



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE CABINET Monday 17 June 2019 at 4.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor M Butt (Chair), Councillor McLennan (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Agha, Farah, Hirani, Miller, M Patel, Krupa Sheth, Southwood and Tatler

Also present: Councillors Afzal, Chohan, Hylton, Kabir, Long and W Mitchell Murray

1. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 May 2019 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising (if any)**

None.

5. **Petitions (if any)**

None.

6. **Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)**

6.1 **Service Provision on Estates in Brent: Overview and Scrutiny Task Group**

Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, welcomed Councillor Janice Long to the meeting as former Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Long introduced the report providing Cabinet Members with an update on the recommendations arising from the Service Provision on Estates task group which were agreed by the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Long stated that the report was presented to the Housing Scrutiny Committee on 25 April 2019 and the recommendations for Cabinet are as outlined in the report.

Councillor Long informed Cabinet that one of the main recommendations relates to a *Brent Standard*. The task group recommends that the council should establish a Brent Standard so that residents know the level and quality of service they can expect from Registered Providers and Brent Housing and the council's contractors in terms of the services featured in this report.

Councillor Long stated that the Brent Standard should be supported by a Residents' Charter setting out how service requests can be made and detailing response times for all key services delivered. This will help ensure that Registered Providers are accountable to and subject to scrutiny from residents. Residents should be able to report on how well their landlord is fulfilling the commitments. The results should be available to the public.

Councillor Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, thanked Councillor Long for all her work chairing the Task Group. Furthermore, Councillor Southwood thanked the other members of the Group - Councillor Aden, Councillor Choudhary, Councillor Mitchell Murray, Councillor Stephens and Karin Jaeger (co-optee).

RESOLVED:

- i. That the report, and recommendations detailed therein, of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on Service Provision on Estates in Brent, be noted.

6.2 Contextual Safeguarding: Task Group Report

Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, welcomed Councillor Orleen Hylton to the meeting. Councillor Hylton introduced the report and presented Cabinet with the recommendations from the members' overview and scrutiny task group which was set up to review contextual safeguarding.

Councillor Hylton stated that Contextual safeguarding is a commitment in the Borough Plan 2019-2023, and safeguarding was felt to be a highly relevant area for a scrutiny review in terms of corporate priorities as well as meeting concerns of the borough's residents.

Councillor Muhammed Butt thanked the other members of the Task Group - Councillor Patterson and Councillor Donnelly-Jackson and Councillor Hylton for chairing the group.

Councillor Tom Miller, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, thanked Councillor Hylton for her presentation and welcomed in particular recommendations 1 and 4. It was agreed to share the report with key strategic partners across the Borough and to submit the report to a future meeting of the Safer Brent Partnership for discussion.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the report and five recommendations contained therein, of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on Contextual Safeguarding, be noted.

7. **Roe Green Strathcona Consultation Report**

Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, introduced the item by informing the meeting that he had received a number of requests to speak on item 7.

Councillor Muhammed Butt welcomed Liz McLaren, Deputy Head, to the meeting. Ms McLaren raised concerns about the consultation process. She stated that the report contained a number of inaccuracies and that some figures were inconsistent. She questioned whether a new primary school in Wembley was justifiable given the potential closure of Roe Green Infant School.

Councillor Muhammed Butt welcomed Ms Gloria Amadi, Chair of Governors, to the meeting. Ms Amadi stated that the phased closure of the school was not the answer. Results in the school, she stated, had been consistently good. She stated that a phased closure would affect staff and pupil morale and that many staff members would leave.

A parent of a pupil at the school, Ms Sylvia Webster, stated that the school provided an excellent education and setting for learning for all the children and that children's needs should determine whether a school remains open or not.

Ms Nicole Lobo, Roe Green Executive Head, reminded members of the Cabinet that the school had opened initially at the request of Brent Council. She informed Cabinet that results had been good and that Ofsted had rated the school to be *Outstanding*.

Lesley Goldbourne, speaking on behalf of NEU members, stated that the NEU was dealing with employment issues related to the potential closure. She stated that if formal consultation results in closure of the school, redundancies will be inevitable. She asked that the Cabinet takes note of the consultation responses and considers alternative solutions.

Councillor Ihtesham Afzal, Preston Ward, recognised the difficult position that the Council is in and the financial boundaries that the Council is operating in. He stated that the Council cannot be seen to limit ambition and options for children.

Councillor Anita Thakkar, Preston Ward, asked the Cabinet how staffing issues will be addressed. She asked what measures would be in place to support parents and children if the closure goes ahead.

Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, thanked all the speakers for their contributions.

Councillor Amer Agha, Cabinet Members for Schools, Employment and Skills, introduced the report providing Cabinet with a summary of the informal consultation undertaken between 20 March 2019 and 7 May 2019 on a change in the age range of Roe Green Infant School and the closure of primary provision on the Roe Green Strathcona site from September 2020.

He stated that the report recommends a move to formal consultation, through publication of a statutory notice, on a change in the age range of Roe Green Infant School from 3-11 to 3-7, a reduction in the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 120 and a phased closure of provision on the Roe Green Strathcona site.

Councillor Agha stated that, in response to concerns raised during informal consultation and to minimise the impact on children attending the Strathcona site, a phased closure of the provision is proposed such that no new admissions would be made into any Reception cohort from September 2020 and the school would be fully closed at the end of July 2022. He stated that this would allow all children on the school roll in 2019/20 to remain at the school for 3 years and allow the majority to complete their current key stage before the provision was closed.

In response to a question from Councillor Shama Tatler, Gail Tolley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People, stated that Ark Somerville school has gained indicative planning permission but no opening date is confirmed.

Gail Tolley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People, reassured Members of the cabinet that the local authority would work with staff to support them during any period of change.

RESOLVED:

- i. That a period of formal consultation be approved, through publication of a statutory notice, on proposals to:
 - change the age range of Roe Green Infant School from 3-11 to 3-7
 - reduce the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 120 for September 2020
 - implement a phased closure of the provision on the Roe Green Infant School Strathcona site.

8. Multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements in Brent - 2019 onwards

Councillor Mili Patel, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care, introduced the report presenting the proposed partnership safeguarding oversight arrangements for Brent's children and young people.

Councillor M Patel stated that the paper summarises the national context and the proposed model to be implemented by 29 September 2019.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the partnership safeguarding oversight arrangements as detailed in the report from the Strategic Director, Children and young People, be agreed.

9. Allocations Policy

Councillor Ellie Southwood, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, introduced the report stating that the council is statutorily obliged to have a scheme for allocating the limited amount of social housing that we have access to.

Councillor Southwood stated that this report recommends changes to that scheme following formal consultation with members, residents and interested organisations and council departments.

Councillor Southwood noted that it is important to note that changes to the allocations scheme do nothing to increase the supply of affordable housing so the intention here is simply to make sure we are making best possible use of what we do have.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the following amendments to the Allocations Scheme, as detailed in the report from the Strategic Director Community Wellbeing, be approved:
 - a) Amendment 3 - Local Lettings Policy – New Accommodation on their current estate as set out in paragraphs 5.29 to 5.37 of the report.
 - b) Amendment 4 - Local Lettings Policy – Regeneration Areas as set out in paragraphs 5.38 to 5.44 below;
 - c) Amendment 5 - Revising Quotas as set out in paragraphs 5.45 to 5.53
 - d) Amendment 7 - Give appropriate priority for social housing to victims of domestic abuse who are currently living in a refuge or other form of temporary accommodation as set out in paragraphs 5.63 to 5.65;
 - e) Amendment 8 - Policy for Displaced Tenants and Leaseholders in Regeneration Schemes as set out in paragraphs 5.66. to 5.69
 - f) Appendix 5 to the report to be added as an appendix to the Council's Allocations Scheme.
- ii. That the following amendment not be approved but be reviewed in six months to enable officers to research further into how this proposal would work in practice and examine intended and possible unintended consequences:
 - a) Amendment 1: Allow for the future introduction of a new nominations agreement with Registered Providers with reasonable rents as set out in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.17 of the report from the Strategic Director Community Wellbeing
- iii. That the following amendment not be approved but reviewed in two years to understand the impact of the wider activity to increase the supply of other forms of affordable housing:
 - a) Amendment 2 - Allowing households currently in Band D to retain the waiting time they accrued when in a higher band if they become homeless and are placed in TA as set out in paragraphs 5.18 to 5.28 of the report from the Strategic Director Community Wellbeing;
- iv. That the following amendment not be approved:
 - a) Amendment 6 -Prioritise Unaffordability as set out in paragraphs 5.54 to 5.61 of the report from the Strategic Director Community Wellbeing;
- v. That, having given due regard to the content of the Equalities Impact Assessments in Appendix 4 of the report from the Strategic Director Community Wellbeing, these be noted.

- vi. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Community Wellbeing to implement the proposed changes to the Council's Allocation Scheme as set out in resolution i) above.

10. **Brent Community Lottery**

Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Culture & Leisure, introduced the report setting out plans to introduce a Community Lottery in Brent to raise funds to support local Good Causes in the Borough.

Councillor Hirani stated that it also seeks to further our commitment to work with the Voluntary and Community Sector to support it to access alternative sources of funding. This approach is central to the achievement of the overall vision for the borough as set out in the Borough Plan 2019 – 2023.

Councillor Mili Patel, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care, asked that safeguarding be included in the annual review.

RESOLVED:

- i. That a local authority run Lottery called the Brent Community Lottery based on the preferred option be established;
- ii. That the criteria for registering organisations as beneficiaries as detailed in the report from the Assistant Chief Executive be approved;
- iii. That it be noted that the purpose of the lottery is to raise funds for Brent's Voluntary and Community Sector (VSC).
- iv. That the requirement of Contract Standing Orders to seek quotes be waived and Gatherwell Ltd. be appointed by way of a direct award as an external lottery manager (ELM) to run the lottery on behalf of the council for a period of 5 years, subject to annual review.
- v. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture & Leisure (given their remit in relation to Voluntary Sector Liaison and Development), to agree the policies and procedures necessary and/or desirable to fulfil the conditions for obtaining a licence from the Gambling Commission and the process for the allocation of the lottery central fund income.
- vi. That two senior managers – (Assistant Chief Executive and the Head of Strategy and Partnerships) be nominated to hold the Gambling Commission licence on behalf of the local authority.
- vii. That it be noted that the set up costs would be taken from the Strategy and Partnerships approved budget for 2019/20.

11. **Q4 2018/19 Corporate Performance Report**

Councillor Margaret McLennan, Deputy Leader of the Council, introduced the report and the performance scorecard (Appendix A) setting out the position on the Council's performance in the fourth quarter of 2018/19.

The content and format of the report and scorecard is focussed on the five themed Brent 2020 priorities; Employment and Skills, Regeneration; Business and Housing Growth; Demand Management; Raising Income and then on the Borough Plan priorities. This report will also present 2018/19 measures under the themes agreed

in the new Borough Plan earlier this year. This provides Cabinet with a 'closure report' and corporate overview of Council performance under the old Borough Plan 2015 – 2019.

Councillor McLennan stated that the report and scorecard also summarises Council performance indicatively under the new Borough Plan priorities for 2019-2023. (Building a Better Brent). It is an indicative summary at this point in time as a new suite of measures for quarterly performance reporting for 2019/20 is being finalised as part of the annual service planning process.

RESOLVED:

i. That the performance information contained in this report be noted.

12. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The press and public were not excluded from the meeting.

13. **Any other urgent business**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 5.27 pm

COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED BUTT
Chair