

Pre-Decision Questions - Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Report	Question / Response
Agenda Item 6.3 Disposals Programme	<p>Question</p> <p>1. On the disposal of the site on Southern Grove: Is the Mayor confident that all possible uses of the site to provide homes for local people have been considered, for example, has he considered the use of a community land trust to create a greater number of affordable homes for local people than might be created through a sale of the site. Will he halt the process for sale of the site in order to fully explore all options that might be open to him to use the site to create affordable homes for local people.</p>
	<p>Response: A verbal response will be given by officers at Cabinet</p>
Agenda Item 7.1 Future Commissioning Arrangements for Public Health services	<p>Questions</p> <p>1.</p> <p>a) On what basis has the decision been made to discontinue the services listed in SECTION IE in the appendix to this report?</p> <p>b) What is our best current information about what our budget allocation is likely to be for public health as compared to the current budget?</p> <p>c) If the budget is significantly greater or less than that expected will a new commissioning plan return to cabinet?</p> <p>2. Does the Mayor intend to maintain the contracts with Barts and ELFT post 2014?</p>
	<p>Response to question 1:</p> <p>The decision to discontinue these contracts was made by the Public Health Directorate of NHS Tower Hamlets and this aspect of the report on future commissioning arrangements for public health services is going to Cabinet for information only. Three of the contracts (all relating to mental health promotion) relate to a fixed term research project and two pilots and these come to a planned end before April 2013. The results of these three pieces of work are being evaluated and will be used to inform the forthcoming Mental Health Strategy. The contract relating to tuberculosis testing is not being continued as responsibilities for commissioning the testing for tuberculosis will transfer to the Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group. A proposal for this service to continue has been developed and is</p>

currently being considered by the CCG. The other six contracts are not being renewed on the basis that the PCT's contract monitoring arrangements have demonstrated that the outcomes achieved by these services are insufficient to merit their continuation. This is not a reflection on the quality of service delivered by providers, but reflects limited evidence of clinical effectiveness.

The Department of Health indicated in June 2012 that, except in exceptional circumstances, Local Authorities can expect to receive the same level baseline funding for 2013/14. NHS North East London and the City on behalf of the Public Health Directorate of NHS Tower Hamlets submitted a series of baseline figures to the Department of Health relating to existing expenditure on the Public Health functions that will transfer to the authority (as well as those which will transfer to the Clinical Commissioning Group and to the National Commissioning Board), and these baseline submissions currently indicate that there is sufficient funding to meet existing commitments for 2013/14. However, although the recommendations to Cabinet are based on this being the case, there can be no certainty about this until the Public Health Grant allocations are published by the Department of Health. The Public Health Grant allocations were due to be published on the 19th of December 2012, but the publication was postponed to a date still to be confirmed in January 2013. As soon as the announcement is made senior officers will review the commissioning plans for 2013/14 with NHS colleagues and if any adjustments to the current plans are required further decisions will be sought from Cabinet as necessary.

Response to question 2:

The public health services provided under contract from Barts Health NHS Trust and the East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) are part of much larger, and very complex, contracts for a broad range of health services held by the PCT with these organisations, which also cover a number of local authority areas. There is, therefore, significant further work to be done within the authority, in collaboration with neighbouring authorities, and with the new Clinical Commissioning Groups, to determine how best to contract in the future for the public health services currently provided by Barts and ELFT. This work has begun, and will continue into 2013/14. It is therefore much too early to say how these services will be contracted for beyond the life of the current contracts. Further reports will be presented to Cabinet in 2013 making recommendations about how these and other public health services can best be contracted for in a manner consistent with the Public Contracts Regulations (2006), the Council's Financial and Procurement Regulations and our duty to achieve best value.

<p>Agenda Item 8.1 Bonner Primary School – proposed extension</p>	<p>Question</p> <p>1. What engagement has there been with residents around Ropery St, Southern Grove and English St, and the surrounding area, on how to deal with disruption and building works, and then with additional footfall and traffic whilst the site is redeveloped and then once it is opened?.</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>A planning application was submitted for the proposed change of use of the PDC site. Residents were made aware of the proposal during the consultation on the application. Before the application was submitted, a consultation meeting was held at the PDC for local residents; leaflets were distributed locally to inform residents about the meeting. Details available included proposed access arrangements.</p> <p>During the consultation referred to in the report on the Cabinet agenda (1 October to 10 November 2012), some local residents attended meetings that were held at the PDC and heard about the proposals and the proposed access routes to be used.</p> <p>The first 60 children to be admitted this term are occupying temporary buildings and the school will be using the English Street entrance to the site until the start of next term. The school will then use the Ropery Street entrance. It is proposed once the site is fully occupied by the school it will use both the Ropery Street and Southern Grove entrances for children and other visitors. The English Street entrance will be used for delivery vehicles only.</p> <p>The contractor delivered leaflets to surrounding properties when works started and issues further information monthly.</p>