

## **CABINET**

**Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2014 at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, the Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX.**

### **MINUTES - PART A**

**Present:** Councillors Mike Fisher (Leader of the Council),  
Councillor Dudley Mead (Statutory Deputy Leader)  
Councillor Tim Pollard (Deputy Leader);  
Councillors Sara Bashford, Simon Hoar, Margaret Mead,  
Vidhi Mohan, Steve O'Connell, Jason Perry and Phil Thomas.

Other Majority Group Members in attendance: Councillors Arram, Buttinger, Cummings, Hollands, Kellett, Lenton, Neal, Parker, Pearson, Speakman and Wright.

Shadow Cabinet Members in attendance: Councillors Bee, Butler, Collins, Hall, Letts, Newman and Watson.

Other Minority Group Members in attendance: Councillors Fitzsimons, B. Khan, Lawlor, P Ryan and Woodley.

**Absent:** Cabinet: none.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jane Avis, and Nathan Elvery, Chief Executive.

#### **A12/14 Part A Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 20 January 2014**

The Part A minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 January 2014 were received. The Leader of the Council signed the minutes as a correct record.

#### **A13/14 Disclosures of Interest**

No disclosures of pecuniary interest or personal interest were made during the meeting.

#### **A14/14 Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

#### **Announcement by the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Fisher, made the following announcement regarding flooding in parts of the Borough:

“I’d like to take a few minutes to talk about the [flooding](#) problems currently being faced by some parts of the borough due to the on-going bad weather.

Today Croydon was visited by Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Mr Pickles took the time to come to Kenley so he could see first-hand the excellent work which has been done to protect local homes and businesses from the threat of flooding.

He spent a lot of time talking to officers and councillors about what we’ve done so far and what our plans are for the next few weeks.

What has stood out about Croydon’s response to the current situation has been the way all of the agencies have worked together to find imaginative and effective ways to rise to the challenges we are currently all facing together.

The Council has had the help of its contractors, the fire brigade, the police, and the water boards. I’d like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them all for forming a collective response which has drawn on the expertise and resources of each organisation.

Many people have worked around the clock to stay on top of things and several kilometres of pipes have now been laid throughout the area with pumps working to keep the pressure off the local water plant and away from people’s property.

Where necessary we’ve distributed sandbags to protect the properties most at risk. We’ve had council staff out talking to local residents to prepare them for the worst case scenario of evacuation and we’ve distributed information to many more homes so people know what’s going on and what might happen.

Although only a relatively small number of homes and businesses are facing the imminent threat of flooding all of these efforts are significantly reducing the risk of the wider area feeling the impact of a worsening situation.

By mobilising all our resources before the problem gets too bad we’ve so far been able to contain or divert the majority of the water away from the key danger zones.

Right now the closure of the A22 Godstone Road is the cause of the greatest inconvenience. However we’re all very aware of the impact which might be felt by tens of thousands of homes if the local water treatment plant is forced to shut down due to flooding.

This is why we have taken the decision to close the subway in Purley and prepare it as a balancing pond into which we can divert water should this become necessary.

Mr Pickles commented on this being an ingenious solution. And indeed, the approach has been widely reported in the national media. It's been praised as representing the kind of thinking needed to handle the rising water levels which are being fed by the heaviest and most prolonged spell of wet weather this country has had to face since records began.

Compared to many other parts of the UK, Croydon has so far remained largely untouched by this exceptional set of circumstances.

However, once again, I'd just like to extend sincere thanks on behalf of the residents of the borough to all those people who've been working so hard to hold the waters at bay, protect property and keep people safe from harm."

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Tony Newman, also extended his thanks to those who had been working so hard to prevent flooding, including officers and the emergency services.

**A15/14 Exempt Items**

**RESOLVED** that the allocation of business in the agenda be confirmed, as printed.

**A16/14 Conservation Area Appraisals & Management Plans  
Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – Adoption East  
India Estate**

- ① **Norbury Estate**
- ① **Norwood Grove**
- ① **St Bernards**
- ① **Upper Norwood Triangle**

**NOTED:** that the Leader of the Council had delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decision set out below.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to recommend the Council :

1. to consider the comments and responses at Appendix 6 received through:
  - The statutory public consultation on the draft East India Estate, Norbury Estate, Norwood Grove, St Bernards and Upper Norwood Triangle Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plans SPDs (Appendices 1-5 of the report); and

- the notification of the intention to extend Norbury Estate Conservation Area to include 254-278 Northborough Road as recommended in the draft Norbury Estate CAAMP.

And:

2. to agree the Consultation Log of comments and responses at Appendix 6 (e-copy);
3. to agree extension of Norbury Estate Conservation Area to include 254-278 Northborough Road;
4. to note the current schedule for the completion and adoption of CAAMPs for all of the 21 conservation areas in Croydon; and
5. to note that the Council has undertaken a screening exercise with the statutory bodies to confirm the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plans (CAAMP) Supplementary Planning Documents are not required to be supported by a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

#### **A17/14 School Admissions Criteria Update**

**NOTED:** that the Leader of the Council had delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out below.

Cabinet **RESOLVED:** to recommend the Council to

1. agree the admissions criteria 2015/16 in appendix 1 to the report;
2. agree to continue to endorse the arrangements for Pan London co-ordination for entry in 2015, as detailed in appendix 2 to the report which are the same as those for 2013/14 and 2014/15 education years;
3. agree to further strengthen our processes to make on-line application the norm for the vast majority of applicants; and
4. agree to strengthen the wording on two specific issues that relate to the use of false addresses and application under medical criteria.

#### **A18/14 Children and Families Plan**

**NOTED:** that the Leader of the Council had delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out below.

Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

to recommend that the Council agrees the Croydon Children and Families Plan for 2014-15.

**A19/14 Financial Strategy & Budget 2014-15  
9.1. General Fund & HRA Budget 2014/15**

**NOTED:** that the Leader of the Council had delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out below.

**Agenda item 9.1 - General Fund & HRA Budget 2014/15**

Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. to recommend to full Council :

1.1 no **change to Council Tax for 2014/15** for Croydon and a 1.32% decrease to the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept, on behalf of the GLA on the basis of :-

1.2 That a council tax efficiency dividend of £25 be made to all households with a liability for 2014/15 of £25 or more on their Council tax account on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 where the liability is below £25 they will receive an amount equal to that liability

1.3 all budget planning assumptions as detailed in the report;

1.4 the programme of revenue investment as set out in Appendix A of the report;

1.5 the programme of efficiencies and cuts, as set out in Appendix B of the report;

1.6 the capital programme for 2014/15 and capital strategy for 2015/18 as set out in Appendices D & E of the report and the release of the annual highways programme, subject to the following amended figures in Appendix D on page 113 of the agenda:

	2014/15 £
Corporate Property Maintenance Programme	2,930,000
Highways Programme	7,500,000

1.7 the Council's detailed budget book as set out in Appendix F of the report;

1.8 the overall revenue budgets and council tax levels as set out in Appendices G, H and I of the report;

1.9 the statement on reserves and balances and robustness of estimates from the statutory Section 151 Officer;

1.10 that with reference to the principles for 2014/15 determined by the Secretary of State under s.s.52ZC(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) confirm that in accordance with s.52ZB (1) the Council Tax and GLA precept referred to above are not excessive in terms of the most recently issued principles and as such to note that no referendum is required;

1.11 the budget for the Housing Revenue and Capital Accounts for 2014/15 (Appendix K of the report);

1.12 The proposed housing investment programme of **£40.504m** (summarised in Appendix M of the report);

1.13 a capital allowance of **£10.000m** as detailed in Section 6 of the report.

1.14 to recommend to the Council the adoption of the Pay Policy statement at Appendix O of the report;

2. That Cabinet agree:

2.1 That two weeks rent for all Council tenants' be met by the Council in April 2014 unless their liability for rent is otherwise being met;

2.2 Rent increases for all Council tenants for 2014/15, in line with the National formula for social housing rents with the average rent increases from this national formula being **4.9%**;

2.3 That the full cost of services provided to those tenants who receive caretaking, grounds maintenance and bulk refuse collection services are recovered via tenants service charges, this being achieved with a **3.7%** increase for 2014/15;

2.4 Charges to tenants for garage and parking space rents increase by **4.9%** for 2014/15;

2.5 Heating charges for Council tenants to remain unchanged as per Appendix L of the report;

3. That Cabinet note:

3.1 That in respect of the Council's public sector equalities duties where the setting of the capital, revenue and HRA budget result in new policies or policy change the relevant service department will carry out an equality impact assessment to secure delivery of that duty including such consultation as may be required.

3.2 The progress being made towards balancing the Council's financial position for 2013/14 as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and the current projected outturn forecast of £0.859m before the allocation of corporate contingency of £1.000m, as set out in Table 25 of this report and therefore to note a balanced budget position for 2013/14.

3.3 That no recommendations were made to the Cabinet from the Scrutiny & Overview Committee meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in relation to the budget for 2014/15.

**Agenda item 9.2: Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2014/15**

Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

to recommend to the Council that it approve:

1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2014/15 as set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 of the report including the recommendations that:

1.1 The Authority takes up the balance of its 2013/14's borrowing requirement and future years' borrowing requirements, as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

1.2 That for the reasons detailed in paragraph 3.7 of the report, opportunities for debt rescheduling are reviewed throughout the year by the Director of Finance & Assets and that, in consultation with the Council's independent treasury advisers, he is given delegated authority to undertake such rescheduling only if revenue savings or additional cost avoidance can be achieved at minimal risk in line with organisational considerations and with regard to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as set out in the Council's Financial Strategy.

1.3 That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement be continually monitored and in the event that interest rates move materially, a further report be submitted to Corporate Services Committee to consider any consequent changes to it considered necessary to protect the Council's position.

1.4 That delegated authority be given to the Director of Finance & Assets to make any necessary decisions to protect the Council's

financial position in light of market changes or investment risk exposure.

1.5 That, a mid-year monitoring report on treasury activities and periodic reports on investments be made to Corporate Services Committee.

2. The Annual Investment Strategy as set out in paragraph 3.5 and as detailed in Appendix B of the report.

1.3 That the Affordable Borrowing Limits (required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003) as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report and as detailed in Appendix C of the report be as follows:

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
£931.7m	£1,014.0m	£1,020.3m

1.4 The Prudential Indicators as set out in paragraph 3.8 and in Appendix D of the report.

1.5 The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement (required by SI 2008/414) as set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report and as detailed in Appendix E of the report.

The Council's authorised counterparty lending list as at 31st December 2013 as set out in Appendix F of the report and the rating criteria set for inclusion onto this list.

---

**PART B MINUTES - none**

---

**The meeting ended at 7.16 pm**