

## **Cabinet**

Meeting of Cabinet held on Monday, 19 October 2020 at 6.30 pm. This meeting was held remotely

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Alison Butler, Stuart Collins, Hamida Ali, Janet Campbell, Alisa Flemming, Stuart King (voting – Job Share), Oliver Lewis, Paul Scott (non-voting – Job Share), Manju Shahul-Hameed and Callton Young

**Also Present:** Councillor Jason Perry, Jason Cummings, Lynne Hale, Maria Gatland, Simon Hoar, Yvette Hopley, Vidhi Mohan, Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Louisa Woodley, Sean Fitzsimons, Robert Ward, Pat Clouder, Clive Fraser, Mario Creatura, Muhammad Ali, Jamie Audsley, Leila Ben-Hassel, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Patsy Cummings, Nina Degrads, Felicity Flynn, Patricia Hay-Justice, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Toni Letts and David Wood

**Officers:** Katherine Kerswell (Interim Chief Executive), Jacqueline Harris Baker (Executive Director of Resources), Debbie Jones (Interim Executive Director of Children, Families & Education), Shifa Mustafa (Executive Director of Place) and Lisa Taylor (Director of Finance, Investment & Risk and Section 151 Officer)

### **PART A**

The meeting was chaired by the Statutory Deputy Leader, Councillor Alison Butler.

74/20           **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 September 2020 were agreed.

75/20           **Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

76/20           **Urgent Business (If any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

**Croydon Together: Update on our ongoing response to COVID-19  
(verbal update)**

The Director of Public Health, Rachel Flowers, advised Members that from Saturday 17 October, London and Croydon had moved into a High Alert tier which reflected that COVID-19 was being transmitted across the borough.

The Director thanked everyone for their commitment to working to reduce the transmission of the virus and stressed the need to focus on washing hands, wearing a face covering and to maintain social distance to further reduce the transmission of the virus.

Whilst it was noted that COVID-19 caused mild symptoms in most it could be devastating for some, and as such the Director of Public Health reiterated the message of Hands, Face, Space.

Members were advised that being in a High Alert tier meant people could no longer socialise indoors outside their household or social bubbles. However, people could meet up with others outside their household up to the Rule of Six. The need to adhere to these regulations was due to the virus thriving on people socialising and, as such, it was important that people maintained social distancing at all times.

The Director of Public Health advised Cabinet that there were 11 patients at Croydon University Hospital as of that morning and there were none in ITU (Intensive Treatment Unit), however two people had sadly passed away the previous week. Those two patients, it was noted, had underlying health conditions.

Whilst the incidence rate was low in Croydon, compared to the rest of London, it was rising with the incidence rate at 76 per 100,000, the R rate being over 1 and test positivity at 3.5%. The Director of Public Health stressed the need for everyone to continue supporting the measures to reduce transmission in order to slow the increase that was being experienced.

The Chief Executive stated that she fully supported the measures shared by the Director of Public Health and noted her tireless commitment to the residents of Croydon throughout the pandemic.

The Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care offered her condolences, on behalf of the council, to those who had lost loved ones during the pandemic. It was noted that the council remained committed to supporting its residents during this period and in response to rising cases, the council's Gold Group had increased its meetings to twice weekly. The council was also planning ahead to ensure support for shielding residents was available.

It was noted by the Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care that BAME residents, and in particular men, had presented late to hospital during the first wave and so issued a plea to all BAME residents to present early in future waves.

The Director of Public Health was thanked for her clear and consistent messaging throughout the pandemic. Furthermore, the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board thanked the Director for her work in liaising with Deloitte in relation to the issues experienced with the testing centre in New Addington. Members were advised that the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board had attended a community meeting earlier that day and there had been a commitment from Deloitte to work with the community going forward; including introducing more signage. It was further reported that the generator powering the centre had been quietened.

Members were advised that a detailed report on Winter Preparedness was due to be considered by the Health & Wellbeing Board later that week. The work of officers and partners was noted by the Chair of the Board as being an important element of the borough's response to the pandemic.

Concern was raised by the Shadow Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care that with the abolition of the Adult Social Services Review Panel, much of the confidential information which had previously gone to the Panel was no longer being shared. The Shadow Cabinet Member reported that she was often approached by councillors requesting details on what was happening within their wards which she was no longer able to provide. The Cabinet Member was asked how information sharing would be addressed going forward.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Shadow Cabinet Member for consistently being a champion of care homes in the borough. It was stated that she was in discussion with the Executive Director of Health, Wellbeing & Adults in relation to the safeguarding report which would be sent to those councillors who had previously been on the Panel on a regular basis.

The Leader of the Opposition thanked the Director of Public Health for her update. It was recognised that the pandemic had caused concerns for many residents; whether it be financial, personal health or business survival. The Director of Public Health was requested to provide more details on the statement that there were positive cases across the borough and whether this meant there were cases in all wards or general areas.

In response, the Director of Public Health advised that there were positive cases in every super output area in the borough. The virus was spread widely across the borough and there were no particular hotspots. The Director of Public Health further confirmed that the Public Health team and colleagues in the NHS were reviewing the data on a daily basis to

establish whether there were any trends. Whilst there was a relatively low number of cases in the borough, the Public Health team was looking to develop data which would show the incidence rate in each ward without any personal identifiable information. In the meantime, the Director confirmed that should concerns arise regarding a particular area these would be shared with the Chief Executive, Leader and ward councillors.

Councillor Shafi Khan requested confirmation that the R rate in Croydon was at 1.1 and details of when the rise in cases would likely be exponential as it was recognised that this would cause alarm across the community. The councillor further requested that localised data was provided to ward councillors as it was noted that during the first wave of the pandemic councillors were often being told information by outside sources rather than from council sources. Concerns were raised by the councillor that a property on his road which had been rented out via Air BnB had been used for a house party the previous weekend and so suggested that alternative forms of campaigns and message sharing should be used to ensure there was an understanding of the gravity of the virus.

The Director of Public Health confirmed that monitoring the R rate was important as it related to the doubling of transmission. At the time of the meeting, it was noted that the doubling of the incidence rate was being seen every three to four weeks in Croydon. Members were informed that a number of metrics were being used by the Public Health team to monitor the spread of the virus, the R rate being one along with the incidence rate and positive test result. It was stressed that it was hoped that there would not be an exponential rise in cases in Croydon and that the data at the time was not evidencing such a rise.

Confirmation was provided by the Director of Public Health that the council was working to spread the message via a number of channels and to all groups within society. It was important that everyone worked to stop the spread of the virus and that it meant that people needed to stop doing things with the people they cared about in order to protect them.

The Director of Public Health concluded that it was difficult for her to share ward data as it was personally identifiable data, however it was stressed that should a particular concern arise then this would be raised but that there were no such concerns at the time of the meeting.

Councillor Bird informed Cabinet that she had been contacted by residents concerned about the New Addington test centre. The location; being in the middle of the central parade, near the leisure centre and bus stop; was raised as being a risk as people were queuing to enter the test centre where residents were visiting and the potential health hazard was highlighted.

In response to concerns raised, the Director of Public Health stated that she had not chosen the site for the testing centre, rather that the council

had identified four sites which were in line with the requirements for a testing centre. The final decision on the location had been made by Deloitte. The Director confirmed that she had visited the site and had apologised for the issues experienced by residents. Lessons had been learnt and new measures were being put in place, such as signage. It was noted that it had been important to ensure that there was a fixed Croydon testing site as previously there was no such facility in the borough as the Fairfield provision had been a drive in one which was available for three days a week only. The Director of Public Health further informed Members that she would continue to work with Deloitte and the Department for Health & Social Care to identify further testing opportunities. It was confirmed that 75% of tests at the New Addington site daily were for Croydon residents.

Additional concerns were raised by Councillor Bird in relation to students at Coulsdon College who were reportedly not wearing face coverings on buses or in shops and that the College was unable to police the actions of students in the community. The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning stated that Transport for London had been asked to put on more school buses in response to resident concerns. It was also noted that further conversations had started with education providers to stress the Hands, Face, Space message. The Cabinet Member concluded that it was important that it remained a two-way conversation and that everyone took responsibility and worked together as there had been reports that some students felt they were being alienated and blamed for the rise in cases.

In response to the query from Councillor Hay-Justice in relation to additional funding the Public Health team had received to respond to the pandemic the Director for Public Health confirmed that a range of money had been allocated to the council; including £1.98m for Outbreak Control plans and that additional money would be allocated to the council to support its response to being in Tier 2. It was recognised that funding would be required in the next financial year also to support the ongoing work which many were lobbying government for.

The Statutory Deputy Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

**RESOLVED:** To note the presentation provided by the Director of Public Health.

78/20

### **Sustainable Croydon - a year on update**

The Chair advised Cabinet that the order of the agenda would be revised to enable an external guest to speak on this item, as such this item was taken as the fourth substantive item at the meeting. The order items were taken in the meeting was:

- 77/20 Croydon Together: Update on our ongoing response to COVID-19

- 79/20 Developing Croydon's new Community Safety Strategy
- 80/20 District Centre Prosperity - Purley BID
- 78/20 Sustainable Croydon – a year on update
- Followed by the order as published in the agenda

The Chair noted that a Citizen Assembly had been established in which residents across the borough participated and recommendations from the Assembly had been received by the council. The report outlined the ongoing work to create a sustainable borough.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration (voting – Job Share) noted that 15 months had passed since the council had declared a climate crisis and whilst steps had been taken to advance this agenda there had also been dramatic changes with the pandemic and financial circumstances facing the authority. Despite these challenges, the Cabinet Member stated that it was important that this agenda was kept on track to ensure an improved future for the borough.

The Cabinet Member noted the activity that had taken place in the previous 15 months and that this reflected cross Cabinet working with the Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon working to increase recycling rates in the borough, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport's work on supporting woodlands and the success of being awarded Tree Oscars, and the Cabinet Member for Homes & Gateway Services and her work to improve the energy efficiency of homes across the borough. For his part, the Cabinet Member stated the council had worked to reduce car journeys in the borough and supported the shift to active travel with 26 school streets now introduced.

Miatta Fahnbulleh, Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation and Chair of the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission, was welcomed to the meeting.

The Chair of the Commission informed Members that the original purpose for the Commission was to look at options to rapidly reduce emissions in the borough to achieve the aim of being carbon neutral by 2030 through the use of fair and just changes. It was highlighted that it was important the changes also supported the creation of jobs and protected communities.

The impact of the pandemic had highlighted the scale of the crisis facing the country and shone a light on a number of issues including living standards, cuts in the local government funding, and the impact of a natural crisis when there was not action or preparation in place. The challenge now, it was suggested, was how we respond to those structural problems and supported a green recovery but a recovery which escalated the economy and improved living standards.

Cabinet was informed that the Commission hoped to have a first draft of the ambitions and recommendations by the end of the month, after which

there would be a thorough consultation period ahead of finalising the recommendations. It was noted that core ambitions should focus on improving living standards, opportunities to create good jobs, investing in green technology and infrastructure, and working in partnership with businesses to support these ambitions.

Cabinet Members thanked the Chair of the Commission for her inspiring contribution to the meeting and her work with the Commission.

The Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon noted that there were opportunities to create jobs within the circular economy and highlighted jobs within reuse being one such area of opportunity. Residents were thanked by the Cabinet Member for their work to increase recycling rates in the borough, with it noted that communication with residents and businesses was key. The meadowing of parks was noted as being an example of when communication was needed to highlight that this initiative supported insects by creating butterfly corridors and bee highways.

Members of Cabinet noted that there was a long list of achievements included within the report and that at every meeting of the Commission there had been productive contributions and discussions. It was recognised that there was now a dual challenge which needed to be tackled, namely of COVID-19 and climate change. It was noted that this work needed to take place at a time of significant financial pressure for the council, however it was felt by some Members that the impact of inaction was significantly more harmful for the borough.

Cabinet Members stated that climate change was the issue of this time and noted the work of Sir David Attenborough in raising awareness. Whilst it was recognised that the council could support work to improve sustainability, it was also important that regional and government supported this move. All those involved, including officers and community groups, were thanked for their work on woodlands which had led to the awarding of Tree Oscars in recognition of this work.

It was recognised by Cabinet Members that there was a need to balance the need for new homes in the borough with the development of a truly sustainable borough. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration (non-voting – Job Share) stated he believed the review of the Croydon London Plan sought to develop a response to the climate emergency and put sustainability at the heart of everything the council did by supporting meadowing, reforestation and protected green spaces.

The need for a balanced approach was highlighted by the Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs as 57,000 residents had been furloughed or lost their jobs during the pandemic and 22,000 were in receipt of universal credit. To support these residents and the sustainability agenda, it was stated that the council was looking at employment and skills support whilst working with the Southbank University and local businesses. The

payment of the London Living Wage and the Good Employer Charter were highlighted as supporting the agenda of a green economic renewal.

To support the work of the Commission, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning suggested that it was important that there was a focus on embedding behavioural changes and allowing young people's voices to be heard when developing the recommendations.

In response to the points raised by Cabinet Members, the Chair of the Commission confirmed that the Commission's approach was to look at low carbon jobs. Given the economic climate it was recognised that jobs needed to be quickly created and to support this there needed to be training available which required working with local colleges. Whilst the Chair of the Commission recognised that the council was facing a financial challenge it was felt by her that the council could not afford to not act.

The financial position of the council was raised by the Leader of the Opposition and it was queried as to how much capacity there was to deliver the outcomes required. The Leader of the Opposition further stated the council was building upon green spaces across the borough through Brick by Brick and suggested that there was a disconnect between the ambitions of the report and the actions of the council.

In response the Chair stated that whilst the council was facing financial difficulties, it was her belief that not everything was about money and that the council needed to utilise its influence to draw more money into the borough to support the green agenda. It was noted that there was also a question of social justice and whether the council should say it was a sustainable borough when children were living in bed and breakfast accommodation rather than homes.

The Shadow Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs queried why there were no Conservative representatives on the Sustainable Economic Renewal Board and further questioned its effectiveness as it did not appear to be meeting as frequently as it should be. The Chair responded by suggesting that the Board had a number of sub-groups which were meeting and actively working on the agenda.

The Shadow Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment & Regeneration stated that the discussions at the recent Streets, Environment & Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee had raised concerns that there was no means to measure the environmental impact, in terms of air quality, due to the emissions based parking. The Shadow Cabinet Member raised concerns that the policy would detrimentally impact those who were financially less well-off and suggested that the policy was related more to the state of the borough's finances than the environment.

In response to comments from the Leader of the Opposition, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration (non-voting – Job

Share) stated that the important message was that everyone worked together and took personal responsibility. It was suggested that should people have land they should plant trees to help the environment. The Cabinet Member referenced a planning application which, it was suggested, included plans to remove trees, however stated that he felt that Members should move away from attacking one another and should work together positively to build a sustainable borough.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration (voting – Job Share) stated that there was no link between the council's current financial position as the policy had been presented in March 2019 before the financial position was known. Whilst it was recognised the changes did impact upon poorer residents and the elderly it was also suggested that these groups were disproportionately impacted by poor air quality and that studies had shown that 205 Croydon residents lost their lives annually partly due to air quality. Individual policies, it was stated, would not solve the issue but collectively they will support tackling the crisis.

The Chair of Streets, Environment & Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee confirmed the emissions policy had been considered by the Scrutiny Sub-Committee and that there had been a recognition by all that data would be important in understanding the impact of the policy. Furthermore, it was stated that there had been discussions at scrutiny meetings on how the council could harness the skills of residents and engage with them at every stage of the process when developing policies.

In conclusion, the Chair of the Commission stated that financial challenges were being faced by the public sector across the county, however it was suggested that the council should consider investment opportunities to get the best outcomes for all. Whilst a huge amount could be achieved, Members were advised that it was important that the council was clear of the outcomes it wanted to achieve to ensure the greatest positive impact.

The Statutory Deputy Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

**RESOLVED:** To note the work being done to make Croydon more sustainable to date involving:

- Croydon Climate Crisis Commission
- Sustainable Economic Renewal Board
- Air Quality Action Plan
- Waste & Recycling
- Trees & Woodland
- Energy Efficiency
- Transport
- Construction logistics & freight management

## Developing Croydon's new Community Safety Strategy

This item was taken as the second substantive item at the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon & Communities informed Members that it was proposed to extend the Community Safety Strategy until the end of 2021 to allow work to be undertaken to develop a new Strategy.

Whilst work on developing a new Strategy had started earlier in the year, this had been put on pause due to the pandemic. It had been planned that a number of groups would have been engaged in developing the Strategy, however it was concluded that it would have been challenging to effectively engage during the lockdown.

It was further noted by the Cabinet Member that the pandemic had an impact on community safety and the types of crimes which were being witnessed and it was important that this was taken into account when developing the new Strategy.

The Shadow Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon & Communities noted that previous iterations of the Community Safety Strategy had been published in March and that consultation had taken place the previous year. As such, the consultation on the new Strategy would have normally taken place in the latter half of 2019 and so before the pandemic. Concerns were raised that by delaying the publication of a new Strategy to spring 2022, the council would be in the pre-election period for the Local Elections and so there would not be an opportunity to scrutinise the new Strategy.

In response to Member questions, the Cabinet Member stated that one of the main priorities in the development of the new Strategy was to ensure it was aligned with the council's public health approach to crime. It had been important to ensure thorough research and engagement with all those impacted had been undertaken prior to the publication of a new Strategy and, as such, it had not been possible to develop a new Strategy by March 2020. The Cabinet Member confirmed that the council sought to engage all who were impacted by crime, partners and the Scrutiny & Overview Committee in the development of the new Strategy.

Councillor Ward raised concerns that it had been calculated that violent crime had increased by 64% and crime involving a weapon had increased by 49% and that in light of these increases it was stated the current Strategy was not effective and should be replaced sooner rather than later. In response, the Cabinet Member stated that extending the Strategy did not mean that work to tackle crime had been paused and a new Strategy was to be developed which would be in line with the council's public health approach to violent crime. It was confirmed that the act of extending the Strategy was to reaffirm the council's priorities for tackling crime and supporting the victims of crime.

Further concerns were raised by the Shadow Cabinet Member that the footer in the appendix refers to 14 to 17 when the report was actually 17-20 and that various parts of the report had been copied and pasted, and that evidenced a lazy approach of policy development within the council.

In response the Cabinet Member reiterated the council's commitment to tackling violent crime and that this commitment was shared across the community safety partnership. It was further stated that inconsistent numbering in footers did not reflect the hard work of officers, organisations and emergency services in tackling crime in the borough.

Following the murder of an older resident the previous week, the Cabinet Member expressed her condolences to the family and friends of the resident.

The Statutory Deputy Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Full Council that it agree to extend the current community safety strategy until the end of calendar year 2021 for the reasons detailed in the report.

80/20

### **District Centre Prosperity - Purley BID**

This item was taken as the third substantive item at the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs informed Members that the report asked Cabinet to note the decisions which had been taken under delegated authority and under Special Urgency.

Purley BID had been established in 2015 and following its five year term was seeking to continue. It was noted by the Cabinet Member that the BID had worked tirelessly to support businesses in the local area and as such the council would continue to support its work. The ballot was scheduled to take place on 10 December 2020 and work had already begun with ballots having been posted.

Due to the economic impact of COVID-19 it was recognised that the BID was more important than ever in supporting the local economy and to further the council's understanding of the needs of local businesses the Cabinet Member and Chief Executive of the BID would be undertaking a walk around the Purley BID area in November 2020. The ward councillors of the two Purley wards were welcomed to join the walkabout.

Simon Cripps, Purley BID Chief Executive, was welcomed to the meeting and thanked the council for its support for the BID. Since its inception five years ago, the BID had delivered over 200 projects to support the local area.

One such project had been the Business Rates campaign. It had been noted in 2017 that Purley was heavily impacted by Business Rates, more so than other areas in the region. A campaign was developed and was supported by councillors and the local MP, and in 2018 the Business Rates were reduced.

Recently, the BID had supported local businesses to continue trading by providing PPE, screens, posters, marketing and supporting businesses to apply for grants.

With the renewal of the BID, three themes had been identified:

- Destination Purley – which sought to promote and support Purley as a vibrant high street;
- Access and safety – which included solutions to parking access issues experienced due to two A roads crossing through the centre of Purley and purchasing the services of a private security firm; and
- Business support – which included reducing the levy from 2% to 1.5%.

The BID Chief Executive stated that businesses needed the support of the BID, and whilst it was one of the smallest in the country it was considered to punch above its size.

Members thanked the BID Chief Executive for his work and enthusiasm and it was recognised that the BID had been very important to the area in supporting the local economy.

Concerns were raised by the Shadow Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs that the council was responsible for enforcing the payment of the BID levy, however enforcement had taken place during the first term which had impacted upon the BID to the extent of £50,000 in lost income. It was further noted by the Shadow Cabinet Member that a collection system had been introduced in 2019 to support the collection of the levy but that no defaults had been issued in that time.

In response, the Cabinet Member stated that the council was responsible for managing the levy and there were approximately 180 properties which were eligible to pay the levy. The council sought to work with the BID and businesses to ensure the levy was paid and remained committed to ensuring the levy was paid. It was further noted that the council was also a levy payer for three properties in the BID area.

BIDs were recognised as having a positive impact on their areas. In Croydon there were three BIDs and there was a desire to support the development of more BIDs to support local businesses.

In response to concerns raised by the Shadow Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon that the BID levy should not be used to bolster shortfalls in council spending, the Cabinet Member stated that the financial situation of the council was well known and had been discussed at previous

meetings of councillors. However, in the case of the BID the one off cost to the council of £4,000 for the ballot had been identified and the council remained committed to its ongoing levy liability on the three properties in the BID area as it was recognised that the BID was able to attract additional investment to support the area.

Further concerns were raised in relation to agreed baseline services and the responsibility for the costs for these services, such as the Environmental Response Team (ERT), when they were disbanded by the council. It was stated by the Shadow Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon that the cost of those services should not be the responsibility of the Purley BID should the council discontinue them. In response, the Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon stated the service provided by the ERT would be provided by Veolia at a lower cost than that incurred from having an in house service.

Councillor Brew addressed Cabinet and stated that he was delighted to see the development of the Purley BID over the previous five years, however also raised concerns in relation to the levy which had not been collected by the council and which totalled £50,000, 5% of the BID's budget. It was further noted that invoices of £13,000 had been raised for the collection service which was felt to be sub-standard.

Members were assured by the Deputy Leader that their concerns in relation to the levy collection were being noted and that the council would continue to support the BID. The BID Chief Executive was thanked for his contributions and his enthusiasm. It was noted that the work of the BID was supporting work to make Purley a better place.

The Statutory Deputy Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

**RESOLVED:** To

1. Note that the Leader delegated authority (5420LR) to the Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources to:
  - i. Consider on behalf of the council as a billing authority, whether the Purley BID proposal conflicts with any formally adopted policy of the Council and, if it does, give notice of this in accordance with the BID Regulations
  - ii. Determine and agree that the council should approve the BID proposal and vote 'yes' on the BID ballot
  - iii. Determine and agree that the council can determine the baseline service provision for key services within the Purley BID area for 2020/21 on behalf of Cabinet
  - iv. Agree that the Council formally make arrangements for conducting a BID ballot in accordance with the BID regulations through the Council's electoral services team

(with the ballot day scheduled for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020)

v. Note that in the event of a ‘Yes’ vote at ballot:

- That the Council manage as the relevant local billing authority, the billing and collection of the additional levy, and its transfer to the BID Company, with all costs incurred by the council to be paid by the BID Company.
- That the Council meet the Council’s obligations in paying the extra BID levy, as a non-domestic ratepayer in the BID area, in accordance with the BID regulations over the life of the BID
- That the Council enter into the key legal agreements with the BID Company regarding the operation of the BID and delivery of Council baselines and that the Executive Director – Place in discussion with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Jobs be given delegated authority to approve the final terms of those agreements

2. Note that the above decisions were taken under delegated authority by the Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources on 7 October 2020 (5420EJ).

81/20

### **Scrutiny Stage 1: Recommendations arising from Scrutiny**

The Statutory Deputy Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

**RESOLVED:** To receive the recommendations arising from meeting of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 15 September 2020, and to provide a substantive response within two months (i.e. at the next available Cabinet meeting on **14 December 2020**.

82/20

### **Investing in our Borough**

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources informed Cabinet that pre-procurement for the Temporary Agency Staff contract had been due to start, however the pandemic had delayed this. By extending the contract, officers would have the opportunity to properly re-procure this contract and get best value for money. It was noted that this course of action was not the decision the Cabinet Member wanted to present to Cabinet, however it was recognised that it was essential that the council had access to temporary agency staff. The Cabinet Member further drew

Members attention to paragraph 3.4 of the report which stated that the trajectory for the usage of agency staffing was going down.

The trajectory of spend on the contract was highlighted by the Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, as it was stated that when the contract was originally let it was for £80million over four years, however this figure had been exceeded with expenditure peaking at £44million a year. It was noted that at a time when the council was having to make redundancies and cuts that spending £25million per year on agency staff would send a negative message to permanent staff.

In response the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources stated that agency staff were often specialists and were temporary, however there were numerous reasons for the use of temporary staff. It was stated by the Cabinet Member that it was important that the council continued on the trajectory of utilising temporary staff less to support the development of a stable workforce. By extending the contract it would enable the council to undertake the necessary work to ensure a stable workforce going forward.

The Shadow Cabinet Member for Homes & Gateway Services stated that she had concerns that the council was in breach of public contract regulations. Queries were raised as to how contract end dates had been missed as it would have been necessary to assess service needs, best value for money and consult with service users ahead of the end date of a contract to ensure an appropriate new contract was in place in time. Furthermore concerns were raised in relation to the council's oversight of the finances of the authority given the number of extensions being recommended.

In response, the Cabinet Member stated that public administration had always been challenging for all bodies, however the council was experiencing particularly difficulties with the impact of COVID-19 and the financial situation of the council. It had been recognised that there had been insufficient oversight but that work was under way to fix those issues to ensure contracts were properly procured to get best value for money. The Cabinet Member assured Members that officers did seek to achieve best value for money when procuring contracts.

The concerns of residents in relation to Purley pool were raised by the Shadow Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport and the Cabinet Member was asked to ensure that the necessary funds were allocated to support the investment in the pool. In response the Cabinet Member stated that it was important that the council balanced all of its resources. Statutory services must be delivered and then all other services would be reviewed. It was necessary for tough decisions to be made to ensure there was a sustainable plan going forward.

The Statutory Deputy Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

**RESOLVED:** To approve the award of contract variation for Managed Service for Temporary Agency Resources contract in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report at agenda item 10a, as set out in section 4.1.1 of the report.

**RESOLVED:** To note

1. The contracts between £500,000 and £5,000,000 anticipated to be awarded by the nominated Cabinet Member, in consultation with the nominated Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources or, where the nominated Cabinet Member is the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Leader, as set out in section 4.2.1 of the report.
2. The list of delegated award decisions made by the Director of Commissioning and Procurement, between 18/08/2020 – 24/09/2020, as set out in section 4.2.2 of the report.
  - a **Variation to the contract for the provision of a Managed Service for Temporary Agency Resources**

The Statutory Deputy Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

**RESOLVED:** To

1. Approve the award of a variation to the term of the temporary agency worker contract with Adecco Ltd in accordance with Regulation 30 of the Council's Tenders and Contracts Regulations for a contract period of up to 24 months for an additional contract value of £50,000,000 bringing the total contract value to £188,000,000.
2. Note that an internal review of the commissioning options will take place by March 2021 and September 2021 to determine the optimum time for the re-procurement of this service and hence extension period required. Officers will present the results of the internal review to CCB and to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources at the latest March 2021 and, if action not already taken as a result of March 2021 review, at the latest September 2021.

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**Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This item was not required.

The meeting ended at 8.48 pm