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CABINET

3 JUNE 2019

(7.15 pm - 8.02 pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Stephen Alambritis (in the Chair), Mark Allison, Laxmi Attawar, Tobin Byers, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Edith Macauley MBE, Eleanor Stringer and Martin Whelton

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Edward Gretton, Aidan Mundy and Peter Southgate

Ged Curran (Chief Executive), Hannah Doody (Director of Community and Housing), Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Chris Lee (Director of Environment and Regeneration), Rachael Wardell (Director, Children, Schools & Families Department), Zara Bishop (Senior Communications Officer (Wheelie Bin roll-out)), Fiona Thomsen (Head of shared legal services), Octavia Lamb (Policy and Research Officer (Labour Group)), Steve Langley (Head of Housing Needs and Strategy), Kris Witherington (Consultation & Community Engagement Manager) and Dr Dagmar Zeuner (Director, Public Health)
Louise Fleming (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kelly Braund, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

The Chair welcomed the two new Cabinet Members, Councillors Laxmi Attawar and Eleanor Stringer, to their first meeting of the Cabinet.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

4 REDUCING SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN COUNCIL BUILDINGS TASK GROUP REPORT (Agenda Item 4)

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Aidan Mundy, Chair of the Task Group, introduced the report. He thanked the officers and Members involved and outlined the recommendations which ranged from behaviour changes to supporting local businesses in reducing use of single use plastics.

Councillor Mark Allison, Cabinet Member for Finance, thanked the Task Group for its work and highlighted the importance of tackling overuse of plastic. He welcomed the recommendations for changing behaviour and reducing plastic waste across the Borough.

The Chair was keen to encourage local businesses to join the Mayor of London's Refill Programme and so welcomed the report, thanking Councillor Mundy for his contributions.

RESOLVED

- A. That the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix A to the Cabinet report) arising from the scrutiny review of Reducing Single Use Plastics in Merton Council Buildings be considered.
- B. That the implementation of the recommendations through an action plan being drawn up by officers working with relevant local partner organisations and Cabinet Members to be designated by Cabinet be agreed.
- C. That the action be submitted to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

5 REFERENCE FROM THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – PUBLIC HEALTH, AIR QUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT - A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO PARKING CHARGES (Agenda Item 5)

The Cabinet noted that the report had been deferred to the next Cabinet meeting.

6 EMISSIONS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY A REVIEW OF PARKING CHARGES 4 (Agenda Item 6)

The Cabinet noted that the report had been deferred to the next Cabinet meeting.

7 DIABETES ACTION PLAN AND ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT (Agenda Item 7)

Councillor Tobin Byers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and the Environment, presented the report. Treatment for diabetes represented 10% of the NHS budget and many cases of diabetes were preventable. The Health and Wellbeing Board had carried out work focussing on diabetes and he outlined the Diabetes Truth Programme which had contributed to the Tackling Diabetes Action Plan, drawn up jointly with the CCG. The Plan included measures to encourage people to lead a more active lifestyle. He thanked officers in Public Health, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the contributors to the Diabetes Truth programme.

At the invitation of the Chair, Nicky Winter spoke on behalf of the Diabetes Truth Programme and shared his experiences. He highlighted the importance of support

networks in the community to enable them to share ideas and experiences. He thanked everyone involved in the Programme for their work.

Following a brief presentation from the Director of Public Health, Cabinet Members welcomed the report and the helpful discussion at the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations considering the impact of diabetes on the Borough's BAME communities.

The Chair thanked all for their contributions.

RESOLVED

1. That the Annual Public Health Report 2019, Tackling Diabetes in Merton: learning from a whole system approach, be received and endorsed.
2. That the Merton Health and Wellbeing Board's work on diabetes and the Tackling Diabetes Action Plan 2019-2024 attached to the Cabinet report be noted.

8 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT (Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Transport presented the report which set out proposals for the enforcement of the housing sector. This was a growing issue for residents as a quarter of properties within Merton were in the private rented sector. He outlined the recommendations and drew the Cabinet's attention to similar work on this issue carried out in other Boroughs.

The Chair welcomed the report and thanked the Cabinet Member for his work on the report, including looking at the work of other boroughs.

RESOLVED

1. That the Civil Penalties and Rent Repayment Order policy and charging system as set out in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report be approved.
2. That the introduction of a revised fee structure for HMO mandatory licensing charges be approved.
3. That the case for using the income from Civil Penalties, Rent Repayment Orders and the revised mandatory HMO licensing scheme so as to build capacity within the Housing Enforcement Team in order to meet statutory requirements be approved.
4. That the renaming of the current Environmental Health Housing Service to the Housing Enforcement Team, to better reflect the current operating environment, be approved.
5. That the Housing Enforcement Policy be approved.
6. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Community and Housing to approve minor adaptations and updated to the Housing Enforcement Policy as and when required.
7. That further data analysis be carried out to identify which area(s) will be adopted for Selective Licensing.

9 CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (Agenda Item 9)

The Director of Children, Schools and Families presented the report and outlined the core changes to the partnership agreement, principally to move to a three statutory partner model with the Council, the Police and the CCG. All three proposed partners were consulted in the drafting of the new Partnership Agreement, in addition extensive consultation and engagement with schools.

The Director advised that an Independent Person post would be advertised for, which was a requirement of the legislation, and in addition a young person would be engaged to work alongside the independent scrutineer.

The Chair welcomed the report and thanked all those involved in the work in this important area. He welcomed the last OFSTED inspection which rated Children's Services as "good" overall and "outstanding" in three areas.

RESOLVED that the proposed arrangements for the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership 2019-2021, as set out in the Cabinet report, be approved.

10 2019 RESIDENTS SURVEY RESULTS (Agenda Item 10)

Councillor Mark Allison, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report, outlining the process carried out for the survey and stressing the importance of obtaining the views of residents on how well the Council is performing, which in turn helps the Council to decide what the future priorities should be. He thanked the officers involved, the company which carried out the survey and the 1000 adults, including the 271 young people, who took part in the survey. The data provided much to be proud of but some areas for further consideration and learning.

The overall satisfaction with the Council remained high and was above the LGA benchmark. Merton residents felt more positive overall about their area than elsewhere. There had been positive responses around Merton being a great place for families, including leisure, schools and perception of crime. Concerns had been expressed over street scene issues, impacted by the introduction of a brand new system for waste and recycling collection across the Borough. This trend had been seen in other boroughs that had also introduced similar changes.

One of the main concerns highlighted was the lack of affordable housing in the Borough and this was an issue to be addressed going forward. The current uncertainty around Brexit had harmed the housing market and impacted the amount of investment in the area and the viability of housing developments.

Cabinet welcomed the report, including the good results on schools, libraries and leisure provision and that measures would be taken to ensure continued improvement.

The Chair welcomed the results, including the local area breakdown, which provided learning for the future on an area by area; and cluster by cluster basis.

RESOLVED that the results of the Annual Residents' Survey 2019 be noted.