



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF CABINET Monday 16 June 2014 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Butt (Chair), Councillor Pavey (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Hirani, Mashari, McLennan, Moher and Perrin

Also present: Councillor Carr

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Denselow

The Leader welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Cabinet following the elections, especially Councillor Perrin as a newly elected member and Gail Tolley, recently appointed Strategic Director for Children and Young People.

1. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

None declared.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 April 2014 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. **Matters arising**

None.

4. **Adult Home Care Services - framework appointments**

Councillor Hirani (Lead Member for Adults, Health and Well-being) introduced the report which followed on from a report submitted to the Executive in June 2012 when it was agreed that the Council should lead a procurement process to create a multi-lot Framework on behalf of the West London Alliance group of boroughs plus Southwark and Wandsworth and associated health partners for the provision of Home Support Services. The Framework was split into six lots and advertised in November 2012 to seek initial expressions of interest from care providers. The Cabinet was now being asked to appoint the service providers as required under Contract Standing Order 88.

The Cabinet also had before it Appendix 3 to the report which was not for publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely:
“Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)”.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that approval be given to the appointment to the West London Alliance Framework to provide Home Support of those providers listed in Appendix 1 of the report submitted for a period of four (4) years;
- (ii) that the award of Call-Off Contracts to all those providers listed in Appendix 1 of the report submitted be agreed to enable Brent to use these providers for its own home care needs.

5. **Advocacy Services - Learning Disabilities, Safeguarding, Mental Health and Older People and Young People with Physical Disabilities**

Councillor Hirani (Lead Member for Adults, Health and Well-being) introduced the report which summarised the process undertaken to tender for the advocacy services contract and recommended the award of the contract. He pointed out that the contract covered a new area of provision for younger people with physical disabilities and that there was a focus on education and training. Councillor Hirani explained that three organisations had expressed an interest and this had resulted in them submitting a consortium bid. In answer to a question about how duplication of service provision could be avoided, Councillor Hirani stated that there was currently no duplication of provision in this area but acknowledged that it would require the appropriate contract management to avoid this occurring in the future.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Voiceability Limited be awarded a contract as lead organisation for a consortium for Advocacy Services for Safeguarding Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Older People with Physical Disabilities and Younger People with Physical Disabilities for a term of 2 years with a possible extension of 1 year, starting on 1 July 2014;
- (ii) that the reasons, as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of the report submitted, for the further extension to the existing contracts from their current expiry date of 31 May 2014 to the commencement date of the contract detailed in (i) above be noted and that the legal advice, detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report submitted, as to the use of delegated powers to effect such extension be also noted.

6. **Safer Lorry Scheme**

Councillor Perrin (Lead Member for Environment) introduced the report which recommended support for implementing a London wide, minimum standard of safety features on all HGVs over 3.5 tonnes.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the principle of creating a new pan-London traffic order requiring minimum safety features for all HGVs over 3.5 tonnes be agreed;
- (ii) that authority be delegated to London Council's Transport and Environment Committee to exercise the functions set out in paragraph 3.13 of the report submitted.

7. Leasing of Office Accommodation Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Councillor McClennan (Lead Member for Regeneration and Housing) explained that a review had been carried out on how space in the Civic Centre was utilised and it had been found that there was sufficient room available that could be let. The report before Cabinet put forward a proposal for this.

The Cabinet also had before it Appendix 1 to the report which was not for publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely:

"Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)".

RESOLVED:

that a lease of up to 10 years be entered into on office accommodation in the Civic Centre in accordance with the details set out in appendix 1 to the report submitted, marked not for publication.

8. Expansion of Woodfield SEN School

Councillor McClennan (Lead Member for Regeneration and Housing) explained that there was the opportunity to expand Woodfield School by re-using the modular units that previously formed part of the temporary school provision for The Village School. The report before Cabinet proposed a contract variation to achieve this.

The Director of Regeneration and Growth was asked to inform members of the Cabinet why the school could no longer afford to make a contribution towards the capital costs and what the disposal value of the modular units might have been. He also explained that the proposed contract covered the cost of the school expansion but that if the school wanted additional works to be done then this could be offered as an extension to the contract.

Councillor McLennan confirmed that both governing bodies approved of the proposal.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the proposal to deliver the expansion of Woodfield SEN School by the re-use of modular units from the temporary Village School be noted;
- (ii) that a variation to the Council's contract with Henry Brothers (Magherafelt) Limited (The Village School Decant & Legacy Contract) be approved to include

the proposed expansion works for Woodfield School up to a maximum value of £1.3m.

9. Retendering of the Borough's Rough Sleepers' Outreach and Housing Advice and Resettlement Services

Councillor McClennan (Lead Member for Regeneration and Housing) introduced the report by stating that there had been a significant increase in the numbers of those sleeping rough in the borough. An independent needs analysis had shown how there was a clear need to maintain the current level of resourcing for rough sleeping services but also a desire to remodel the structure of these services to sharpen focus and so improve quality.

Members of the Cabinet discussed how the work undertaken in supporting rough sleepers needed to be integrated with other support provided such as through the employment strategy. Questions were asked around the level of outreach work and how any service provider might cope with those rough sleepers that had serious drinking problems. The Director of Regeneration and Growth replied that the contract required increased outreach work so that contact could be made with more people. He added that the provider would be expected to have the ability to deal with those that had a drinking problem but that there was also an element of responsibility on the rough sleeper to respond positively to the support provided.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that tenders be invited for a contract for Rough Sleepers' Outreach Services and a contract for Rough Sleepers' Housing Advice and Resettlement Services on the basis of the pre-tender considerations set out in paragraph 3.21 of the report submitted;
- (ii) that officers evaluate the tenders received on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out in paragraph 3.21 of the report submitted before reporting back to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

10. Disposal of loft space at 96 Leighton Gardens, London NW10 3PU

The Cabinet considered a report on the disposal of the Council's loft space within the Housing Revenue Account at 96 Leighton Gardens, NW10 3PU.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council's loft space at 96 Leighton Gardens be disposed of to the leaseholder on the first floor flat at 96B Leighton Gardens (the top floor flat which adjoins the loft space), for a capital receipt;
- (ii) that the Operational Director of Property and Projects be delegated authority to agree the terms of the disposal and grant a supplementary lease for the sale of the loft space.

11. Brent Education Commission Review

Councillor Moher (Lead Member for Children and Young People) introduced the report and referred to the review which had been separately circulated. She regarded it as an excellent piece of work which presented the Council with 34 recommendations for consideration. The Chief Executive and chair of the Commission added that there was a feeling within the education community within Brent that the time was right for a change in approach to the role of the Council and to address needs in some areas. The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee had indicated he wanted the report on the agenda for the next Scrutiny Committee so that views could be fed back to the Cabinet. Cabinet members recognised that with the fragmented provision of education it was crucial that the Council worked in close collaboration with the schools.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the findings of Brent's Education Commission be noted;
- (ii) that the lead member responsible for Children and Young People and the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, consider the recommendations in detail and bring back a report in September 2014 with an action plan based on those recommendations that are accepted and are being taken forward.

12. **Internal Audit Options April 2015 onwards**

Councillor Pavey (Deputy Leader) introduced the report which concerned the provision of outsourced internal audit services from 1 April 2015.

The Cabinet also had before it Appendix 3 to the report which was not for publication as it contained the following category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely:

"Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)".

RESOLVED:

- (i) that tenders be invited for internal audit services on the basis of the pre-tender considerations set out in paragraph 3.29 of the report submitted;
- (ii) that officers evaluate the tenders received on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out in paragraph 3.29 of the report submitted.

13. **Appointments and nominations to outside bodies**

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Councillors McClennan and Collier be nominated to the London Housing Consortium;
- (ii) that Councillor Pavey be nominated to the London Councils Grants Committee with Councillors Denselow, McLennan, and Perrin as his deputies;

- (iii) that the appointment of Councillors Perrin (C), Denselow, Mashari, McLennan and Moher to the Highways Committee and Councillors Pavey (C), Denselow, Hirani, McLennan and Perrin to the Barham Park Trust Committee be noted.

14. **Any other urgent business**

None.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

M BUTT
Chair