

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**8 February 2016 at 7.30 pm**

MEMBERS: Councillor Ruth Dombey (Chair), Councillor Simon Wales (Vice-Chair) and Councillors David Bartolucci, Richard Broadbent, Richard Clifton, Tim Crowley, Neil Garratt, Marlene Heron, David Hicks, Jayne McCoy, Wendy Mathys, Steve Penneck, Marian Radford, Colin Stears and Jill Whitehead

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

52. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

53. ANY ITEMS THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair advised that a late an urgent item, Petition Cheam Park Stable Block. This item was accepted as late and urgent as: further delays could affect the project viability.

54. PETITION CHEAM PARK STABLE BLOCK

The Chair reminded the committee that the petition had been deferred at the last meeting pending the outcome of the proposed challenge to the Planning Committee's decision to grant planning permission for the development of the Old Stables at Cheam Park. The Council had received confirmation that the prospective claimant would not be challenging the decision therefore no judicial review had been brought.

The Chief Executive advised members of the committee that only matters relating to the land and the lease were within the remit of the committee.

Ian Berry, lead petitioner, addressed the meeting for 5 minutes, raising the following key points:

- Viability and need for a nursery in the area
- Green credentials of the Council, in terms of parking and increased vehicle movements
- Security of the park
- Neglect of the building
- The level of engagement beyond the statutory process
- Covenant and use of the building.

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Colin Shea, architect for Treetops Nursery, addressed the meeting for 5 minutes, raising the following points:

- The development would bring a building in disrepair back into use
- The development would be to a high standard
- The nursery would bring jobs into the area
- Nurseries operated successfully in other park locations in the borough.

Members discussed the petition and were advised by Officers: that resources were allocated through the capital programme for managing Council assets; no proposals to develop the building as a community asset came forward through the marketing processes; as planning consent had been granted any likely future use for the building would be a nursery and the nursery would be allowed to lock-up the park and that this had not been an issue at other parks.

Resolved

That the approach already taken by officers, in terms of leasing of the building, be endorsed.

55. PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE REPORT, THIRD PERIOD 2015/16

The committee considered the performance and finance report for quarter three.

Resolved

1. That the performance against Corporate Plan indicators be noted.
2. That the forecast net revenue overspend of £1.5m against an agreed net revenue budget of £148.4m and actions being taken to bring expenditure back into line be noted.
3. That the forecast net underspend on the capital programme of £0.2m be noted.
4. That the proposed amendments to the capital programme summarised in Appendix B to the report be agreed.

**56. COMMISSIONING AND FINANCIAL PLANNING 2016/17 TO 2018/19
(INCLUDING REVENUE BUDGET)**

The Committee considered the report which proposed the Strategic Commissioning Plan and the Revenue Budget. The Strategic Director, Resources advised members that the government had announced, that afternoon, additional funding through the Local Government settlement which include transitional relief for some local authorities. As a result of this Sutton would receive an additional £1.3 million in 2016/17 and another £1.3 million in 2017/18. The Strategic Director, Resources, suggested that an additional recommendation be considered by members to reflect that the impact of this additional funding would need to be considered with final proposals being put to Council on 7 March.

Resolved

That Strategy and Resources Committee agree the following recommendations to Full Council for consideration at its next meeting on 7 March 2016.

Commissioning intentions

1. That Strategic Commissioning Plan set out at appendix A to the report be agreed;

Revenue Budget 2016/17

2. That the proposed General Fund net budget requirement of £144.916 summarised at appendix B to the report and by Directorate at appendix J to the report be agreed;
3. That the base budget changes set out in paragraphs 8.1 to 8.9 of the report and summarised in appendix C to the report including a phased use of reserves be agreed;
4. That the savings proposed in appendix D, to the report, be agreed;
5. That the rent reduction of 1% as mandated by the government be noted and that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget 2016/17 (appendix E to the report), including changes to service charges and heating charges, be agreed;

Capital Programme

6. That the revised capital programme for 2016/17 to 2019/20 with a total spend of £184.945m, including the proposed funding arrangements and policies, as set out in section 9 of the report and appendix F to the report be agreed;
7. That authorisation be given for expenditure to be incurred of £12.380m for the detailed 2016/17 Housing Capital Programme (appendix F3) and £852k for Expenditure on Corporate Operational Buildings (appendix F4);

Reserves

8. That the policy on reserves set out in paragraphs 8.33 to 8.36 of the report be agreed and that the reserve movements proposed in paragraph 8.35 of the report be noted;

Treasury Management

9. That the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 which includes the annual investment strategy, prudential indicators and borrowing limits as set out in appendix G to the report be approved;

Council Tax

10. That council tax for 2016/17 be agreed at £1,210.03 for a Band D property, an increase of £23.27 (2%) for the adult social care 'precept' and £23.16 (1.99%) for general purposes;

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11. That the formal resolution at appendix H, including the council tax requirement of £85.391m be approved;
12. That the proposed Greater London Authority precept of £276, reduced from £295 in 2015/16 be noted;

Other

13. That the Council's pay policy statement for 2016/17 (appendix I) be approved;
14. That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2016/17 (appendix K) be approved; and
15. That it be noted that Councillors Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance will be increased or decreased by the amount of the local government pay settlement each year and that the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to update the scheme to reflect any such increase or decrease.
16. That the announcement today (8 February) of the final Local Government Finance Settlement be noted and that the impact of this will be included for consideration by Members in the final budget report to Full Council on 7 March.

57. MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON AND LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON AND NEXT STEPS FOR SHARED SERVICES

The committee considered proposals for a strategic partnership between Sutton and Kingston which built on existing shared service arrangements.

Resolved

1. That the revised Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Boroughs set out at Appendix A to the report be approved.
2. That officers be instructed to examine the business case for the establishment of a jointly owned company by the London Borough of Sutton and the Royal Borough of Kingston, as a vehicle for delivering current and future shared services, including options for joint Member oversight of these arrangements, and to report back on the business case and delivery options in the next cycle of this committee.
3. That it be noted that the same proposal and recommendations will be presented to the Treasury Committee of the Royal Borough of Kingston on 11 February 2016.

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The meeting ended at 9.29 pm

Chair:

Date:

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