

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

MINUTES of that part of the meeting of the MAYOR AND CABINET, which was open to the press and public, held on WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2008 at LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD, SE6 4RU at 5.30 p.m.

### **Present**

The Mayor (Sir Steve Bullock)(Chair); The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alexander (Vice-Chair); Councillors Best, Klier, Massey, Onuegbu and Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fitzsimmons.

### **Also Present**

Councillors Griesenbeck, Morris and Russell.

<u>Minute No.</u>		<u>Action</u>
1	<u>Declarations of Interests</u> (page	
	Councillor Wise declared a non prejudicial interest as a member of Lewisham Environment Trust.	
2	<u>Minutes</u> (page	
	RESOLVED	that the minutes of that part of the meeting of the Mayor and Cabinet, which was open to the press and public held on November 19 2008, be confirmed and signed
3	<u>Report Back on matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</u> (page	
	The Mayor was advised the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel had met on December 2 and agreed a call-in of a confidential decision he had considered on November 19.	
	In the confidential part of the meeting, the Mayor considered a written report from the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel and representations from the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny, the Deputy Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Community Services. He also received further advice from the Chief Executive, the Executive Director for Community Services and the Executive Director for Regeneration's representative.	
	Having considered the call-in, the Mayor noted there was still time to undertake further examination of possible community use of the building prior to the planned disposal at auction in	

Minute No.

Action

February 2009 and he accepted advice from the Deputy Mayor that there should be a further report to him in January 2009 laying out any realistic options for community use or explaining fully why disposal to generate capital receipts was of greater overall benefit to the community.

RESOLVED that

(i) the decisions made on November 19 in respect of the disposal be rescinded;

(ii) officers be asked to consult with the community and report back to the Mayor & Cabinet on January 28 2009 on possible options for the future use of the Rotary Day Centre.

ED Regen  
ED Community

4 Transfer of Funding for Learning Difficulties (page

RESOLVED that the transfer of the budget for the learning disability service of £7,498,008 per annum from Lewisham Primary Care Trust to the London Borough of Lewisham from 1 April 2009.

ED Community

5 Thurston Road: Traveller Site progress

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

6 Orchard Estate and Village Court – Final Transfer (page

RESOLVED that

(i) the absence of responses to the notices published in the local press of the Council's intention to dispose of the areas of open space be noted and the said areas be included in the land to be transferred to Broomleigh Housing Association;

ED Customer

(ii) the final terms of transfer for the Orchard Estate & Village Court be approved;

ED Customer

(iii) subject to obtaining full Council approval, officers seek to obtain Secretary of State's consent for disposal of land under Section 32 of the Housing Act 1985 for the transfer of the land shown in Appendix 1 of the report to Broomleigh Housing Association;

ED Customer

Minute No.

Action

(iv) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Customer Services, in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources and the Head of Legal Services, to conclude all other negotiations with Broomleigh and to finalise the legal documentation in connection with the transfer; and

ED Customer  
ED Resources  
Head of Law

(v) confidential information in respect of the commercially sensitive nature of the transfer be received.

7 Bereavement Services – Proposed Increase in Cemeteries and Crematorium Fees and Charges, January 2009 (page

RESOLVED that the increases proposed in Appendix A of the report take place with effect from Monday 5 January 2009.

ED Customer

8 Beckenham Place Park Consultation (page

The Mayor was addressed by David Hansom representing the Friends of Beckenham Place Park who described three elements of the park, the golf course, the woodlands and the river which he believed combined to make it a hidden gem. He said he would not like to see any developments that led to a loss of public access or which threatened the thriving 18 hole golf course. He recounted his participation in the consultation exercise but cast doubt about the value of the final interview phase with residents of the three closest Lewisham wards. He concluded by calling for the retention of the park's current character and asked the Mayor to consider only modest change.

The Mayor accepted a petition handed in by the Friends of Beckenham Place Park and promised this would be formally presented at a Council meeting.

Mayor/Head of  
Committee

The Mayor recounted he had made a detailed tour of the park and its facilities a couple of weekends before this meeting. He found the park to be unwelcoming with the dominant central position of the golf course leaving the impression that Beckenham Place was simply a golf course. In order to encourage greater foot fall, he called for improvements to signage and the preparation of a communications and marketing plan to take place as soon as possible.

The Mayor observed the Council did not have uncommitted

Minute No.

Action

capital resources to invest on the park and questions needed to be addressed as to how external investment could be generated. He asked for proposals concerning possible investment to be brought back to him at a future meeting.

In terms of the Mansion, the Mayor believed an opportunity existed for English Heritage to act more proactively. He outlined the numerous potential uses for the Mansion which had failed to come to fruition over the course of many years. He also said he would like to resolve the future of the golf course but was aware a number of elected members had strongly held views on what to do. He said he would reserve judgement until other elected members had had a chance to express their views.

In conclusion, the Mayor said he expected to see a succession of reports over the next year on the Park but that officers should press ahead with the signage, communication and marketing mandates as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that

(i) the results of the consultation undertaken over the past 5 months be noted;

(ii) officers be instructed to prioritise work to improve signage, and prepare a communications and marketing plan to encourage greater resident use of the park;

(iii) officers be instructed to further investigate potential funding for the park, golf course and Homestead buildings and present him with further proposals; and

(iv) officers be instructed to examine the potential future usage and funding options for the Mansion and to continue to assess all options for the golf course.

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9 Exclusion of the Press and Public (page

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, as

Minute No.

Action

amended by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to information) (Amendments) (England) Regulations 2006 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information:

The following is a summary of the items considered in the closed part of the meeting:

Item 101 Minutes

The Mayor agreed the confidential minutes of the meeting held on November 19 2008:

Item 102 Prendergast Vale College: Approval to Underwrite Design Costs

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

Item 103 Thurston Road: Traveller Site progress

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

Item 104 Transfer of NDC Assets to New Cross Gate Trust

The Mayor agreed that:

(i) Subject to the consent of the Government Office for London and all other necessary statutory consents to the transfers being obtained, the immediate transfer of the assets listed below at nil cost to the New Cross Gate Trust as previously agreed be approved:

- 137 New Cross Road SE14
- 387,Queens Road SE14 (Queens Road GP Practice)
- 178/182, New Cross Road SE 14(The Electric Empire)
- Parcels of land along Fishers Court SE14

(ii) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration (Head of Asset Strategy and Development) on the advice of the Head of Law to make any necessary applications for the above consents and agreed the terms of the transfers to the New Cross Gate Trust and all associated documentation;

ED Regen/  
Head of Law

(iii) the progress on the NDC Centre be noted.

Minute No.

Action

Item 105 Orchard Estate and Village Court – Final Transfer

The Mayor considered commercially sensitive information in conjunction with the report on the same item in the open part of the agenda.

The meeting ended at 6.44pm.

Chair