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CABINET

Monday 17 September 2018 at 5.00 pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Matthew Bennett

Councillor Jennifer
Brathwaite

Councillor Edward Davie

Councillor Jim Dickson

Councillor Paul Gadsby

Councillor Claire Holland

Councillor Lib Peck

Councillor Mohammed
Seedat

Councillor Andy Wilson

Councillor Sonia Winifred

Portfolio:

Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment & New Homes

Deputy Leader of the Council (Children and Young People)

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

Cabinet Member for the Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and
Community Safety (job share)

Cabinet Member for Housing

Cabinet Member for Environment and Clean Air

Leader of the Council, Chair

Cabinet Member for the Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and
Community Safety (job share)

Cabinet Member for Finance

Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture

Apologies for absence

Councillor Jacqui Dyer and Councillor Jack Hopkins

1. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

The Chair welcome members and noted that two of the Cabinet portfolios operated under job-share arrangements. The current decision makers were Councillor Mohammed Seedat for Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Community Safety and Councillor Ed Davie for Health and Adult Social Care.

There were no declarations of interests.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 July 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. **LAMBETH CHILDREN'S HOMES REDRESS SCHEME UPDATE**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck, introduced the report and said the Lambeth Children's Home Redress Scheme was designed to be swift, compassionate and non-adversarial. The Scheme was the first of its type in England and Wales, and included independent support for survivors as well as access to independent legal representation funded by the council. Any appeals would be heard by an independent multi-disciplinary panel. She noted that there were more applicants from the 1960s than 1970s, and that there had been fewer disabled and Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) applicants than expected. It was therefore essential that the council continued to extend its outreach work.

The Head of Risk and Insurance, Mark Nicolson, provided a summary of the report and said the amount of applications was generally in line with expectations. 552 applications had been received during the first six months of the scheme's operation and 343 Harm's Way Payments (HWPs) had been made, totalling £3,223,500 (the figure had since risen beyond £5m). 50 offers of Individual Redress had been made with three applicants having accepted their offer, with one interim payment made. Individual Redress Payments (IRPs) took longer to process but as at today's date more than £300,000 had been paid out with over £1m currently under offer to survivors. The majority of applicants had opted to receive independent legal representation and officers had engaged constructively with the solicitors, receiving valuable feedback on how to improve the process for applicants.

Officers also provided information on the Equalities Impact Assessment and noted that the commitment to equalities had impacted greatly on the design of the Scheme. They confirmed that there was an underrepresentation of both BAME and disabled applicants, with no applications received from previous residents of Lambeth's former specialist residential children's units. Members were advised that a range of measures were in place to support applicants with disabilities, as well as those with language and literary difficulties. Outreach work was ongoing.

The Director of Legal Services and HR, Alison McKane, provided a brief update on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), of which Lambeth was a core participant. The Inquiry had public hearings scheduled up until March 2019 and was expected to conclude all hearings in 2020. The date of Lambeth's main hearing had yet to be confirmed,

however a preliminary hearing would take place on 31st October 2018 to hear submissions about case studies that would inform the investigation. The Chair invited Councillor Scott Ainslie (Green Party) to address Cabinet. He thanked officers for the briefing received earlier that day and said it would be helpful to hear an applicant's first-hand experience of the Scheme. He was sceptical about the process and felt that more could be done to support survivors along the way. He noted the amount of HWPs and raised concerns about the low number of accepted IRPs. Survivors had also expressed doubt with Oxleas Mental Health Trust and refused the support.

In response, Councillor Peck said that the comments about Oxleas Mental Health Trust were inaccurate but that further explanation was required regarding the low number of IRPs. Officers explained that there had been capacity issues with some of the claimants' solicitors but that there was indication of a pipeline of IRPs still to come forward. They also confirmed that Oxleas Mental Health Trust was providing regular services to over 200 people, some of which now lived overseas.

Cabinet members welcomed the update and raised a number of queries. In response, officers provided the following information:

Most of the cases of abuse were historic and presented no immediate safeguarding concerns. Despite this, the council would take immediate action to engage with the criminal justice system if required.

The Independent Review Panel would soon meet for the first time and had been asked to make lengthy judgements on the first few cases. Officers were also engaged in an ongoing dialogue with claimant solicitors and both actions would help to refine the process, improving the experience for applicants.

Officers were exploring a variety of ways to improve outreach and encourage BAME and disabled applicants. This would include non-media advertising and engagement with stakeholders such as NAPAC.

96% of the money spent on the Redress Scheme so far had gone to applicants.

Applicants with rejected claims were always advised of their right to appeal and sign-posted to other organisation that might be able to assist with their situation.

Access to the counselling services was not dependent on making an application

The Chair then thanked officers for their considerable work facilitating the Redress Scheme.

It was **RESOLVED**, that

- 1) Cabinet note the contents of the report.
- 2) Cabinet note the revised EQIA and in particular the adjustments made to ensure improved access to the Scheme for applicants with certain protected characteristics.
- 3) Cabinet to receive a report in March 2019 to consider the first year operation of the scheme.

4. SOMERLEYTON ROAD (OVAL HOUSE)

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes introduced the report which would help to deliver the long-term ambition of relocating the Ovalhouse Theatre as part of the Somerleyton Road project. The recommendations did not commit the council to entering into a contract with Ovalhouse Theatre but would enable action to be taken quickly. Officers confirmed that negotiations for the construction project were ongoing and due to conclude within a few weeks.

The Chair invited the Councillor Becca Thackray (Green Party) to address Cabinet. She asked for an update on the social housing element of the wider scheme. The Assistant Director of Housing Regeneration, Jed Young, responded that the contract had no impact on the residential parts of the scheme, which were due to come forward for approval in December 2018.

Cabinet members welcomed the report and raised a number of queries. In response, officers provided the following information:

The Housing Regeneration team was working with a Heritage Asset Advisor to ensure the mural was retained within the new development. Whether the existing mural was transferred or repainted at the new site was yet to be confirmed. However the original artist was involved in the project.

There were aspirations for the contractor, Galliford Try, to provide training and employment opportunities for local people.

The contract remained under negotiation, however officers were confident that Ovalhouse could provide their share of the funding.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- 1) That approval of the Contract with Galliford Try for the construction of Blocks A & B be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment & New Homes and the Cabinet Member for Finance
- 2) That approval of a lease with Ovalhouse Theatre for the theatre building within Block B be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment & New Homes and the Cabinet Member for Finance
- 3) That approval of an agreement with Ovalhouse Theatre for Carlton Mansions - Block A be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment & New Homes and the Cabinet Member for Finance

5. Q1 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Head of Performance and Service Improvement, Tim Weetman, introduced the report and said that the General Fund overspend was largely due an overspend in Children's Services. He noted that there was a national debt in this area and that local performance had improved as evidenced by feedback from Ofsted. The report included a range of information including direction of travel, a summary of key performance indicators by Borough Plan outcomes, as well as key areas of concern.

The Chair invited Councillor Jonathan Bartley (Green Party) to address Cabinet. He raised strong concerns about the performance data and felt the council was complacent in its approach towards the areas of concern. Each department in the organisation had a sizable amount of red indicators, which inferred that the services were failing. He cited examples, such as response to Freedom of Information (Fol) requests, where performance had slipped and said there was no information about how the council planned to address such issues. Councillor Bartley requested more up to date information in future performance reports.

Councillor Peck said there was nothing complacent about the way the council operated and that it was important to be open and transparent about the performance of services areas. She thanked officers for their work in making this possible.

Cabinet members then made the following comments:

It was important to recognise the demand on Lambeth, which received more Fol requests than any other local authority; including a sizable amount from a small number of local activists. Officers also confirmed they had recently met with Capita and addressed concerns with their contract management.

There was no complacency about Lambeth's approach to violence in the borough, but unfortunately it had proved difficult to combat the sheer numbers of young people carrying knives. The Youth Offending Service had begun a journey of improvement following a recent internal audit. Overall performance at Lambeth and across London reflected the reality of austerity and cuts to local government funding. Despite this the data also reflected positive change in a variety of areas, including providing space for start-up businesses and SMEs. For example, council-owned International House would soon provide creative space for jobs at London Living Wage and the LG Works programme was also now delivering services for local residents.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- 1) To note the budget monitor
- 2) To note performance for Q1 as a whole and the Key Performance Indicators that had been highlighted as areas of concern

The meeting ended at 6.13 pm

CHAIR
CABINET
Monday 15 October 2018

Date of Despatch: Friday 21 September 2018

Call-in Date: Friday 28 September 2018

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