



## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

### MINUTES OF THE CABINET

Held in the Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 12 September 2022 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Councillor M Butt (Chair), Councillor M Patel (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Donnelly-Jackson, Farah, Grahl, Knight, Nerva, Krupa Sheth, Southwood and Tatler.

#### 1. Remembrance HRH Her Majesty the Queen

Prior to starting the main meeting Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council) took a moment to commemorate and pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen following her sad passing the week prior to the meeting.

In recognising Her Majesty the Queens valued service to not only the country but also the commonwealth, Councillor Butt also felt it important to highlight her long commitment to public service. In expressing the Council's sincerest condolences and sympathy to both the new Sovereign and Royal Family for their loss, he then invited all present to join him in observing a moments silence in memory of the late Queen.

*All present then stood to observe a moments silence in remembrance of HRH Her Majesty the Queen*

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

None received.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

#### 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 18 July 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### 5. Matters Arising (if any)

None.

#### 6. Petitions (if any)

##### 5.1 Anti-Social Behaviour King Edward VII Park

Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council) welcomed Mr Manish Tivedy to the meeting, who he advised had been invited to speak on behalf of local residents

living in the area surrounding King Edward VII Park, in order to highlight concerns relating to the impact of anti-social behaviour and noise being created by large scale gatherings being held in the park over weekends late into the evening. Members were advised that the request to speak and actions being sought in response were supported by a petition which contained 71 signatories.

In addressing Cabinet, Manish Trivedy highlighted the following key issues:

- Concerns at the noise, litter, nuisance and anti-social behaviour impacting on local residents surrounding the park as a result of the large scale gatherings reported. 19 separate incidents had been reported to the police including threatening behaviour and violence.
- Residents had met with officers within the Parks Service to explain the issues and nuisance they were experiencing and were grateful for the initial response provided.

In terms of a way forward residents were seeking both an operational and strategic solution in order to address the concerns highlighted. Whilst supportive of the Council's approach in seeking (as a strategic way forward) to educate those causing the problems about the impact locally, acknowledgement was also being sought from Cabinet regarding the extent of the problems and need for action to be taken, including use and enforcement of Public Space Protection Orders. In summing up Mr Trivedy, whilst recognising the limited resources available, advised he was keen to ensure work continued in partnership with the Council in an effort to resolve the situation and address the impact on local residents.

In responding, Councillor Krupa Sheth, as Cabinet member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action, acknowledged that the nuisance being experienced by residents was unacceptable and confirmed she had been in contact with ward councillors about the concerns highlighted within the petition. In terms of a way forward she was aware that the concerns had been raised with the Community Safety and Safer Neighbourhood Teams, as well as officers within the Parks Service. As a result an operational plan was now being developed to tackle the issues highlighted, with the Council committed to continuing working with local residents to ensure the park remained a safe and pleasant environment for everyone and the nuisance being experienced was addressed.

Councillor Farah, as Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, also acknowledged the concerns identified and highlighted a need to ensure that the ongoing engagement with local residents continued in order to resolve the issues.

## **5.2 Islamia Primary School Site**

Councillor Muhammed Butt then moved on to welcome Jamad Guled, who he advised had been invited to speak on behalf parents from Islamia Primary School (IPS) regarding arrangements for the provision of an alternative site for the School. Members were advised that the request to speak and action being sought in response was supported by a petition which contained 509 signatories.

In presenting the petition, Jamad Guled highlighted the following key issues:

- The anxiety and concerns expressed by parents at Islamia Primary School regarding arrangements to secure ongoing provision of the school on an alternative site following the eviction order for the current site issued by the Yusuf Islam Foundation.
- The concerns highlighted by parents relating to the proposed alternative location currently identified on the former Strathcona School site, in terms of affordability, accessibility, existing high density of population in the area, environmental and safety issues particularly in terms of travel arrangements. It was felt these issues would particularly impact on parents already struggling with the cost of living crisis and those of pupils with mobility issues and other additional needs.
- The need to ensure a full Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in relation to the proposed site in order to ensure that vulnerable families were protected and supported as a result of the additional travel requirements and to monitor the impact (in terms of safety and attainment) as a result of any parents making the decision to home school their children as an alternative to the new site. As a result, the Council was called upon to ensure they were acting in the best interest of pupils at Islamia Primary School.
- As an alternative option, parents were keen to support and explore the potential allocation of the new school site being developed as part of the South Kilburn regeneration programme for IPS. This was in view of its proximity to the current site and existing capacity available within other neighbouring schools to accommodate pupils from Carlton Vale Infant and Kilburn Park Junior schools (once their existing site was lost) for which the new school site in South Kilburn had currently been allocated, recognising that Islamia Primary School was oversubscribed.

As a result of the concerns expressed the petitioners advised they were calling on the Council to withdraw the current option identified in relation to the Strathcona site in order to identify a more local, safer and fair solution for provision of the school.

In responding, Councillor Butt, as Leader of the Council, advised the petitioners that whilst noting the concerns expressed and willing to work with the school and parents in seeking to secure future provision on an alternative site, there was a need to recognise the limited range of options available. In terms of the South Kilburn site, he advised this was not a viable option in terms of both timing and its future allocated use as part of the existing South Kilburn regeneration masterplan.

Councillor Grahl, as Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Schools, also acknowledged the anxiety and frustration of parents and thanked those involved for raising their concerns and presenting the petition to Cabinet. She also highlighted the difficulties in identifying a suitable alternative site at the current time along with fluctuations in demand of school places and, as a result, hoped the petitioners would recognise the effort that had been put into developing the current proposals in relation to the Strathcona site. She assured those present that should the plan to locate Islamia Primary School at Strathcona progress, the Council would seek to facilitate a smooth transition in terms of the arrangements supporting any move to the site, recognising concerns about transport and those pupils with additional needs.

Nigel Chapman (Corporate Director Children and Young People) concluded the response advising the petitioners that, subject to approval of the accompanying

report on the agenda, a statutory consultation process would need to be undertaken and managed by the School Governing Body. In seeking to assure parents, he advised this would provide an opportunity for them to formally contribute and provide their views on the proposals in advance of any final decision being made.

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

There were no references from either the Community & Wellbeing or Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committees submitted for consideration at the meeting.

#### **8. The Future of Islamia Primary School**

Following on from consideration of the petition relating to Islamia Primary School, Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council) advised that he had accepted a request to speak on the report from Sofia Moussaoui, representing the Governing Body at Islamia Primary School. In commenting on the proposals within the report, Sofia Moussaoui advised that the main aim of the Governing Body moving forward was to secure the future of Islamia Primary School. As such she advised the Governing Body remained committed to ensure that the necessary funding and a suitable, viable alternative site was secured for future provision of the school. This recognised the advice from the Council that the South Kilburn site identified as the preferred alternative by the parents who had signed the petition was not a viable option given the timing of its availability and allocated use.

In advance of the report being considered, Councillor Muhammed Butt again assured the petitioners about the formal consultation that would need to be undertaken by the Governing Body, should the recommendations in the report be agreed, along with the work being undertaken with the School and Governing Board in order to maintain and secure the schools future provision on the basis of the proposals identified.

Councillor Gwen Grahl (Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Schools) then introduced the report which set out proposals for the relocation of Islamia Primary School. In considering the report Cabinet noted the outline of options reviewed along with the capital project requirements and business case supporting the option to develop the former Strathcona school site as a two form entry site for the School. The report also set out the statutory consultation requirements that would be required in order to deliver the project. In thanking the petitioners and representatives of the school Governing Body for their comments, Councillor Grahl advised that she acknowledged the concerns and frustrations raised but, at the same time, felt it important to recognise the limited options available in relation to the availability of alternative sites to secure future provision of the school. In terms of reference to the new school site within South Kilburn, confirmation was provided that this had already been allocated for use as a replacement for Carlton Vale Infant and Kilburn Park Junior School as part of the wider South Kilburn regeneration masterplan with the new school also not available until September 2026. Members noted it would also not therefore be available as a viable option on the basis of the timing, given Islamia Primary School were required to vacate their current site by the end of July 2024.

Taking this into account, members were advised of the significant effort which had gone into development of the Strathcona site as a viable alternative for the school along with the assurance of the Council's continued commitment to work with the school and parents in order to ensure a smooth transition, should the proposal be approved, including on how best to facilitate travel and access particularly for more vulnerable pupils.

In recognising that the preference identified by the petitioners for allocation of the new school site in South Kilburn was not a viable option, members supported the efforts being made to safeguard the long term future of the school working with the Governing Body and Trust in terms of the provision of a suitable permanent site that could be developed to accommodate the school and on which it would be possible for parents to contribute and outline their views as part of the statutory consultation process.

Having considered the report, including the exempt information within Appendix A, and the comments raised by the petitioners and Governing Body representatives at the meeting Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To note the historical context and background set out in the report.
- (2) To note that the Yusuf Islam Foundation has issued eviction notices to its Voluntary Aided Islamia Primary School and that the future options for the school were for the school to either relocate or close.
- (3) To note the proposal to relocate Islamia Primary School to the Strathcona site as a 2FE school and agree to allocate up to £8.0m capital towards the total project costs of £10.0m, noting that the preferred option was estimated to cost £9.11m.
- (4) To approve the delegation of authority to agree pre-tender considerations, procure and award the necessary works contracts valued in excess of £5m to the Corporate Director Finances and Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform.
- (5) To note that if the school relocated to the Strathcona school site, the site could be transferred into the name of the Yusuf Islam Foundation who would be required to hold the site for the benefit of the Islamia Primary School. Further details in terms of ownership would be set out in a Trust Deed. This would ensure that the primary school would be protected from eviction in future.
- (6) To note that a statutory consultation process to allow the relocation of Islamia Primary School as a 2FE Primary School to the Strathcona site would need to be undertaken and that the Governing Board would be responsible for making this proposal through statutory consultation.
- (7) To acknowledge that, should the Strathcona site be used for Islamia Primary School, then an alternative site would be required to deliver Post-16 SEND provision.

## 9. **Workforce Strategy**

Councillor Mili Patel (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform) introduced a report outlining the Council's proposed Workforce Strategy for 2023 – 2025.

In considering the strategy, Cabinet noted the four priority areas identified in relation to workforce planning; workforce insight and experience; workforce growth & development and workforce ways of working and way in which these had been focussed to reflect the developing Borough Plan and to support the Black Community Action Plan and Equalities Strategy. In recognising the commitment and flexibility of the Council's workforce throughout the pandemic members were advised that the strategy also sought to ensure the workforce was shaped and enabled to meet the Council's objectives and aligned to reflect the diverse range of communities served across the borough, with initiatives to be informed through engagement with relevant staff groups.

In supporting the key outcomes driving the strategy, Members endorsed the efforts being made to formalise the approach to workforce planning, enhance staff retention and reduce the reliance on agency staff and external providers, noting that specific actions would be outlined in a delivery plan that would sit alongside the strategy. These outcomes also reflected the recommendations made following an internal audit review of the Council's workforce and succession planning arrangements with regular monitoring updates to be provided for senior managers as well as the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform.

Having considered and welcomed the strategy, Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree the Workforce Strategy 2022-25.
- (2) To agree the proposed governance arrangements in respect of oversight of the implementation of the strategy, as set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

#### 10. **Public Spaces Protection Order Nuisance Vehicles**

Councillor Farah, Cabinet member for Safer Communities and Public Protection, introduced a report setting out the rationale and seeking approval for the adoption of a borough wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to nuisance vehicles and the use of private e-scooters. The report detailed the outcome of the public consultation process supporting creation of the PSPO.

In considering the report Cabinet noted the proposed scope of the PSPO which included not only nuisance vehicles and private e-scooters but also vehicles driving over pedestrian footways and verges.

In expressing their support for the rationale and adoption of the PSPO, Cabinet were keen to highlight the increase in complaints received in relation to nuisance vehicles and use of private e-scooters and assistance the powers available through the PSPO would provide in relation to addressing a range of environmental quality and anti-social behaviour issues. In addition members noted the outcome of the public engagement and consultation process along with subsequent comments

received, which Councillor Muhammed Butt (Leader of the Council) advised would also be fed through for consideration as part of the consultation process.

Having welcomed the proposals within the report, Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To note the rationale for the proposed implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Nuisance Vehicles and private e-scooters, as set out in the report.
- (2) To note the outcome of the recent consultation process, indicating significant support for its creation.
- (3) To confirm the scope of the PSPO, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report, and give authority to the Director for Environment and Leisure to set the date on which the PSPO would become effective and in force.

#### 11. **Church End Growth Area Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

Councillor Tatler (Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning) introduced a report presenting the draft Church End Growth Area Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (CEGA Masterplan SPD) for publication and statutory consultation.

In considering the report Cabinet noted the importance of the Masterplan SPD in setting out the vision and objectives designed to promote mixed use regeneration of the Church End Growth Area alongside an urban design framework and planning policy framework, following adoption of the Local Plan 2022. The SPD had been developed to provide a long term, ambitious and comprehensive plan to secure new housing and infrastructure, economic revitalisation of the local centre as well as public realm improvements designed to maximise opportunities and wellbeing for local residents, businesses and communities.

Members were advised of the wide ranging nature of engagement undertaken in order to develop the draft CEGA Masterplan SPD which had involved a range of partners and stakeholders including residents, businesses, community organisations, landowners, developers and Transport for London (TfL) with officers thanked for their efforts in support of the development process.

In expressing support for the draft CEGA Materplan SPD, members welcomed the positive impact identified in relation to the foundation provided for regeneration, investment and growth across the area alongside the provision of new housing and also in highlighting the continued importance of the increased connectivity and wider benefits provided through the proposed West London Orbital (WLO).

In recognising the extensive nature of the engagement undertaken to inform development of the draft Masterplan SPD Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the draft Church End Growth Area Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (CEGA Masterplan SPD) for publication and statutory consultation.

#### 12. **Membership of the i4B Holding Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd Boards**

Councillor Mili Patel (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Reform) introduced a report detailing a number of proposed changes in appointments to the Board of the Council's two wholly owned housing companies, i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd.

In noting that the proposed changes had been designed to reflect changes in the Council's senior management structure and current term of office for the existing external Board members Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To agree that Martin Smith and Akintoye Durowoju's terms as Chair and Director for i4B and FWH be extended for a further three years.
- (2) To agree the appointment of Phil Porter as a Director of i4B and FWH for a period of three years.
- (3) To note that Gail Tolley had stood down as a Director of i4B and FWH as of 1 September 2022.

**13. Exclusion of Press and Public**

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.

**14. Any other urgent business**

None.

The meeting ended at 10.50 am

COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED BUTT  
Chair