THE CABINET

Thursday, 1 October 2015

Agenda Item 3. Call-In of Cabinet Decision - Barking Housing Zone (Minute 26, 21 July 2015) (Pages 1 - 2)
Attached is a report on the outcome of the Living and Working Select Committee meeting held on 23 September 2015.

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This report is submitted under Agenda Item 3. The Chair will be asked to decide if it can be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency in order for the outcome of the call-in meeting to be considered.

CABINET

1 October 2015

Title: Call-In of Cabinet Decision – Barking Housing Zone (Minute 26, 21 July 2015)

Report of the Monitoring Officer

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<th>Report Author:</th>
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Accountable Divisional Director: Fiona Taylor, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Accountable Director: Chris Naylor, Chief Executive

Summary

The Living and Working Select Committee met on 9 September 2015 to consider a call-in, submitted by Councillors Mullane and Young, in respect of Minute 26 of the Cabinet on 21 July 2015, which related to the forming of the Barking Housing Zone (BHZ).

At that meeting the Select Committee requested further information from officers to enable full consideration of the Call-In and reach a view. This was supported by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration. The Select Committee was mindful of the timescales regarding the implementation of decisions and agreed to hold a special meeting as soon as possible.

The Select Committee reconvened on 23 September 2015 to consider the further information provided by Officers.

The focus of the Living and Working Select Committee’s concerns again related to the loss of social housing within the Borough and specifically that provision proposed in the BHZ. The Select Committee acknowledged points made by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration in relation to the balance of tenure within the proposed BHZ and welcomed the suggestion of a report on progress on the different schemes being considered by the Select Committee in nine months time. However, in considering the Call-In, the Select Committee felt that there were still some serious issues which needed to be addressed by Cabinet.

Taking the comments from the Cabinet Member and officers into account, the Select Committee advised, that whilst it had no objection to the principle of the BHZ and was encouraged by the greater emphasis on social housing in the follow up report and presentation, the matter should be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration with the following recommendations:

1. Better use of capital receipts to generate more social housing instead of the development of other facilities e.g. proposed cinema at the former Abbey Sports
Centre site.
2. The intentions of the schemes, while positive, were still too weak with regard to the mix of tenure for social and affordable housing and the LWSC wanted to see a much clearer commitment to social housing within the Zone and the individual plans.
3. LWSC noted that the Growth Commission will be reporting to Council on proposals for future regeneration of the Borough and would wish to see an evidence based discussion with the Commission on the balance of tenure the Council should be promoting in the light of existing housing need in Barking and Dagenham.
4. A re-examination of available funding within the HRA to build social housing in the BHZ should be undertaken.
5. Additional money received by the Council from the New Homes Bonus should be spent on providing more social housing, and
6. Going forward, officers should have regard to the language used in reports and avoid any derogatory or demeaning phrases.

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<th>Recommendation(s)</th>
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<td>The Cabinet is asked to:</td>
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<td>(i) Note the outcome of the Select Committee’s consideration of the matter; and</td>
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<td>(ii) Consider whether to support the recommendations of the Select Committee.</td>
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<th>Reason(s)</th>
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<td>To accord with the Council's Call-In processes.</td>
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Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Report to Cabinet, 21 July 2015, entitled “Barking Housing Zone”
- Report to LWSC, 9 September 2015, entitled “Call-In of Cabinet Decision – Barking Housing Zone”
- Report to LWSC, 23 September 2015, entitled “Call-In of Cabinet Decision – Barking Housing Zone”