PRESENT:
Chair: Councillor Clyde Loakes Deputy Leader

Cabinet Members:
Councillor Liaquat Ali MBE JP Portfolio Lead Member - Transformation and Commercial Operations
Councillor Naheed Asghar Portfolio Lead Member - Health and Voluntary Sector Partnerships
Councillor Ahsan Khan Portfolio Lead Member - Community Safety
Councillor Khevyn Limbajee Portfolio Lead Member - Adult Services
Councillor Louise Mitchell Portfolio Lead Member - Housing
Councillor Grace Williams Portfolio Lead Member - Children, Young People and Families
Councillor Paul Douglas Portfolio Lead Member - Culture
Councillor Ros Flowers Junior Cabinet Member - Life Chances
Councillor Vicky te Velde Junior Cabinet Member - Connecting Communities
Councillor Alistair Strathern Junior Cabinet Member - Asset Strategy & Transformation

(Junior Cabinet Members are appointed by the Leader to assist Cabinet in proposing, formulating and advising upon Council policy under the guidance of the appropriate Portfolio Holder. These Councillors are not Members of the Cabinet and do not have any voting rights nor decision-making powers.)

Councillors in Attendance: Councillor Karen Bellamy

Officers in Attendance:
Martin Esom Chief Executive
Richard Barker Director of Communities
Rhona Cadenhead Strategic Director, Corporate Development
Louise Duffield Director of Customer Service and Business Support
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clare Coghill, Simon Miller and Masood Ahmad.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Ali, Asghar and Khan all declared non-pecuniary interests in connection with agenda item 5 - Private Sector Property Licensing as they were all landlords.

3. MINUTES OF CABINET

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 13 June 2019, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Chair also welcomed work experience students Tania Cannon and Fortune Omongo to the meeting.

4. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THEMED REVIEW 18-19: PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REDUCING VIOLENT CRIME
Councillor Bellamy went through the Communities Scrutiny Committee recommendations detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. She then thanked officers for their assistance in drafting the report, particularly Ian Buckle – Head of Electoral and Democratic Services. She also gave thanks to Councillor Khan for his support.

Councillor Khan introduced the report and thanked Councillor Bellamy and the Communities Scrutiny Committee and said it was good to see the Committee focussing on current pressures in relation to community safety. He went on to say that the Violence Reduction Partnership report, at item 16 on the agenda, touched on the Committee’s recommendation around the public health approach. Councillor Khan went on to say that, although police officer numbers had been cut, there was a commitment for funding of a further 20,000 officers by 2022 as there was a correlation between cuts to police officers and escalating violence. He stated that young people were at the heart of the violence reduction partnership. Councillor Khan then thanked Linzi Roberts-Egan – Deputy Chief Executive, Michele Moloney – Director of Neighbourhoods and Commercial Services and Daniel Phelps – Director of Wellbeing and Independence.

Councillor Williams said that she was pleased to see such a constructive approach and said that the violence reduction partnership was for the benefit of all young people who were all entitled to the same life chances. She went on to say that it was important to note that risks were affecting young people at a much earlier stage and that some of the issues would take a significant time to resolve. Councillor Williams said that it was important to consider what could be done differently to improve outcomes. She added that it was heartening to see the work that had already been undertaken. Councillor Williams then stated that a review of alternative education provision to reduce outcomes like exclusions and confirmed that she had made a commitment to do so.

Councillor Asghar stated that some important work had been done around public health, including the actions and pledges referred to in the appendix to the report. She said that she was pleased to see additional investment into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) and thanked relevant officers and Councillor Khan for their hard work.

Councillor Loakes thanked officers and Communities Scrutiny Committee for their work on the report.

Cabinet agreed that:

(1) the Communities Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report be noted; and

(2) the recommendations outlined in the report be adopted and taken forward as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2 to the report.

5. PRIVATE SECTOR PROPERTY LICENSING

Councillors Ali, Asghar and Khan left the room for discussion of this item as they had declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item as either they or their spouses were landlords.
Councillor Mitchell introduced the report and gave thanks to David Beach – Director of Regulatory Services and Michele Moloney – Director of Neighbourhoods and Commercial Services for the huge amount of work they had undertaken. Councillor Mitchell confirmed that the report had been to Housing Scrutiny Committee and that the Committee’s recommendations could be viewed at Appendix 11 to the report. She then referred to the consultation exercise that had commenced in January 2019 and were led by independent consultants. Councillor Mitchell stated that the consultation period had lasted for longer than statutorily required. She then said that the Council had listened to respondents and had reduced some of the fees that many respondents had indicated that they would like to see. Councillor Mitchell added that the Mayor of London was impressed with the work. She then went on to say that the next steps would be officers to prepare a submission to the Secretary of State which she hoped would be before autumn.

Cabinet:

(1) considered the outcome of the consultation process detailed in the Consultation Report (May 2019) (Appendix 1 to the report refers), in particular the representations received and the Council’s consideration of, and response to, these representations [Appendix 2 to the report refers];

(2) noted that the Consultation Evidence Report [Appendix 3 to the report refers] highlights the scale of problems relating to poor housing conditions and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the private rented sector, identifies the objectives that a selective licensing designation would help the Council achieve and possible alternatives to such a designation;

(3) noted that the Consultation Evidence Report [Appendix 3 to the report refers] also highlights the scale of problems relating to poorly managed HMOs in the private rented sector, identifies the objectives that an additional licensing designation would help the Council achieve and possible alternatives to such a designation;

(4) upon consideration of the matters at (1) and (2) above and using its powers under s.80 Housing Act 2004, agreed to the designation of 18 wards (excluding Hatch Lane and Endlebury) of Waltham Forest as a selective licensing area from 1st April 2020 as delineated and edged red on the map at Appendix 4 to the report;

(5) upon consideration of the matters at (1) and (3) and using its powers under s.56 Housing Act 2004, agreed to the borough wide designation of Waltham Forest as an additional HMO licensing area from 1st April 2020 as delineated and edged red on the map at Appendix 5 to the report;

(6) agreed the proposed scheme objectives as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report;

(7) agreed to the proposed fee structure for licence applications made under the selective and additional licensing schemes at Appendix 7 to the report;

(8) agreed the proposed licence conditions that would accompany any granted selective licence at Appendix 8 to the report;

(9) agreed the proposed licence conditions that would accompany any granted additional licence at Appendix 9 to the report;
(10) agreed the policy regarding the granting of full-term licences under any new licensing designations and the granting or variation of licences under the existing selective licensing scheme at Appendix 10 to the report;

(11) delegated to the Lead Member for Housing and the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Commercial Services responsibility for agreeing the final document requesting confirmation of the selective licensing designation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law;

(12) delegated to the Lead Member for Housing and the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Commercial Services authority to agree changes to the proposed implementation of the schemes where necessary and to ensure that all statutory notifications are carried out in the prescribed manner for the designations and to take all necessary steps to provide for the operational delivery of any licensing schemes agreed by Cabinet including but not limited to the procurement of services subject to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (including authority to alter the fees structure if necessary);

(13) delegated to the Lead Member for Housing and the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Commercial Services responsibility for determining whether to consult on a possible further designation of two wards (Hatch Lane and Endlebury) under the criteria of ASB, subject to a review of the evidence and in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law; and

(14) noted the recommendations to Cabinet detailed in the reference from the Housing Scrutiny Committee (Appendix 11 to the report refers).

6. RE-DESIGNATION OF HIGHAM'S PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA/FORUM

Councillor Loakes introduced the report.

Cabinet:

(1) agreed to re-designate the area in Highams Park, shown on the plan at Appendix A to the report, as a Neighbourhood Planning Area; and

(2) agreed to re-designate the Highams Park Planning Group as a Neighbourhood Forum.

7. COMMUNITY ASSET REVIEW

Councillor Khan introduced the report and confirmed that some of the Council’s existing housing stock required investment. He gave thanks to Aiden McManus – Director of Property and Asset Management and his team for their hard work. He also thanked Richard Barker – Director of Communities and his team.

Cabinet:
(1) agreed further forward funding of £480,000 from the Investment Fund to enable the delivery of the programme over a 2 year period to support the production and implementation of the Community Asset Strategy;

(2) approved the use of the CBAT tool for awarding rent subsidies capped at a maximum level of 70%, to VCSOs leasing the Council’s community buildings;

(3) agreed to the creation of Community Hubs across the Connecting Communities Network areas; and

(4) delegated authority to review and implement the outputs of the 2 year programme to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Strategic Director for Economic Growth and Housing.

8. ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (SAMP)

Councillor Loakes introduced the report.
Cabinet:

(1) approved and adopt the enclosed Strategic Asset Management Plan; and

(2) delegated authority to the Commercial Director – Property and Delivery to finalise and publish the document and to action the recommendations contained in the SAMP.

9. AVENUE ROAD ESTATE AND HOUSING REGENERATION UPDATE

Councillor Mitchell introduced the report and, in doing so, confirmed that a large proportion of the £650K budget would go towards an engagement strategy and an Independent Leaseholder Advisor.

Cabinet:

(1) approved a budget of £650k for the appointment of a project team and relevant consultants to:

(a) develop and implement an engagement strategy at Avenue Road Estate
(b) progress initial design towards RIBA (Royal Institute British Architects) Stages 1 / 2
(c) develop a brief for the procurement of a preferred developer partner
(d) provide initial cost consultancy on the financial viability of the options brought forward
(e) carry out site surveys to support possible future development options
(2) agreed to delegate all decisions required to award a contract for consultancy services for the project team to the interim Commercial Director of Housing Delivery;

(3) agreed to carry out soft market testing and prepare a brief for the procurement of a preferred developer partner;

(4) agreed that the Commercial Director, Property and Delivery begins initial discussions and negotiation on all leaseholder and freeholder interests at Avenue Road Estate;

(5) agreed to serve an Initial Demolition Notice on Avenue Road Estate;

(6) agreed to delegate the decision to designate Avenue Road Estate for ‘priority-decant-status’ to the Corporate Director of Housing for those residents affected by the structural survey; and

(7) agreed to remove ‘priority-decant-status’ from Montague Road Estate.

10. HOUSING DELIVERY TEST ACTION PLAN

Councillor Mitchell introduced the report.

Cabinet:

(1) adopted the Housing Delivery Test Action Plan (attached at Appendix 1 to the report);

(2) delegated any alterations to the Housing Delivery Test Action Plan made prior to publication to the Strategic Director of Economic Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Economic Growth and Housing Development; and

(3) delegated the adoption of future Housing Delivery Test Action Plans to the Portfolio Lead Member for Economic Growth and Housing Development.

11. WALTHAM FOREST DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Councillor Loakes introduced the report.

Cabinet:

(1) approved the draft plan for publication and consultation attached as Appendix A to the report;

(2) delegated authority to make final changes to the draft plan ahead of consultation, to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economic Growth and Housing Development; and

(3) noted the next steps of the plan preparation process and the timetable changes.
12. **NURSING HOME BLOCK CONTRACT**

Councillor Limbajee introduced the report and, in doing so, gave thanks to Darren Newman – Assistant Director of Commissioning and Linzi Roberts-Egan – Deputy Chief Executive and her team.

Cabinet agreed to fund 50% of the Clinical Commissioning Group’s block contract with HC-One for nursing beds via a Memorandum of Understanding.

13. **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF SNOWBERRY NURSERY**

Councillor Williams introduced the report and said that the proposal was necessary, as Snowberry Nursery was no longer financially viable. She said that there were other nurseries in the same area which were struggling. Councillor Williams confirmed that despite the closure, all children would have their care maintained.

Cabinet:

(1) agreed to the closure of Snowberry Nursery by 30th August 2019; and

(2) noted the arrangements, as outlined in paragraphs 3.1.8 and 3.2.9 of the report, that will be put in place to support families to find alternative provision and assist with transition arrangements for children, if the closure of the nursery is agreed.

14. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2018/19**

Councillor Loakes introduced the report.

Cabinet:

(1) noted the Revenue and Capital Outturn for 2018/19;

(2) approved the Capital carry-forwards in respect of programme slippage totalling £23.538 million at Appendix 3(i) to the report;

(3) approved the transfer of the net underspend of £7,000 to the Budget Strategy Reserve (BSR); and

(4) noted the movement of reserves at Appendix 2 to the report.
15. **FINANCIAL MONITORING: MONTH 2 (MAY)**

Councillor Loakes introduced the report and, in doing so, reminded Cabinet Members that there was an expectation for each of them to monitor budgets associated with their portfolio areas.

Martin Esom – Chief Executive, stated that he had written to the Leader to set out the mitigations that had been put in place to address the issues raised in the Families and Homes Financial Sustainability Update report that was approved at the last Cabinet meeting, and how these actions would be monitored going forward.

Cabinet:

(1) noted the projected revenue expenditure position of an overspend of £4.254 million as at month 2 and that the Council will report any mitigating actions in the month 3 monitor;

(2) noted that budgets for demographic pressure continue to be held corporately and distributed to mitigate reported pressures within Families and Homes as required;

(3) agreed the savings proposals detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;

(4) noted that the Ground rules for Financial Control (Appendix 2 to the report) approved at Cabinet on 11 July 2017 remain in place;

(5) noted costs for strategic governance review of the Council’s Local Authority Trading Companies (LATCs) of approximately £35,000 to be funded from contingency;

(6) noted costs for Local London Partnership subscriptions of £50,000 to be funded from contingency;

(7) noted costs for Low Hall Depot upgrade of £200,000 to be funded from the BSR Investment Reserve;

(8) noted costs for Leyton Phase 2a works of £165,000 to be funded from the BSR Investment Reserve;

(9) noted costs for London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) of £30,000 per annum for 3 years to be funded from the BSR Investment Reserve;

(10) noted additional costs for GDPR requirement of £300,000 to be funded from contingency; and

(11) noted the Beach Volleyball continental cup costs of £40,000 to be funded from contingency.

16. **VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP**

Cabinet noted the progress and risks to success.
17. CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT: SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Councillor Loakes introduced the report.

Cabinet approved the deletion of the Divisional Director of Transformation and HR and agreed the creation of the Divisional Director of Strategy and Change, and Divisional Director of Employee Experience posts.

18. MUNICIPAL JOURNAL (MJ) AWARDS

Councillor Loakes gave thanks to all councillors, staff and partner organisations who had contributed to Waltham Forest Council being named Council of the Year in the MJ Awards.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm

Chair’s Signature

Date