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CABINET

Monday 22 July 2019 at 5.00 pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Donatus Anyanwu

Councillor Matthew Bennett

Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite

Councillor Jim Dickson

Councillor Paul Gadsby

Councillor Mohammed Seedat

Councillor Andy Wilson

Portfolio:

Cabinet Member for the Voluntary Sector & Partnerships (job share)

Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment & New Homes

Deputy Leader of the Council (Children and Young People)

Cabinet Member for the Voluntary Sector & Partnerships (job share)

Cabinet Member for Housing

Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Community Safety (job share)

Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Apologies for absence

Councillor Claire Holland and Councillor Jack Hopkins

Also present:

*Action
required by*

1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 May 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. LAMBETH PARTNERSHIP PLUS OFFICERS

The report was introduced by the Councillor Mohammed Seedat, Cabinet Member for Job, Skills and Community Safety, Doug Perry, Assistant Director Environment and Bayo Dosunmu, Strategic Director Resident Services. It was noted that:

- The scheme enabled Local Authorities to purchase additional Police resource that were dedicated to that geographical boundary.
- The main change to the new scheme was cost, the price for each pair of Police Officers had increased by £45,000. The costs increased due to Metropolitan Police Service budgetary pressures and unsustainability at existing rates. The new rates still represented a discount to the Local Authority, as MPS would continue to pay other costs (pension and national insurance etc)
- The scheme would considerably impact on community safety by focusing on a series of high harm issues, including; modern slavery, women involved in prostitution, street population, night time economy issues with a focus on serious violence, drug trafficking and antisocial behaviour enforcement.
- Including the officers funded by the Business Improvement Districts (BIDS), Lambeth arrangements would see 10 Police Constables and 1 Police Sergeant being purchased, with the scheme running until 2022.
- It was a Labour manifesto commitment to ensure Lambeth can secure its share of local officers and this scheme would have a considerable impact on the whole borough.
- Officers would deploy from Council buildings to where they are needed, they would be based full time in the Civic Centre.

Cabinet Members commented that it was disappointing that the costs had increased but understood the rationale. They were also concerned about the lack of support from Central Government to provide additional Police Officers across London and hoped the incoming Prime Minister would honour his pledge for the increase.

RESOLVED:

That the purchase of 10 PartnershipPlus Police Constables and one PartnershipPlus Sergeant, as part of the Met PartnershipPlus agreement, at a total net cost of £746,250 be approved.

4. LAMBETH GAMBLING POLICY 2019-2022

Councillor Paul Gadsby Cabinet Member for Housing, Bina Patel, Licensing Manager, Nicole Terrieux, Consumer Protection Manager presented the report and highlighted the following:

- The draft Policy would be very effective and set out a high threshold for obtaining a gambling licence.
- This only covered physical licences, not online gambling, which continued to be a concern for the Council and hoped Central Government would consider more regulation of online gambling.
- Premises-based gambling operators were required to undertake a

local gambling risk assessment of their premises and to assess the potential impact that the premises and its operation may have on the licensing objectives.

- All prospective new gambling operators must consider local area information provided by the Licensing Authority via the Statement of Licensing Principles for Gambling (Licensing Policy).
- Lambeth had produced a comprehensive local area profile which took into account a range of factors and provides a reference point regarding risk assessments.
- The Licensing Authority would decide on the risks presented and determine whether the steps provided by the applicants were suitable to mitigate the risks of harm within the area. Each application will be determined on its own merits.

Cabinet Members were content with the report but had concerns on the enforcement of the Policy. It was also noted that the Public Health Impact of gambling in the borough was high and left many people in difficult circumstances as they become addicted or affected by gambling.

Councillor Brathwaite reminded Cabinet that they were recommending the report to Full Council for approval and adoption.

RESOLVED:

That the gambling Policy be submitted to Full Council for approval and adoption.

5. BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 4 OF 2018/19

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

- This report provided Cabinet with an overview of finance and performance for quarter four (Q4) of 2018/19.
- The report presented budget and performance information together in a single report for Cabinet to review. In terms of format, information was presented according to the new organisational structure from 1 February 2019.
- The General Fund was overspent by £1.5m with the Housing Revenue Account being balanced.
- There was improvement compared to quarter three, but there were still a large number of areas that were identified as “red”. For each “red” indicator there was an action plan to address the issues.
- Future budget and performance reports would be presented and aligned with the Borough Plan outcomes, this would enable the Council to ensure effective delivery on the Borough plan recommendations.

Cabinet Members made the following comments and observations:

- Pressures of £2.2m relating to overspends on temporary accommodation (TA) B&B costs were managed in year by higher than budgeted income of £2m. The pressure on TA was due to the impact of austerity and people falling into the poverty trap which was created by the current Conservative Government.
- Recycling on estates was a challenge and a number of initiatives were being explored to tackling the issue.
- Payments to Small and Medium sized business had improved and Cabinet hoped this continued as delayed payments really affected

small businesses.

RESOLVED:

Performance for Quarter 4 of 2019/20, including the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that have been highlighted as being of concern were noted.

6. FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY REPORT 2019/20 TO 2023/24

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

- In February Council approved the budget during a significant period of uncertainty.
- Currently, the government in Westminster was a still disorganised, no majority, a Brexit plan that was not fit for purpose with no alternative. The Council also face sustained demographic challenges, rising costs of social care and a complete lack of clarity on future financing of local government.
- The Council had long argued about the impact of austerity and the need for proper funding of public services. The scale of funding uncertainty was why Cabinet rejected the opposition calls to use the reserves to keep funding spending.
- Money that was put into reserves would not cover the financial pressures in children's services that this council faced. Nine out of ten local authorities spent more than their budget last year on children's services and the LGA estimates that the shortfall this year is £1.1 billion pounds.

In response to questions from Cabinet, Hamant Bharadia, Director of Finance and Property advised that, the current budget had already taken into account the pay rise for schools that was announced the previous day. However, if there was any increase above inflation further savings would need to be identified.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the change to the funding deficit as set out in Table 3, and the consequent amendment to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, be approved.
- 2) The Council's commitment to delivering the agreed revenue savings planned for 2020/21 (£15.64m) and 2021/22 to 2022/23 of (£22.02m), as set out in Table 3, be re-affirmed.
- 3) That the key risks set out in paragraphs 2.18 to 2.37 be noted.
- 4) The 2018/19 General Fund outturn overspend of £1.526m as confirmed in Table 4 paragraph 2.38 be noted.
- 5) The 2018/19 Housing Revenue Account outturn is on budget as confirmed in Table 5 paragraph 2.45 be noted.
- 6) The capital investment outturn of £162.72m against the 2018/19

budget of £230.65m as detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.2 and Appendix 3 be noted.

- 7) The changes to the three year Capital Investment Programme for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 as set out in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.10 and summarised in Appendix 1 were noted.

7. LAMBETH'S BOROUGH PLAN REVIEW

The report was introduced by Councillor Jenny Brathwaite, Deputy Leader and Hannah Jameson, Head of Policy and Partnerships, they highlighted: Since the Borough Plan was first published in 2016, the context in which the public sector was operating had changed. In 2010 the government set out a plan to eliminate the deficit primarily through public expenditure reductions. Lower than predicted rates of economic growth has meant that the deficit target was unlikely to be achieved until the mid-2020s, meaning the period of highly constrained public spending continued.

Our annual public health report (2018) shows that the average healthy life expectancy for adult males has reduced by 6.8 years since 2011-13. This is just one illustration of the rising demand facing public services. Lambeth's Borough Plan set out our approach to meeting this challenge.

In response to questions from Cabinet Members, the Head of Strategy and Partnerships advised that:

- Lambeth first partnership board were involved in developing the Borough Plan and they would have an ongoing role in monitoring and evaluating outcomes. There were a range of other partnerships (VCS, HWB) that would also be involved.
- As we developed our growth strategy, we would continue to engage with businesses more in our objectives.
- A review of the borough plan measures would take place over the next six months to ensure that they enable us to effectively measure our impact.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed Borough Plan goals be approved.

That the next steps in developing, adopting and implementing the Borough Plan be agreed.

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm

CHAIR
CABINET
Monday 16 September 2019

Date of Despatch: Friday 26 July 2019

Call-in Date: Friday 2 August 2019

Contact for Enquiries: Sam Bailey

Tel: 020 7926 0029

Fax: (020) 7926 2361

E-mail: sbailey3@lambeth.gov.uk

Web: www.lambeth.gov.uk