

# LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CABINET

Tuesday, 20 April 2004

7.30 p.m. to 8.45 p.m.

### PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Clyde Loakes	Council Leader
Councillor T. Bhogal	Best Value and Performance Portfolio Holder
Councillor K. Rayner	Corporate Services Portfolio Holder
Councillor C. Robbins	Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder
Councillor E. Sizer	Environment Street Portfolio Holder
Councillor B. Smith	Community Safety Portfolio Holder
Councillor G. Smith	Social Services And Health Portfolio Holder

### 153 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

### 154 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 155 MINUTES OF CABINET

The minutes of the Cabinet Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2004 were agreed.

### 156 REFERENCES FROM SCRUTINY

#### (a) Recommendations from the Consultation Scrutiny Panel

Management Board had been asked to consider how the recommendations could be implemented. As the report from Management Board had not been circulated in advance of the meeting, it was deferred to the next meeting.

In reply to a comment by Councillor Davis the Interim Chief Executive stated that it was not intended that consultation would be undertaken only through the Community Councils, but would contribute to overall Council processes.

### **CABINET DECISION**

To defer consideration of the recommendations of Management Board until the next meeting.

#### **(b) Outturn Report**

Councillor M Lewis introduced the report and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's recommendations. He commented that there had been difficulty in compiling the report as there was a lack of information as how many permanent, temporary and agency staff were employed, but that the methods of record keeping had since significantly improved.

The Leader reported that he was now receiving regular information on the number of temporary and agency staff.

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The Commission has the powers under the Local Government Act 2000 to recommend matters of general policy to the Cabinet.

### **CABINET DECISION**

The Cabinet noted the report and accepted the general thrust of the recommendations.

#### **(c) Health And Regeneration Funding**

Councillor P. Herrington introduced the report and asked that the panel's recommendations are conveyed to partner organisations.

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The Commission has the powers under the Local Government Act 2000 to recommend matters of general policy to the Cabinet.

### **CABINET DECISION**

To endorse the recommendations of the Health and Regeneration Funding Panel and to agree to convey them to partner organisations.

**157 CALL-IN REQUESTS**

No items had been called in for pre-decision scrutiny.

**158 FORWARD PLAN**

Cabinet noted the Forward Plan for the period May to August 2004.

**159 BUDGET MONITORING: MONTH 12 (MARCH)**

Cabinet noted the monitoring report, in particular that the budget is set to be balanced. It noted also that the Council had benefited from the earlier receipt of grants than in previous years, and that targets were being met in respect of parking.

**REASON FOR THE DECISION**

It is best practice for Members of 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.

**160 RECOVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

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 March.

Councillor G. Smith noted that there had been an improvement in Services for Vulnerable Children.

Councillor B. Smith informed Cabinet of the implementation of CCTV monitoring systems in north and south areas of the borough, and of a mobile CCTV Unit. There had also been success in recruiting to the Drugs Action Team.

Councillor Robbins informed the Cabinet that the PFI project was now fully under way. At the School Organisation Committee Meeting the previous evening, the closure of Hawkswood School had been endorsed; the changes to Joseph Clarke School had not been agreed but had been referred to the Independent Adjudicator.

A new Director for Lifelong Learning had been appointed and will commence his appointment in July.

The Interim Chief Executive noted that the Council had been successful in securing a debt collection inspection which is take place in September 2004. She

also introduced and welcomed Jan Wickham, the Interim Deputy Chief Executive.

## **CABINET DECISION**

Cabinet noted the report.

### **161 DELIVERING A REPRESENTATIVE WORKFORCE AT ALL LEVELS**

This report sought Cabinet's approval of proposals to assist the Council in achieving a representative workforce at all levels.

Councillor Rayner commented that this was the first of a number of reports that are to be brought before Cabinet. He noted that there was a need for demographic information to be obtained from additional sources, not just the census.

## **REASON FOR THE DECISION**

The action proposed will enable the council to comply with legislation relating to equalities and help to minimize the risk of racial discrimination throughout the Council. In particular The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 requires that public authorities monitor the following employment activities: staff headcount; staff promotions; training activity; disciplinary activity; grievance activity; recruitment activity; staff dismissals; reasons for leaving.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

In the light of the Council's statutory duties, doing nothing is not an option. A more ambitious work programme had also been considered, but it was decided to focus on a few key issues in order to deliver tangible results.

## **CABINET DECISION**

- a) To note that the summary of the Council's workforce analysis will be published and forms part of the Race Equality Scheme as required by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, with the more detailed analysis to be made available on request.
- b) To reaffirm its commitment to achieving a representative workforce at all levels.
- c) That the ability to speak the most common languages, other than English, in Waltham Forest be made a desirable criterion on all person specifications, as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report.
- d) That, as women and black and minority ethnic staff are under-represented at senior levels, all senior job advertisements say that we encourage applicants from these groups.
- e) That Braille signage and loop equipment be installed at the Walthamstow Town Hall, Willow House and Uplands Business Centre as required by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

- f) That the equal opportunities monitoring form be adopted to monitor the sexuality and religion of job applications in line with the new Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 and Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003.
- g) To nominate the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services) as the lead cabinet member with the responsibility for championing equal opportunities and diversity.

## **162 DESIGNATION OF ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE - LEYTONSTONE HIGH ROAD**

The report sought Cabinet's support for the request by the Leytonstone Community Council for action to ban drinking alcohol in public places on Leytonstone High Road. This will be the first alcohol-free zone in the borough and will be used in conjunction with other initiatives to address anti-social behaviour in the area.

It was noted the proposal could not be actioned until formal consultation had been undertaken, and that informal consultation had already commenced with the police. Members asked that details be circulated to all Cabinet members indicating the likely timescales and implementation target date for the proposal.

### **REASON FOR DECISION**

The alcohol free designation will help to address antisocial behaviour, and will have a significant effect on communities living in, working in and visiting the Leytonstone, Cathall and Cann Hall wards.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Alternative action such as rehabilitation, 'wet provisions' and police injunctions were considered. Due to the scale of the problem, doing nothing was not considered an option.

### **CABINET DECISION**

- (a) To support the principle of designating Leytonstone High Road as an alcohol-free zone subject to the outcome of statutory assessment and consultation procedure.
- (b) To commence the consultation and assessment procedure required by statute.
- (c) To delegate authority to make the final decision in respect of the designation of Leytonstone High Road as an alcohol-free zone to the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety in consultation with the Community Council Chair.

## **163 THE PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2004/05**

Cabinet considered a draft Performance and Improvement Plan for the Council for 2004/05. The Plan summarised the Council's strategic objectives and priorities for improvement and how they will be addressed, as well as other information.

The Director of School Support was asked to clarify apparent anomalies in the information in the draft relating to educational attainment prior to the report being submitted to Council.

### **CABINET DECISION**

To recommend Council to agree the draft Performance and Improvement Plan 2004/05.

## **164 REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

Cabinet received and noted reports from the following Portfolio Holders:

- (i) Councillor Loakes, Leader
- (ii) Councillor B Smith, Community Safety Portfolio Holder
- (iii) Councillor Rayner, Corporate Services Portfolio Holder
- (iv) Councillor Hodges, Housing Portfolio Holder
- (v) Councillor Robbins, Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder
- (vi) Councillor G Smith, Social Services & Health Portfolio Holder
- (vii) Councillor Sizer, Environment Street Portfolio Holder
- (viii) Councillor Bhogal, Best Value and Performance Portfolio Holder (report was circulated at the meeting)

## **165 EXEMPT REPORTS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

### **CABINET DECISION**

To resolve to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7-9 and 12 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**166 TENDERING OF REFUSE COLLECTION, STREET CLEANSING, FLEET MANAGEMENT AND ALLIED SERVICES CONTRACT**

Cabinet considered a report from the Street Services Contract Members Panel that had been established by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to look at the tendering exercise. It also considered the report of the Executive Director of Environmental Services on the outcome of the tendering exercise.

Members of the Cabinet expressed their thanks to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission Members for their work on this matter.

Cabinet noted that a number of significant improvements had been achieved in respect of refuse collection and street cleaning services over the last year. A request was made that information on improvements and issues still needing to be addressed be provided to the Cabinet.

**CABINET DECISION**

- a) To award the Household Waste and recycling Centres contract to ECT for an 8 year period (8 Year possible extension) as soon as practically possible.
- b) To otherwise withdraw from the tendering process for all other Street Services and consequently not award any contract to any other bidder.
- c) To review the services and its procurement in 12 months time considering a range of options for the future of the services including re-tendering and other forms of partnership working.

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Chair

Minutes Published:  
Call-in Date: