

CABINET

At a meeting of Cabinet held on
11 November 2020

(Present) **Councillor Baines (Chair)**
Councillors Bell, Bond, Bowden, Burns, Charlton,
Gomez-Aspron, Groucutt, McCauley and Quinn

(Also Present) **Councillors T Long and Uddin**

(Present as an **Councillor Maloney MBE**
observer)

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

12 MINUTES

* **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on
7 October 2020 be approved and signed.**

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest from Members were made.

14 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

(A) CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S USE OF PAPER AND PLASTICS

A report was submitted which presented Cabinet with a proposed action plan in response to the recommendations made by the former Scrutiny Panel following their review of the Council's use of paper and plastics.

The former Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel commissioned a task and finish group to review the Council's use of paper and plastics as part of its work programme for 2019/20.

The Panel's report and recommendations were reported to Cabinet at its meeting held on 23 September 2020. The Panel made fifteen recommendations and an Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 set out the response to each recommendation and the timescales for completion of the actions identified.

* **Resolved that the Action Plan be approved and submitted to the Place
Services Scrutiny Committee.**

(B) CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF APPRENTICESHIPS FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

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A report was submitted which presented Cabinet with a proposed action plan in response to the recommendations made by the former Scrutiny Panel following their review of Apprenticeships for looked after children.

The Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of apprenticeships for looked after children and care leavers that commenced in February 2020.

The Panel's report and recommendations were reported to Cabinet at its meeting held on 23 September 2020. The Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report set out the response to the Panel's recommendations and the timescales for completion of the actions identified.

- * **Resolved that the action plan be approved and submitted to the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee.**

15 IMPROVING TAKE UP OF 'TWO YEAR OLD EARLY EDUCATION ENTITLEMENT'

A report was submitted which detailed the existing provision of early education for two-year old children within the borough and proposed measures to increase the level of take-up, thus reducing the disadvantage gap and improving outcomes for children and ensuring they have a positive start to life.

It was reported that this would be done by offering all eligible families a free place in a nursery mitigating the need to complete the associated lengthy and complex paperwork which is currently a huge barrier to parents wanting to take up the offer.

- * **Resolved that action be taken to address the fall in take up of 2-year-old Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) places and adopt what is nationally referred to a 'Golden Ticket' approach for all eligible families.**

16 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21

A report was submitted which provided an analysis of progress and performance over the course of the period against each of the Council's six priorities. The Quarter 2 Report reflected performance during the first six months of the financial year and the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic was having on many of the Council's measures of performance.

The Council acknowledged that effective performance management arrangements were critical to supporting decision making during these challenging times. The report was presented with the caveat that work to deliver a step change in the Council's approach to performance management was ongoing. This included:

- i) wholesale review of the Council's performance management framework in line with the Council's plans for reset and recovery from the Covid-19 crisis and the desired outcomes of the Borough Strategy / Council Plan following consultation, further review and approval;

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- ii) full alignment of the new performance management framework to the priorities of the Borough Strategy / Council Plan; and
- iii) full review of performance targets in the light of the impact that Covid-19 has had on the Council's performance.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the current performance position be noted;
- (2) work with appropriate Executive Directors be undertaken to address specific areas for performance improvement; and
- (3) work be undertaken with appropriate Executive Directors in agreeing proposals for the future range of appropriate performance measures and indicators to be presented in Cabinet reports and their respective targets.

17 **INVESTMENT AND ACQUISITION STRATEGY**

A report was submitted which sought approval to the implementation of an Investment, Land & Property Acquisition Strategy. The intention being to establish a framework to secure long term and sustainable income streams for the Council, increasing its financial resilience over time, whilst also providing the ability to invest in strategic acquisitions that further the economic prosperity of the borough.

Members were informed that adopting such a strategy would allow the Council to exploit commercial acquisition opportunities to support Council services in the future and support economic growth in the borough.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the Investment Land & Property Acquisition Strategy set out in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) Council be asked to approve the necessary level of delegation as detailed in the Strategy together with all necessary changes to the Constitution as a result; and
- (3) it be agreed that the creation of a £10m reserve to be funded via Capital receipts.