

## CABINET MINUTES

Monday 21 March 2022 at 5.00 pm

### Present:

#### Cabinet Member:

Councillor Danial  
Adilypour

Councillor Donatus  
Anyanwu

Councillor Matthew  
Bennett

Councillor Lucy Caldicott

Councillor Edward Davie

Councillor Jim Dickson

Councillor Jacqui Dyer

Councillor Dr. Mahamed  
Hashi

Councillor Claire Holland

Councillor Maria Kay

Councillor Andy Wilson

#### Portfolio:

Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport, Environment and  
Clean Air (job-share)

Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector and Leisure

Deputy Leader of the Council (Planning, Investment and New  
Homes)

Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (job-share)

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (job-share)

Deputy Leader of the Council (Jobs, Skills and Community  
Safety)

Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport, Environment and  
Clean Air (job-share)

Leader of the Council

Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

### Apologies for absence

#### Also present:

Councillor Tim Briggs, Councillor Pete Elliott

#### Also present online:

Councillor Nicole Griffiths

\*non-voting

### 1 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet held on 7 February were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair

## **3 Active Lambeth Strategy 2022 – 27**

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector and Leisure, Councillor Donatas Anyanwu who highlighted that:

- The Active Lambeth Strategy would cover the period of 2022-27
- The new Strategy commencing in 2022 would enable the National and Regional Sports England Strategy to be embedded within the Active Lambeth Strategy
- It identified how sports and physical activity could be used by Lambeth residents to contribute to the delivery of the Borough's key objectives
- The purpose of the Strategy was to look at making Lambeth as active as possible and address and issues and inequalities in public health, children's health and obesity
- The Strategy made note of Lambeth's performance indicators. It was important for these to be monitored to ensure that the targets set in the Strategy were achieved.

Visiting Conservative Member, Councillor Tim Briggs noted the impact upon disabled people not living near green spaces, when parking spaces were to be reduced and roads closed around them. Councillor Briggs asked where the data was regarding this issue.

In response to some of the questions and comments raised, Officers and the Cabinet Member advised the following:

- The Strategy looked at detailed data on the activities of young people aged from 11 to 20 years. As part of the Strategy, active transport played a strong role in increasing the activity levels of Lambeth's residents, particularly its young people. Walking, cycling and scootering would be encouraged to transport residents to their local open spaces, whereas driving would be discouraged
- An approach for an Active Lambeth must be on every single level, enabling every resident across the Borough to lead a full and active life
- The data was not included in the report, but could be provided at a later date. Road closures did not mean that resident's access to open spaces was restricted.

Cabinet made the following observations:

- The report was comprehensive and demonstrated creating healthier and safer communities within the Borough
- The report included some concerning statistics, including that just 18% of children in the Borough were reaching the recommended 1-hour of exercise per day
- Residents valued free children's leisure passes, and it was hoped to extend the scheme further so that it would be accessible to more children
- Although taking part in sports and classes was a great way to exercise, it was important for more movement to be encouraged in daily living. This included walking and cycling to school and taking the stairs where and when possible. Cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings encouraged this culture.

Cabinet thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for their hard work on the Strategy.

Following consideration, Cabinet resolved to:

1. Approve the Active Lambeth Strategy 2022-2027.

#### **4 Lambeth's Climate Action Plan**

The report was introduced by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Claire Holland who highlighted that:

- The Climate Action Plan was developed by groups and residents across the Borough, for the Borough. The Action Plan was created following the conclusion of recommendations made by the Lambeth Citizen's Assembly, in order to tackle the Climate the Climate and Ecological Emergency swiftly and fairly
- This was the first time for Lambeth's leading organisations to unite in the name of the Climate Crisis, and therefore the first time to bring such a variety of expertise to the table
- The Plan set out highly ambitious goals and targets for everyone, from decarbonising the Borough's energy systems to ensuring its food system was more sustainable, local and resilient. It included emissions reductions, more greenery for areas that were deficient, more protection for areas prone to flooding and cleaning up toxic air. It also included providing residents with more energy efficient homes
- It was the decisions being made over the next decade which would affect the lives of future generations. Lambeth Council and the Administration were committed to supporting residents and businesses to take a leading role in cultivating a more sustainable future.

Visiting Conservative Member, Councillor Tim Briggs asked when traffic would evaporate.

Visiting Green Member, Councillor Pete Elliott made a number of comments and questions around governance and whether it was still intended to work towards net zero by 2030.

Visiting Green Member, Councillor Nicole Griffiths made a number of comments around rising energy prices, and the arrangements for food waste and changing dietary habits away from animals and over-consumption.

Cabinet then heard from three members of the public, Michael Ball, Luke Plowden and Zana Dean, who highlighted the following:

- There were some concerns around the carbon emissions resulting from the construction of major developments, and the benefits of retrofitting were raised
- It was felt there was a lack of detail around funding and projected timeframes for completion. Concerns were also raised around whether the goals for Co2 reduction were measurable, as well as increased ECP levels within the Borough
- Thanks were given to Officers for their work on the Action Plan.

In response to some of the questions and comments raised, Officers and the Cabinet Member advised the following:

- The Action Plan set out the problems faced within the Borough, as well as how it planned to engage partners around its vision and aimed goals. The next steps in achieving those goals would be developed into an impact framework produced later in the year. This would include details on monitoring progress and accountability to those

goals

- The report used the phrase 'net zero compatibility'. The reason for this was that local areas were not able to reach net zero on their own, and required national support. Lambeth would be retrofitting and producing new homes to passive house standards, but due to requiring electricity, would not be officially net zero until the Government ensured all grids were zero carbon. Lambeth would strive for net zero compatibility and lobby central Government to do the same
- It was recognised that food played an important role in lowering carbon emissions, however lots of people did not have a vast amount of choice around their diet. It was important to create environments which allowed people the ability to choose, by doing things like promote low carbon diets
- In some cases, refurbishing homes would be more sustainable than retrofitting. Many factors would be considered including its current level of carbon emissions, the state of housing conditions and the urgent need for more housing.

Cabinet made the following observations:

- The current Administration had achieved a lot and done some great work combatting Climate Change. This included retrofitting community centres, hostels and homes without financial support from central Government
- Cabinet was in support of three trees being planted for every tree lost
- New Home for Lambeth homes in planning and development were achieving the over 70% onsite reductions in carbon emissions compared with the 2013 Part L Building Regulations compared with the 35% reduction in carbon emissions set out in the London Plan
- Residents and Members from all parties must work together to achieve the ambitious targets set out in the Climate Action Plan and promote a sustainable future for the Borough.

Following consideration, Cabinet resolved to:

1. Adopt Lambeth's Climate Action Plan and agree to work with Lambeth's partners, communities, regional and central government to implement the actions necessary to achieve the climate goals.

## **5 Council and Homes for Lambeth Joint Delivery Plan**

The report was introduced by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes, Councillor Matthew Bennett, who highlighted that:

- The Covid-19 pandemic had caused a number of issues to residents around housing and homelessness, the effects of which were still on-going
- The Joint Delivery Plan was an ambitious plan which had already moved more than 150 local families into Homes for Lambeth homes. The production of Council homes had already been completed in two locations within the borough, and Planning Permission had been secured for further sites
- The Plan focused on quantity and quality of homes which would be fit for future generations and fulfil wider ambitions around climate and energy efficiency. These included Lambeth's commitment to reusing 80% of existing materials and ensuring the production of homes with low heating requirements
- A focus was given on equality. Black people were currently 14 times more likely to be homeless than white people and Lambeth were committed to reducing this figure.

Visiting Green Member, Councillor Pete Elliott addressed Cabinet and suggested that a

resident was struggling to pay their heating bills, asking the Cabinet Member to look to supporting those households in Homes for Lambeth homes having to choose between heating their homes and eating. Councillor Elliott also raised concerns over the reports of staff absence and changes within Homes for Lambeth, and asked whether there had been any complaints from staff who had left.

Visiting Conservative Member, Councillor Tim Briggs asked a question around which relationships with contractors were addressing supply issues and where the 1000 new Council homes promised in 2018 were. Councillor Briggs also raised concerns around the spending commitment to Homes for Lambeth and the impact this may have on the Council's finances given the recent bankruptcy of Croydon Council, and asked who would take on the responsibility of unbuilt homes promised by Homes for Lambeth.

Cabinet was then addressed by two members of the public, Georgina Scheuller and Zana Dean who highlighted the following:

- There were some concerns around discrepancies between the number of Council homes promised and delivered
- There were concerns raised around the lack of opportunities for retrofitting and building to passive house standards.

In response to some of the questions and comments raised, Officers and the Cabinet Member advised the following:

- Concerns regarding Croydon Council's housing company were listened to and taken seriously. Financial modelling of all programme revenues, costs and resulting land values will be fully refreshed during 2022/23, to support a new Homes for Lambeth Business Plan. Finance were satisfied with the viability of Homes for Lambeth projects funded thus far. Each scheme would be gone through in detail as part of an established gateway review process, and any concerns arising would be addressed to ensure viability before funding approval was given
- The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness confirmed that the Housing Strategy was completed in draft form, and was waiting for contribution from residents which would be attained post-Election period
- A number of the projects currently procured had been quite small in nature. As the scheme moved along, the scale of projects were due to increase in size which meant that the Council could negotiate with contractors who had the benefit of larger supply chains. This would promote a more cost-efficient practise
- Due to Covid-related changes in health and safety, it had been necessary to reduce the number of desks in the Civic Centre offices. In order to continue its service, Homes for Lambeth had secured some additional desk space capacity at WeWork which they had funded from within the overall operational budget envelope set as part of the 2022-23 Business Plan.

Following consideration, Cabinet resolved:

1. To note the progress update contained in the Joint Delivery Plan, which is Appendix A to the report, on the recommendation of the Ownership and Stewardship Cabinet Advisory Panel ('OSP').

## 6 Budget and Performance Report - Q3 2021-2022

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, Councillor Andy Wilson who highlighted that:

- The report reflected the position of the Council as at December 2021, the period of which included the arrival of the Omicron variant of Coronavirus. Performance had started to see some of the long-term effects resulting from the pandemic
- There had been concerns over growth in demand in Social Care, particularly in the Children's sector and other areas seeing an increase demand for services. It was imperative to monitor the rising demands and pressures moving forward
- The Redress Scheme which closed at the end of December 2021 saw a large number of late applications. The Council needed to give consideration to how it would fund any awards to the scheme going above the agreed capitalisation direction level
- It was helpful that the Council had taken a position to build its reserves and balances and remained in a stable financial position. This would offer a way of accounting for payments beyond the capitalisation direction level.

Cabinet offered its thanks and praise to the Cabinet Member and Finance colleagues for their work throughout a particularly challenging time.

Following consideration, Cabinet resolved:

1. To note the latest performance update against the delivery of the Borough Plan, including both the review of the activity taken place in the directorate business plans as well as the corporate performance indicator outturns.
2. To note the financial position reported for Q3 and to note the budgetary risks and mitigating measures moving forward.
3. To note the latest position of each of the directorates, looking at the budgetary position, performance and progress towards the delivery of business plans.

The meeting ended at 7.28 pm

CHAIR, CABINET

Date of Despatch: Friday 25 March 2022

Call-in Date: Friday 1 April 2022

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