

PRESENT

Cabinet Members

Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell (Leader of the Council), Chairman
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Deputy Leader, Environment, Transport and
Leisure)
Councillor Tim Ahern (Planning Policy)
Councillor Fiona Buxton (Adult Social Care, Public Health and Environmental
Health)
Councillor Elizabeth Campbell (Family and Children's Services; Education and
Libraries)
Councillor Timothy Coleridge (Housing and Property)
Councillor Rock Feilding-Mellen (Civil Society)

Other Members in attendance

Councillor Judith Blakeman (Chairman of Cabinet and Corporate Services
Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Barbara Campbell (Lead Member)
Councillor Gerard Hargreaves (Lead Member)
Councillor Will Pascall (Lead Member)
Councillor Marie-Therese Rossi (Lead Member)

PART A (PUBLIC) MINUTES

A1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lightfoot; and from
Councillors Barbara Campbell and Rossi (Lead Members).

A2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

A3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2012 were confirmed as a
correct record and signed by the Chairman.

COUNCILLOR BARONESS RITCHIE

The Chairman spoke with great sadness about the recent death of
Councillor Baroness Ritchie. She had served as a member of the Cabinet
for many years, and had worked tirelessly to champion the interests of
families and children in the Royal Borough. Formal tributes would be given
at the Council meeting on 27 June.

A4. SCHOOL ORGANISATION AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

This report sought approval to adopt and implement the School Organisation and Investment Strategy.

Councillor Campbell commended the report which would address the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient places for all children within the Royal Borough, covering primary, secondary, alternative and special needs provision. The strategy would set out how the borough would meet this requirement together with a number of policy objectives. She referred to the future demand for school places and the distribution of pupils resident in the borough attending schools in the borough. As a result, the borough could potentially see a significant increase in the number of school places required if the proportion of those educated in the private/independent sector reduced.

The Family and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee had considered the report at its meeting on 1 May. The Committee generally supported the report but sought two amendments to include greater scope to expand popular schools and to include free schools and academies in any competition where a new school is required. In order to address these comments, Cabinet agreed the following revisions to paragraph 2.2 of the report:

'The Council will:

- a. Assess the statutory responsibility to provide school places with reference to:
 - (i) Census information on population across the whole borough;
 - (ii) Demand for places for children resident in the borough; and
 - (iii) Patterns of parental preference.
- b. Seek to expand popular schools to meet demand for parental preference where practical, and work with all schools to raise the level of popularity;
- c. Promote the contribution of established providers, i.e. community schools and VA schools, subject to evidence of parental preference in making statutory provision;
- d. Seek (where new school provision is required to meet evidence of statutory demand) to enlarge existing schools particularly to two form entry or the next full year of entry, and where a new school is required will open this to competition including free schools and academies;
- e. Consider disposing of Council owned property assets to free schools or academies at less than open market value (either by

sale or by way of a lease) only where the proposed free school or academy will assist the Council in discharging its statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places in the area affected;

- f. Deal with all other proposals to open a new school by a free school proposer, academy or independent provider on a commercial basis;
- g. Support existing schools wishing to convert to academy status; and
- h. Assess proposals by free school groups or academies to sponsor existing schools on their merits.'

Cabinet noted that the new Kensington Aldridge Academy and Chelsea Academy would significantly assist in meeting the demand for school places and the resulting overall trend would be for the proportion of children without a secondary offer to reduce.

Members noted the factors driving the demand for school places, as outlined in page 5 of the report, in particular the role of the Roman Catholic schools with many of their pupils coming from outside the borough; the popularity of the borough's schools due to their high educational attainment; together with the possible impact as a result of the changes to housing benefit rules which will take effect during 2012.

Councillor Coleridge referred to the popularity of the independent sector generally, in particular the high number of overseas pupils attending independent schools within the borough and the resulting high demand for new properties for those families. Cabinet noted the proposed national changes to the admissions criteria and accepted that the key message was the need to maintain flexibility with the system.

Officers would review the strategy every 6-12 months to reflect any changes.

RESOLVED – Cabinet approved the policy objectives as amended above and strategic approach as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.

Action by: EDCS

A5. SCHOOLS SUMMER PROGRAMME 2012-13

This report sought Cabinet approval to the use of previously allocated capital funding of £640,000 to refurbish, repair and improve a number of schools within the Royal Borough.

RESOLVED – Cabinet agreed to

- (i) Confirm expenditure of £640,000 for delivery of the Schools Summer Programme 2012-13;

- (ii) Approve the principles by which projects are selected for inclusion in the Schools Summer programme 2012-13;
- (iii) Approve the projects proposed for inclusion in the Schools Summer Programme 2012-13, and the priorities proposed;
- (iv) Approve the arrangements by which projects are procured in the Schools Summer Programme 2012-13;
- (v) Allow delegated authority approvals for each individual project by either the Director for Corporate Property or an authorised Cabinet Member; and
- (vi) Approve the inclusion of additional projects in the Schools Summer Programme 2012-13, should the opportunity arise and on the basis proposed in this report.

Action by: EDCS

A6. USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS ARISING FROM THE SALE OF BASEMENT SPACES AT ELM PARK GARDENS

This report sought Cabinet approval to the use of capital receipts arising from the sale of vacant basement spaces at Elm Park Gardens for investment in new affordable homes and major improvements to existing affordable homes. This will lead to an increase in the number of modern, accessible and good quality affordable Council homes in the borough to fulfil the Council's Core Strategy requirements and meet local need.

Councillor Coleridge congratulated all those involved in the sale of the vacant basement spaces at Elm Park Gardens, which had resulted in the development of several social rented properties. The potential surplus in capital receipts is estimated at approximately £8 million, and the report sought approval for the first identified priorities for this anticipated receipt. New affordable homes would be provided at Holmefield House and Greaves Tower. Funds would be set aside for investment into renovation, regeneration and conversion works to Grenfell Tower; and the report set out the additional areas of expenditure required at Elm Park Gardens.

Members were pleased with the renovation works proposed for Grenfell Tower, as these were seen as top priorities and would give the building an external appearance that reflects and complements the adjoining Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre project.

Councillor Feilding-Mellen commented on the cost of the fit out works at Elm Park Gardens (phase 1 and 11) and was advised that although the cost was high, the flats would sell when completed and the receipts would bring other social units back into use.

RESOLVED - Cabinet agreed

- (i) To approve options outlined in the report for the use of the capital receipts arising from the sale of Elm Park Gardens basement spaces;
- (ii) To delegate the authority for approval of any minor changes to the investment proposals at Elm Park Gardens, Greaves Tower, Holmefield House and Grenfell Tower to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property; and
- (iii) To receive further and more detailed updates on the investments proposed as detailed surveys, designs and cost estimates are developed.

Action by: DCP

A7. COLVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, LONSDALE ROAD/PORTOBELLO ROAD, W11 2DF

This report sought Cabinet approval for the application for capital funding to refurbish and extend an existing under-utilised Grade 2 listed building at Colville Primary School to create new classrooms and a dedicated playground space for the reception class. Funding of £315,000, including the school contribution of £35,000 has been earmarked under pipeline schemes in the approved capital programme 2012-13/2014-15.

Members acknowledged the need for the project, noting the shortcomings with the school's current provision of play space for the foundation stage and the need to provide additional classrooms, as highlighted in the 2009 OFSTED report. The OFSTED report had rated the school as satisfactory and it was acknowledged that the provision of adequate play space was crucial with regard to its early years provision and ability to provide improved education at foundation stage. The school and Governing Body were both keen in taking this project forward.

RESOLVED – Cabinet agreed

- (i) To approve option 1 and expenditure of £422,741 as the Council's contribution towards the cost of the Colville Primary School Laundry Project which with the addition of the school's contribution of £35,000 for consultants' fees, will provide an overall budget of £457,741;
- (ii) To move the existing pipeline project into the main Capital Programme and increase the funding available from the Capital Expenditure Reserve by £142,741;
- (iii) To approve draw down of capital funding to cover the budget required;
- (iv) To authorise DGA Architects to develop the detailed design and specification based on the feasibility study they have already completed;

- (v) To authorise the appointment of specialist consultants to work under DGA Architects; and
- (vi) To invite construction tenders, with a Cabinet report to be submitted once tenders have been received for the construction work.

Action by: DCP

A8. 34 LADBROKE GROVE, W11 – NEW UNDERLEASE

This report and the exempt appendix sought Cabinet approval to the Council granting a new underlease to its existing tenant, Kidsunlimited Ltd.

RESOLVED – Cabinet approved the grant of a new underlease to Kidsunlimited Ltd on the terms contained in the exempt appendix.

Action by: DCP

A9. YOUTH HOSTEL ASSOCIATION – LEASE SURRENDER AND RE-GRANT

This report and the exempt appendix sought Cabinet approval to surrender the long leasehold interest of the Youth Hostel Association in Holland House, Holland Park, W8 and to simultaneously enter into a new short term lease with the Youth Hostel Association.

Councillor Coleridge was pleased with this proposal as it would mean the return of an asset in a sensitive location back to Council control and the terms of the lease were seen as favourable to the Council, with a guaranteed income stream.

RESOLVED – Cabinet

- (i) Approved the surrender of the Youth Hostel Association's long leasehold interest in Holland House, along with the simultaneous grant of a new commercial lease; and
- (ii) Agreed to release funds from the Capital Expenditure Reserve to support the payment for the surrender of the lease from the Youth Hostel Association.

Action by: DCP

A10. BUDGET MONITORING 2011-12 – QUARTER 4 OVERVIEW

This report sought approval to budget virements and/or transfers to/from reserves as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED – Cabinet agreed the following

Housing, Health and Adult Social Care

- (i) The Disabled Facilities Grant budget is increased by £45,000;
- (ii) The Environmental Health budget is increased by £72,500 following a successful bid to the Department of Health for the Warm Homes Healthy Peoples Fund;

Planning and Borough Development

- (iii) In 2012-13 there will be a need to review and update the Core Strategy and the Business Group is permitted to carry forward any underspend in order to help cover this cost;

Corporate Services

- (iv) To approve the transfer of the £250,000 underspend on Community Support Officer budgets into the Community Safety Reserve. This is in anticipation of a need to replace CCTV cameras nearing the end of their useful life;
- (v) Approve a carry forward, as per paragraph 1.1 of the Corporate Services report, of £55,000 underspend from Projects and Partnerships Unit budgets to fund the Credit Union grant payment;
- (vi) Approve the proposal, as per paragraph 1.1 of the Corporate Services report, to move any annual underspend on the City Living, Local Life budget into the Local Initiatives Reserve; and
- (vii) Approve an increase in the Whistler's Walk project by £0.5 million, as per paragraph 2.6 of the Corporate Services report and paragraph 2.2 of the Family and Children's Services report.

Action by: TCEDF

A11. IMPROVING THE ORGANISATION BY LEARNING FROM COMPLAINTS

This report provided the annual commentary on learning points from complaints received by departments since January 2011. It also included the annual report by the Ombudsman.

Cabinet agreed to note the report.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm

Chairman