted the report and the actions proposed within services to keep within the overall budget for the year.

148 RECOVERY PLAN MONITORING

The report set out key issues for Cabinet's attention and details of progress against each of the priority areas in the Recovery Plan during February.

The Leader reported on the recent meeting he had attended of the Government Monitoring Board; a note of the Key Messages from that meeting was circulated.

The Deputy Chief Executive commented that the staff survey was currently being analysed and a further report would be made to Cabinet once this had been completed. Generally staff perception of the Council had improved.

Councillor Robbins noted the recent appointment of the Head of Cultural Services in Life Long Learning and that a Head of Museums was also to be appointed.

Councillor B Smith noted that a Senior Manager of the Community Safety Team had been appointed. He further advised that the review of the SafetyNet Partnership had been undertaken and action would be taken in response to its findings.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet noted the report.

149 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

This report set out the third quarter of performance management data for the financial year 2003/4. It included an exception report where performance is below target and a cause for concern, and a Performance Book showing each indicator graphically.

It was noted that indications were positive for a number of targets being reached by the end of the year, specially it was noted that there had been significant improvements in reducing the crime rate in the Borough.

REASON FOR DECISION

This is a regular quarterly core performance indicator report to Cabinet and it provides performance data for the third quarter of the current financial year.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet noted the report.

150 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION: PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This report sought Cabinet approval of the terms of the draft Partnership Framework Agreement between the Council and Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust and the first service to be integrated under this framework, the Integrated Community Equipment Stores (ICES). The draft scheme for Lead Commissioning and the provision of an integrated Community Equipment Store, which will form Schedule 1 of the proposed agreement under the Section 31 Agreement of the Health Act 1999, was circulated at the meeting.

REASON FOR DECISION

The proposed framework agreement will allow the Council and Waltham Forest PCT with consent at each stage to integrate almost all health and social care services in the future.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Section 31 powers can be used flexibly but a formal agreement must be reached to ensure probity and legality. The Council could enter into a series of individual agreements for individual services. It is considered that the Framework is a better way forward by providing a clear, integrated governance structure and consistent terms of agreement.

CABINET DECISION

To agree:

- (a) The terms of the draft Partnership Framework agreement attached at Appendix A to the report, including the integration of Community Equipment Stores at Schedule 1 of the agreement, as circulated at the meeting.
- (b) To delegate the final approval of the terms of the Framework agreement and Schedule to the interim Director of Social Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Social Services and Health and the Head of Strategic Finance.

151 PERFORMANCE ACTION TRANSITION PLAN

This report set out the progress of the Performance Action Team (PAT) to February 2004 with plans against each work stream to continue performance and service improvements.

REASON FOR DECISION

The Plan aims to ensure that the performance targets for future development work are linked to and service plan key priorities, and that the Social Services Department is able to sustain the improvements already made by the PAT.

CABINET DECISION

To note the progress in each of the work streams; and to endorse the plans for further development work in the Social Services department in order to sustain and continue improvement.

152 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/05 – 2006/07

This report set out the authority's capital programme for 2004/05 to 2006/07, in light of the Prudential Indicators for 2004-05 agreed by Council on 26th February 2004, and the resources expected to be available to the Council to finance Capital expenditure.

Councillor Robbins commented on the need to support schools in the management of resources, and advised Cabinet in this respect, on a proposal to hold an Asset Management Conference.

Councillor B Smith referred to the format of Cabinet reports generally and asked that officers consider providing additional information that set out the context of each report so that proposals could be understood more easily by interested parties.

REASON FOR DECISION

The CIPFA Prudential Code, which has statutory force under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003, requires authorities to have regard to the affordability of their capital expenditure plans.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Officers responsible for Capital programmes have considered a range of possible schemes and prioritized these within the resources expected to be available in each year. Schemes not included at this point may be brought in when the programme is updated for 2005/06 to 2007/08.

CABINET DECISION

To agree in line with the Capital Expenditure proposals agreed by Full Council on 26th February 2004:

- (a) the authority's detailed capital programme for 2004/05 to 2006/07 as set out in appendices A to D to the report.

- (b) that £14.433 million of the Housing allocation for 2004/05 be allocated to Ascham Homes, all of which should be spent on delivering decent homes, except as set out in 2.3 below.
- (c) that the percentage of the Housing Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) budget devolved to tenants (the Devolved Programme) be increased from 66% to 83% of the total MRA of £7.739 million in 2004/05. This would allow £6.423 million to be devolved to the Contract Panel and of this a minimum of 85% must be allocated to delivering decent homes.
- (d) that if Ascham Homes are successful in attracting additional resources of £25.4 million, that the decision on the delivery of the additional programme be delegated to the Lead Member for Housing and the Executive Director for Community Services.

152 REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Cabinet received and noted reports from the following Portfolio Holders

- (i) Councillor Bhogal, Best Value Performance Portfolio Holder
- (ii) Councillor B Smith, Community Safety Portfolio Holder
- (iii) Councillor Rayner, Corporate Services Portfolio Holder (February and March)
- (iv) Councillor Hodges, Housing Portfolio
- (v) Councillor Loakes, Leader
- (vi) Councillor Robbins, Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder
- (vii) Councillor G Smith, Social Services Portfolio Holder
- (viii) Councillor Sizer, Environment Street Portfolio Holder

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Chair

Minutes Published: Wednesday 31st March 2004

Call-in Date: Wednesday 7th April 2004