
REPORT OF CABINET

MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2007

Chairman: * Councillor Chris Mote

Councillors: * David Ashton * Janet Mote
 * Marilyn Ashton * Paul Osborn
 * Mrs Camilla Bath * Mrs Anjana Patel
 * Miss Christine Bednell * Eric Silver
 Mrs Kinnear

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL

PART II - MINUTES

160. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2006 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

161. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>
11. Outcome of Statutory Consultations on Proposed Changes to the Meals on Wheels Service	Councillor Margaret Davine	The Member, who was not a member of Cabinet, declared a personal interest in that she had a relative who received Meals on Wheels. She would remain in the room whilst this matter was considered and voted upon.
14. Disposal of Former Allotments at Kenmore Road	Councillor Navin Shah	The Member, who was not a member of Cabinet, declared a personal interest in that he was a Ward Councillor for the area. He would remain in the room whilst this matter was considered and voted upon.

162. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda items be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency</u>
17(a). Urgent Item – Advisory Panel Memberships	The proposed amendments to memberships were not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated. Members were asked to consider the revisions to enable the amendments to be implemented.
17(b). Urgent Item – Director of Corporate Governance	The Chairman raised the item in view of the fact that the Director of Corporate Governance would be leaving the Council before the next meeting of Cabinet.

(2) all business be considered with the press and public present with the exception of the following item for the reason set out below:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
18. Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) – Outline Business Case (OBC) Approval	The report contained exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in that it contained information in relation to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

(3) it be noted that agenda item 9 – Organisation Review had been withdrawn.

163. **Petitions:**

Councillor Eric Silver presented a petition containing 65 signatures in relation to a development at 37 Norwood Drive (planning ref: P/1973/04/DFU). He read the terms of the petition to the meeting, which were as follows:-

"We, the residents of Norwood Drive, North Harrow, hereby sign this petition in protest at the development of No.37 into 7 self-contained flats. Original planning application was for a 5-bedroom house ref: P/1973/04/DFU."

RESOLVED: That the petition be noted and referred to the Development Management Committee.

164. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that the following public question had been received:

1.

Questioner: Joan Penrose

Asked of: Councillor David Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Matters

Question: "How are you going to ensure that Harrow Council complies with DoH instructions that an individuals physical and mental needs must not be increased by the Council's decisions?"

[Note: An oral answer was provided to the above question and, under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 16.4, the questioner asked a supplementary question which was additionally answered].

165. **Councillor Question Time:**

RESOLVED: To note the following Councillor Questions had been received:

1.

Questioner: Councillor Keith Ferry

Asked of: Councillor David Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Matters

Question: "As a high profile organisation in Harrow which gives opportunities for hundreds of Harrow children, Harrow Young Musicians has already been severely compromised financially by the lack of increase in the grant over the last ten years (6.6%).

A further proposed cut of £16,000 in grant would cripple the organisation, putting at risk the range of provision and pricing many students out of its activities.

Does the Council want to see Harrow Young Musicians as an elitist organisation only attended by those who can afford it?"

2.

Questioner: Councillor Margaret Davine

Asked of: Councillor Eric Silver, Portfolio Holder for Adult Community Care Services and Issues facing People with Special Needs

Question: "How many of the 435 service users currently receiving hot meals have been assessed as unable to reheat a meal themselves?"

[Note: Oral answers were provided to the above questions and, in accordance with the Councillor Question Time Rules, each questioner asked a supplemental question that was additionally answered].

166. **Forward Plan 1 January - 30 April 2007:**

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Forward Plan for the period 1 January – 30 April 2007.

167. **Reports from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub-Committees - Children Looked After - Scrutiny Report and Response to Government Green Paper:**

Cabinet received the report, which provided information on the work of the Children's Scrutiny Panel, the views of young people and officers regarding the Green Paper on Children Looked After and summarised Harrow's position on these matters.

The Portfolio Holder for People First – Children's Services indicated her gratitude to the Scrutiny Sub-Committee and officers for their comprehensive report. The Chairman commented that the report presented a good example of Scrutiny and the Executive working together.

The Portfolio Holder for People First – Children's Services proposed an amendment to recommendation 1 on page 20 of the report in order to provide greater clarity and it was

RESOLVED: That (1) the proposals of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Sub-Committee, as set out in Appendix C to the officer report, be approved, subject to Recommendation 4 being amended to "...encourage every Member of the Council...";

(2) the Portfolio Holder for People First – Children's Services be authorised to respond to the Green Paper in line with the scrutiny and consultation responses.

Reason for Decision: To improve the life chances and outcomes for Children Looked After.

168. **Key Decision - Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2007/2008:**

The Director of Financial and Business Strategy introduced the report, which advised that the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government Act 2003, required the Authority to formally calculate its Council Tax Taxbase for 2007-2008 and to pass this information to precepting authorities by 31 January 2007.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Matters indicated that Harrow had one of the highest Council Tax collection rates in London.

RESOLVED: That (1) the Band D equivalent number of taxable properties be calculated, as set out in the appendix to the report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy, in accordance with the Government regulations;

(2) the provision for uncollectable amounts of Council Tax for 2007-2008 be agreed at 1.5% producing an expected collection rate of 98.5%;

(3) subject to (1) and (2) above, the Council Tax Taxbase for 2007-2008 of 84,926 Band D equivalent properties (being 86,219 x 98.5%) be approved, allowing for payment in lieu of Ministry of Defence properties.

Reason for Decision: To fulfil the Council's statutory obligation to set the Council Tax Taxbase for 2007-2008.

169. **Key Decision - Outcome of Statutory Consultations on Proposed Changes to the Meals on Wheels Service:**

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Community Care Services and Issues facing People with Special Needs introduced the report, which set out the public response to the statutory consultations on the proposed changes to the Meals on Wheels service.

RESOLVED: (1) To retain a hot meals service only for those service users who were assessed as being unable to reheat a meal themselves;

(2) to offer a frozen meals service or the option for service users to use Direct Payments to purchase their own meals from a supplier of their choice;

(3) to apply a common subsidy of 44% of the total cost of production to both hot and frozen meals resulting in a charge of £2.78 for frozen meals and £4.25 for hot meals, and for these charges to be reviewed annually;

(4) that, following implementation of resolutions (1), (2) and (3) above, a review of the Hot Asian Meals production kitchen be undertaken and the outcome of the review be reported back to Cabinet as soon as possible.

Reason for Decision: To determine proposals concerning the future delivery of the service.

170. **LIFT/PFI Project:**

The Acting Chief Executive introduced the report, which set out a proposed new framework for monitoring and maintaining oversight of the LIFT/PFI project to replace the HOST Panel.

RESOLVED: That (1) an informal Member Steering Group be established, comprising the Deputy Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Community Care Services and Issues Facing People with Special Needs and an Opposition Member, to maintain a general overview of the project;

(2) the responsibility for more formal periodic monitoring of the project remain with the Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Adult Health and Social Care and, with the agreement of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, a report be made to the Sub-Committee following agreement of the Stage 2 process by Cabinet.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that Members were kept fully briefed about progress with the project.

171. **Corporate Parenting Panel:**

The Portfolio Holder for People First – Children’s Services introduced the report, which proposed the establishment of a Corporate Parenting Panel to enable the Council to fulfil its duties as Corporate Parent to Children Looked After by the Council.

The Portfolio Holder for People First – Children’s Services advised that the use of Education Champions by Barnet Council had resulted in definite improvements in children’s achievements, and proposed that the first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel consider ways in which Harrow could develop Barnet’s ideas with a ‘Harrow flavour’.

Nominations for membership of the Panel were tabled and it was

RESOLVED: To (1) establish a Corporate Parenting Panel as an Advisory Panel to Cabinet to meet on a quarterly basis;

(2) establish the Panel as a proportionate body comprising six Elected Members and Reserves (as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes) and that Councillor Janet Mote be appointed Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2006/07;

(3) agree the Terms of Reference for the Panel attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Council to fulfil its responsibility as a Corporate Parent.

172. **Key Decision - Disposal of Former Allotments at Kenmore Road:**

The Executive Director (Urban Living) introduced the report, which set out details of the vacant former allotments site and proposed disposal of the site for best consideration.

RESOLVED: That (1) the Executive Director (Urban Living) be authorised to negotiate the best possible purchase price for the sale of the site;

(2) authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Urban Living) to consider and arbitrate on any objections received following advertisement of the proposed disposal.

Reason for Decision: To enable a redundant site to be sold raising a capital receipt for the Council at best consideration. The proposal was consistent with the Council's Corporate Priority of tackling waste and giving real value for money.

173. **"Scores on the Doors" A Pan-London Pilot Scheme to publicise the results of Food Hygiene/Safety Inspection Results:**

The Cabinet received a report of the Executive Director (Urban Living) which proposed that Harrow participate in a London-wide "Scores on the Doors" pilot scheme in partnership with the Food Standards Agency. The scheme aimed to publish food hygiene inspection information on the internet.

In response to a question from a Member, officers advised that the anticipated implementation date for the scheme was mid-summer 2007.

RESOLVED: To agree that Harrow Council participate in a London-wide "Scores on the Doors" pilot scheme, as outlined in the body of the report of the Executive Director (Urban Living).

Reason for Decision: To improve consumer access to public information in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Environmental Information legislation in a cost effective and efficient way.

174. **Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service - Re-organisation of Service Structure:**

The Cabinet received a report of the Executive Director (Urban Living) which provided information on a proposal to reorganise the Trading Standards Service.

An additional recommendation was proposed and it was

RESOLVED: To (1) endorse the reorganisation of the Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service as outlined in the body of the report of the Executive Director (Urban Living);

(2) undertake a strategic service review of the reorganised Trading Standards service in 2007/8 to inform the 2008/9 budget decision making process.

Reason for Decision: Comparisons between this Service and neighbouring and CIPFA "family" authorities had shown that the cost of the Service per 1000 population was high. A study of the management structure identified that it appeared "top heavy" and should be targeted to reduce costs to provide Gershon and direct savings.

175. **Key Decision - Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) - Outline Business Case (OBC) Approval:**

The Cabinet received a confidential report of the Executive Director (Urban Living) in this regard.

RESOLVED: To (1) authorise submission of the Outline Business Case to the Department for Transport, for their approval;

(2) authorise proceeding to full PFI procurement, conditional upon Department for Transport approval;

(3) delegate authority to the Executive Director (Urban Living), in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Urban Living (Community Safety and Public Realm) to approve any necessary amendments to the OBC post-Cabinet but prior to submission to the Department for Transport.

Reason for Decision: To comply with the Department for Transport's deadline for submission of Harrow's OBC by 31 March 2007.

176. **Urgent Item - Advisory Panel Memberships:**

The Chairman proposed a number of changes to the memberships of the Cabinet Advisory Panels.

RESOLVED: That the schedule attached at Appendix 3 to these minutes be approved.

Reason for Decision: To revise the memberships of a number of Cabinet bodies.

177. **Urgent Item - Director of Corporate Governance:**
The Chairman expressed his appreciation for John Robinson's outstanding service to the Council.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.43 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR CHRIS MOTE
Chairman

APPENDIX 1

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL (6)

Conservative

Labour

Liberal Democrat

I
Members

**Janet Mote
Eric Silver
Paul Osborn
Myra Michael**

**Margaret Davine
Mitzi Green**

II.
Reserve
Members

1. Chris Mote
2. Mrs Vina Mithani
3. Julia Merison
4. Mark Versallion

1. B E Gate
2. Raj Ray

APPENDIX 2CORPORATE PARENTING PANELDRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**Purpose**

1. To ensure that the Council is fulfilling its duties towards Looked After Children corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies.
2. To consider matters referred to the Panel within its terms of reference and to make recommendations to Cabinet/Portfolio Holder as appropriate including:
 - a. Approving annually the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service
 - b. Approving annually the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service

Role of the Panel

1. To take an overview of the Council's and partner agencies responsibilities towards looked after children
2. To examine ways in which the Council as a whole and partner agencies can improve the life chances of looked after children and care leavers.
3. Ensure there are good joint working arrangements between council departments and partner agencies.
4. To provide a forum for Children Looked After (CLA) to participate and influence policy and enable CLA to have opportunity to talk about issues relating to their own direct experiences of services they have received. Hence the Board will ensure that the positive experiences/services are maintained and lessons are learnt and changes made in the areas that require improvements.
5. To comment on and contribute to plans, policies and strategies for looked after children and make appropriate recommendations for action.
6. To have a monitoring role, by receiving regular progress reports on a number of key PI's e.g. educational attainment (including implementation of Personal Education Plans), health assessments and implementation of Local Area Agreements for CLA.
7. Monitor the plans/needs of children in Secure Accommodation.
8. To receive regular reports on the needs of care leavers including employment, further education, training and housing.
9. To receive annual reports on the following services
 - Adoption
 - Fostering
 - Complaints
10. To meet with CLA and their carers on a regular basis to consult and celebrate achievements, festivals etc.
11. To manage and arrange Member visits to
 - Children's Homes
 - Foster Placements
 - Frontline Services (as indicated in the Victoria Climbié Audit)

Membership

The Corporate Parenting panel will comprise:

A proportionate number of 6 Elected Members

Service Users, Carers and Schools (Non-Voting)

- 2 Children Looked After
- 2 Foster Carers
- 1 Designated Teacher

Senior Officers (advisors to the Panel – to attend as appropriate to the work of the Panel)

- Director of Children's Services
- Group Manager + Children and Families
- Group Manager Safeguarding and Family Support
- Group Manager Fostering, Adoption and Residential Care
- Senior Professional (Inclusion)
- Principal Educational Psychologist
- Senior Coordinator (Children Looked After)

APPENDIX 3CABINET ADVISORY PANELS 2006/2007

(Membership in order of political group nominations)

ConservativeLabourLiberal Democrat**(5) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PANEL (7)****(4)****(3)****I**
Members**Marilyn Ashton (CH)**
Robert Benson
Manji Kara
Joyce Nickolay**Keith Ferry**
Thaya Idaikkadar
Navin Shah ***II.**
Reserve
Members1. Narinder Singh Mudhar
2. Golam Chowdhury
3. Janet Cowan
4. Dinesh Solanki1. Mano Dharmarajah
2. Jerry Miles
3. Raj Ray**(8) TOWN CENTRE AND MAJOR PROJECTS PANEL (6)****(4)****(2)****I.**
Members**David Ashton**
Marilyn Ashton (CH)
Susan Hall
Chris Mote**Phillip O'Dell ***
Navin Shah**II.**
Reserve
Members1. Miss Christine Bednell
2. Eric Silver
3. Janet Mote1. Bill Stephenson
2. Mrs Margaret Davine
3. -