

Cabinet

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday 20 September 2021

Members Present: Councillors Rachael Robathan (Chairman), Timothy Barnes, , Matthew Green, David Harvey, Tim Mitchell and Paul Swaddle, OBE

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 It was noted that there was one change to the membership, with Councillor James Spencer replacing Councillor Melvyn Caplan as Cabinet Member for City Management. Apologies were received from Councillor Heather Acton.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 MINUTES

3.1 **RESOLVED:** The Leader, with the consent of the Members present, signed the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2021 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4 FUTURE OF THE IT SERVICE

4.1 Councillor Paul Swaddle introduced the report as forming part of a review of all Council shared services and that this emerged following officers identifying different needs across the current Bi-borough model with Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. He advised that following a report from PwC, the recommended decision is to disaggregate the two services, jointly agreed by both Councils and the paper sets out the approach. He added that this is one part of the review and does not reflect on other bi-borough services that run very well.

4.2 Gerald Almeroth, Executive Director for Finance and Resource, noted that the second part of the report details the three options, and that the different strategic agendas of each council mean disaggregation is the strongest option. He added that the delivery of Smart City as part of a City for All requires the the Council to have an IT service that is responsive and works at pace. He noted the importance of managing a safe transition and that key risks have already been identified, and that a comprehensive due diligence process will follow.

4.3 Councillor Tim Mitchell asked for assurance that the Bi-borough service in his portfolio, Adult Social Care and Public Health, will not have frontline service delivery impacted as a result of the transition. Mr Almeroth advised that the IT service serves frontline services in different ways and many services have joined up IT services functions, and as part of the transition those will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine if they should remain, with a medium to long term plan to ensure they remain beneficial to the Council.

- 4.4 Councillor Green noted the importance of Licensing and Planning online portals for residents and sought assurance that those portals would not be impacted by the changes either. Mr Almeroth advised that continuity of services for the frontline is critical and IT is an important support function. He noted that such risks will be managed and are the forefront of planning moving forward.
- 4.5 Cllr Robathan noted that Bi-borough work has significant benefits for residents including efficiencies and improvement of service by working across boroughs in Adult's and Children's Services, indicating that the Bi-borough process is strong but does not need to be a blanket approach and that some areas are benefited by disaggregating.

RESOLVED: Cabinet agreed that, in mutual agreement with RBKC, notice be given to terminate the deemed Section 113 Shared ICT Agreement, and delegated authority to the Chief Executive to take all actions and decisions such as necessary or prudent to manage the transition to a sovereign IT service following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Smart City.

The meeting concluded at 6.41pm.