

CABINET MINUTES

15 JULY 2010

Chairman: * Councillor Bill Stephenson

Councillors:

* Bob Currie	* Graham Henson
* Margaret Davine	* Thaya Idaikkadar
* Keith Ferry	* Phillip O'Dell
* Brian Gate	* Mrs Rekha Shah
* Mitzi Green	

In attendance:	Susan Hall	Minute 20
(Councillors)	Barry Macleod-Cullinane	Minute 20
	Paul Osborn	Minute 20
	Bill Phillips	Minute 20

* Denotes Member present

16. **Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

Agenda Item 13 – Housing Ambition Plan

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a personal and prejudicial interest in that, as a Portfolio Holder in the previous administration, he had helped to draw up the Housing Ambition Plan. He stated that considered he was not compromised by being in the room to listen to the discussion on the report.

Agenda Item 14 – A Framework Agreement for Adult Home Support Services for Harrow in Partnership with the West London Alliance

During the course of the meeting, Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item, as a Portfolio Holder in the previous administration. He stated that he considered he was not compromised by being in the room to listen to the discussion on the report.

17. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, subject to the following amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2010 be taken as read and signed as a correct record:

Minute 7, Question 7, to add ' yes and yes' to the reply given by Councillor Stephenson to the questioner.

18. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were submitted.

19. Public Questions

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

1.

Questioner: Jeremy Zeid

Asked of: Councillor Rekha Shah, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services

Question: What are your plans and timetables for a) Harrow's libraries and b) improving Harrow's sports facilities?

Answer: Self-service will be introduced into libraries within 12 months to make it quicker and easier to borrow, return or renew books.

In the medium term, options will be developed for combining the Civic Centre and Gayton Libraries on one site in the Town Centre as a community hub. Opportunities will be sought to develop libraries as community hubs elsewhere in the borough, to maximise access to the whole community. In the longer term the administration will also try and reverse the cuts in opening hours made by the previous administration.

With regard to the sports facilities, consideration will be given to the long term future of the Leisure Centre and Byron Hall, including the potential replacement of the existing facilities. The administration will also look to provide more localised sports facilities. This will be informed by the current review of sports provision in the Borough.

Supplemental Question: (a) Is there any threat to Kenton Library;

- (b) If you are going to be looking at redeveloping the Leisure Centre, how will this be funded?

Supplemental Answer: (a) The administration is not going to close Kenton Library;

- (b) the administration has not yet discussed the funding arrangements, and will bring forward firm proposals in due course.

20. Councillor Questions

The Leader of the Council reminded Members that there was a time limit of 15 minutes for this item. Questions 1 – 8 were answered at the meeting.

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

1.

Questioner: Councillor Bill Phillips

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services

Question: "What has been the effect on the Business Transformation Programme of the lack of investment in our IT infrastructure over the last 4 years?"

Answer: Thank you for the question.

The failure of the last administration to understand the close relationship between IT and Business Transformation, together with the lack of investment in this area, has meant that the Council has not been able to reap the efficiencies expected when Capita was appointed by a former administration, as its Business Transformation Partner.

The lack of investment has resulted in a fragmented infrastructure that has affected reliability and made it difficult to use new technology. As a result, the IT has been a constraint rather than an enabler to new technology. For instance, many applications such as the document management system do not interface readily with the Groupwise email system and the customer management system used in Access Harrow does not sit well with the outdated desktop operating system.

The problems have resulted in a higher development and maintenance costs with the use of non-standard

solutions, which in turn have reduced the level of benefits realised. This has also meant that the users are not always getting the most out of the technical solutions with less automation than there should be. The Council has an increased reliance on particular suppliers and an inherent lack of flexibility to address new transformations. As the Council would have to go back through every business case in fine detail, which would take significant time and cost, it has not been able to quantify the actual financial impact.

2.

Questioner: Councillor Bill Phillips

Asked of: Councillor Brian Gate, Portfolio Holder for Schools and Colleges

Question "What are the effects on our local schools and Children's Services of the recent dictates from the Education Secretary regarding the institution of "Free Schools", "Fast Track Academies" and the suspension of the BSF Programme?"

Answer: Thank you very much for the question.

Currently there are not any details available in respect of the Free Schools Programme. Harrow has no shortage of places in the secondary sector and there are no failing schools either. I believe that site availability would be at a premium but, until more information is available, it is not possible to make any further comment.

In terms of the Fast Track Academies, few schools in Harrow had registered an interest in becoming Academies but, at the moment, none have moved forward. The Council has provided support to enable schools to make an informed decision.

The BSF Programme does not affect Harrow. Harrow has not invested any significant resources in planning for BSF delivery. The only investment Harrow had made was the time and effort expended, demonstrating the readiness to deliver and gain entry to the Programme.

The Council is immensely proud of Whitmore school in the One School Pathfinder Project, which will open in September 2010 on time and on budget. It is expected that future capital investment will be scaled back and, therefore, the suitability and condition of buildings will become a key driver for investment.

There are a large number of pupils in temporary accommodation in many of Harrow's schools and despite best efforts, many have less than desirable accommodation.

Finally, the schools' efforts in delivering a high standard of education to the children despite some of the difficulties experienced in the buildings are to be praised.

3.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: "Why, in the Cabinet paper 'In Year Funding Cuts 2010/11', have the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive and the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant been included as part of a total funding cut from central Government (Para. 2), when the Council had not actually budgeted to receive those grants?"

Answer: The Council did not put the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive funding or the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant, £350k and £152k respectively in the budget, as it was not aware of the actual amounts to include. However, it is now aware of the amounts, which have been cut and, therefore, considers it is reasonable to put the amounts in the summary of in-year funding cuts. Both grants would have provided much needed additional money for the Council this year.

On a daily basis, the government is announcing additional funding cuts. Since the report was prepared, a further £200k revenue funding and £1m capital funding have been cut. This includes cuts to free swimming of £110,000, loss of migrant impact fund of £70k, 50% reduction in Home Office capital grant for crime prevention of £34k and reductions in several capital grants affecting young people with 14-19 diplomas, Special Education Needs (SEN) and harnessing technology.

There is a further risk around the Sure Start capital grant. The in-year cut is now actually £5.1m and this figure could continue to increase.

Supplemental Question: It is the accounting that I do not agree with. The Local Area Agreement (LAA) grant was not built into the last

budget either but it has been included.

In relation to paragraphs 16 and 17, could the Leader explain how is administration expects Adults and Housing, Children's Services and Community and Environment to save a total some of £1m, when the administration is allowing for an overspend by a combined £2m over the same period?

Supplemental Answer: It will be with difficulty and this is why the administration is angry about the £1.3m cuts, which will affect frontline services.

4.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services

Question: How is the Portfolio Holder harnessing 'People Power' as part of the Council's transformation work?

Answer: Until the administration finds out more information around nebulous concepts such as 'People Power' and the 'Big Society', it will consult with the public in the usual manner.

With the Better Deal for Residents Programme, the administration will ensure that all changes that are being considered are fully discussed with residents, partners and staff to ensure that the Council is fully informed. The administration welcomes ideas from residents and staff on how the Council can do things better. The consultation that will be launched for Adult Services' users is an example of this.

More importantly, the administration is aware that the borough cannot be more efficient without the help of its residents; whether this is by the tenants respecting their properties, young people having positive things to do and people living healthy lifestyles. All these initiatives are part of the Council's Transformation Programme and are good for the residents and the public purse.

Supplemental Question: Given that the Leader of the Council is actually putting 'People Power' at the heart of the Transformation Programme, is the Portfolio Holder concerned, as I am, for the continuing ignorance that the people of Harrow are kept in as a result of the administration's failure to

publish frontline service data, etc., under the transparency ideas that the government is proposing?

Cllr Henson: If the questioner is referring to the motion at the last full Council meeting, then the view of the administration was that the motion had been ill-defined and did not give clarity.

The Council cannot be forced into making decisions when the government had not announced proposals and indicated where the information should be published. As a result, the administration opposed the motion at Council. However, as the government provides more guidelines of which information can be published and which cannot, the Council will be in a better position to make informed decisions.

5.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: "What is the timetable for implementing the Introductory and Demoted Tenancies regime?"

Answer: Consultation is taking place throughout July and August 2010. Following consultation, a report will be presented to Cabinet in October 2010. Assuming Cabinet is satisfied with the outcome, the Introductory and Demoted Tenancy regime will commence on 1 November 2010.

6.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: "Is the Portfolio Holder confident that the Housing Ambition Plan being considered tonight effectively reflects the opportunities and challenges of the new Government's housing policy?"

Answer: The Housing Ambition Plan was completed before the coalition government took office but like any Plan, it will need to be developed in the light of changing circumstances.

The administration is confident that many of the challenges and opportunities, particularly around local

empowerment and improvement efficiencies, will be included. As details and new policies emerge, the Council shall review them and if they are in Harrow's best interests, they will be incorporated in to the Plan.

I appreciate that this policy area is of particular interest to Councillor Macleod-Cullinane and if he would like to be involved in the discussions, I would be happy for this to happen.

Supplemental Question: Could the Portfolio Holder say what are the changes that need to be made within the Housing Ambition Plan to accommodate the abolition that has been announced of the Tenants' Services Authority?

Supplemental Answer: I will reply in writing to the supplemental question.

7.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: "At your first Cabinet meeting, you invested £100,000 in repairing the potholes around Harrow. By looking around it is clear this amount wasn't sufficient, so can you tell me how much more needs to be invested?"

Answer: Thank you for the question.

There is a substantial backlog to bring Harrow roads back to good standard. The current figure of the backlog for winter damage to highways including potholes is £5m.

Supplemental Question: What is your personal view on capitalising on repairs on some of the roads that have a large amount of potholes? What are your views as to capitalisation of those funds as opposed to taking the money out of revenue funding?

Supplemental Answer: The current revenue budget is £1.2m and we are investigating ways of capitalising for those repairs.

8.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: “In the Cabinet paper 'Better Deal for Residents Programme' (Para 6.2) it says "Parking income provides the very necessary contribution that funds the wider transport and concessionary transport programmes of the Council." Does this mean you have abandoned your manifesto pledge to "introduce short-term free or cheap parking or parking holidays in all our local shopping centres”?

Answer: No.

Supplemental Question: So where is the money coming from given that you are projecting in your Period Two monitoring statement a £900k overspend because of parking revenue falling?

Supplemental Answer: The commitment in Harrow Labour Party’s manifesto is a four year aspiration, so this aspect will be worked up to in a period of administration.

The following questions were not reached in the time limit of 15 minutes and the Leader indicated that written responses would be provided.

9.

Questioner: Councillor Manji Kara

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O’Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: “London Buses need up to ten weeks to rearrange bus schedules. What action is being taken to ensure that bus capacity in our Borough is adequate to meet the likely increased demand by pupils attending our High Schools by the start of the Autumn Term 2010?”

10.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: “Your manifesto promised that you would "ensure that wherever possible services should be delivered in-house". Why, therefore, have you decided to undertake one of the largest outsourcing exercises in this Council's recent history by outsourcing the IT contract to Capita?”

11.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Margaret Davine, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Well-Being

Question: "The Leader has stated that his administration will "do everything to protect front-line services"; are you happy to be introducing a package of cuts that have been drawn up "pro rata to controllable spending", meaning that 75% of your £1.3m of announced extra in-year savings targets will therefore fall on frontline services such as Adults & Housing, Community & Environment, and Children's Services with Legal & Governance, Chief Executive's department, Finance and Place Shaping bearing just 25%?"

12.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: "According to a letter of 18/06/10, the O&S meeting was moved from its originally planned date of 7th July to the 21st July "due to a clash with the Local Government Association Group Annual Conference". Did both the Chief Executive and you, as Leader of the Council, attend, and did it prove a valuable experience?"

13.

Questioner: Councillor Bill Phillips

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: "What is going to be the effect of this disastrous "ConLib" coalition Government's in year cuts on a Council budget already stretched by the effect of last years reduction in council tax (by the rate of inflation) and the woefully low contingencies allowed for in the previous administrations budget?"

21. Forward Plan 1 July - 31 October 2010

The Leader of the Council advised that reports relating to 'Dangerous Dogs' and the 'Year Ahead Statement' had been deferred to the September 2010 Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Forward Plan for the period 1 July - 31 October 2010.

RESOLVED ITEMS

22. Progress on Scrutiny Projects

RESOLVED: To receive and note the current progress of the scrutiny reports.

Reason for Decision: To note the progress being made on the various scrutiny reviews.

23. Key Decision - IT Service Delivery

In accordance with the Local Government Access to Information Act 1985, the joint report of the Corporate Director Finance, Director of Business Transformation and Customer Services and the Divisional Director IT, together with a confidential appendix, was considered by Cabinet as a matter of urgency to enable consultation with staff to proceed. The report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated as it was being consulted on with key officers and Members.

Cabinet considered the joint report, together with a confidential appendix setting out the value for money assessment, which set out the need for a modern and reliable IT platform to ensure the delivery of the Council's Transformation Programme, also known as a Better Deal for Residents. The report also included an evaluation of the service to be delivered either in-house or by an external provider, Capita.

The Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services stated that staff in the IT service had done an excellent job in light of the lack of investment over the past years, and was of the view that IT could have been attended to early by the previous administration. In terms of the delivery of the Better Deal for Residents Programme, it was essential that a modern and reliable IT platform were in place. The Portfolio Holder stated that the administration had inherited a number of systems, which did not have the capability to deliver a modern IT service and were increasingly becoming difficult to support and operate. Some operated at an increased risk of failure, and there was a limited capacity for remote and mobile working. For example, the email system was difficult to integrate with other systems and there were inconsistent levels of system performance across the Council.

The Portfolio Holder added that the Council needed to move forward and the proposals would help deliver a flexible IT service to meet various initiatives

outlined above and in the report and deliver a Disaster Recovery Plan. In addition, the proposals would enable the Council to implement the transformation projects thereby achieving savings. He stated that the decision before Cabinet was 'in principle' subject to consultations. The Portfolio Holder stated that Members had been briefed fully on the in-house submission. A recent report submitted by Unison to members had been reviewed as far as was practicable in light of the time available.

Finally, the Portfolio Holder gave a commitment that all submissions would be carefully considered, including staffing issues. He was of the view that there were significant risks associated with IT remaining inhouse, and referred to the significant risks set out in the report. He stressed that this was not a reflection on staff but due to a lack of strategic direction and investment. He moved an amendment to the recommendation, which required an agreement with the appropriate Portfolio Holders.

The Corporate Director stated that she was taking this matter seriously and that the decision was a complex one in the current financial situation. The investment plan was critical to the success of the Transformation Programme, and that a detailed analysis had been carried out of the proposals from Capita and the in-house bid. The decision was subject to consultation and she assured that every effort would be made to mitigate the impact on staff and support would be provided to help them move forward.

The Leader noted that the decision before Cabinet was a difficult one. He added that meetings would be set up with staff.

The confidential appendix was noted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposal that the IT Service be transferred to Capita be approved 'in principle', subject to further consultation with staff and trade unions;
- (2) the Corporate Director of Finance, with the agreement of the appropriate Portfolio Holders, be authorised to agree the terms of the contract, provided these remain consistent with the report;
- (3) the contract be negotiated for assignment of up to a ten year term, with an option to break the contract after five years to be coterminous with the end of the wider partnership with Capita in 2015 (if the view was taken that it would be unwise to continue the IT service in isolation);
- (4) the Corporate Director of Finance be authorised to enter into a contract.

Reason for Decision: Investment in IT was essential to underpin the Council's Transformation Programme. There was a strong case for investment in technology. The level of investment required must be sufficient to enable future transformation and the investment needs to be made sooner rather than later. Investment was required to achieve the Council's aim to have fewer buildings, fully supported by remote and mobile working.

Modernised IT services would enable Members and staff to be better supported and more productive. The Capita proposal was the preferred delivery model - the in-house solution was expected to have a similar cost, but carried significantly more risk and was likely to take longer to transition. There were substantial cashable benefits from investment in IT in terms of wider transformation, accommodation, etc. There were substantial non cashable benefits for Members, staff and customers. If the Council proceeded with Capita, they had demonstrated that every effort would be made to mitigate the impact on staff directly affected by the transfer of services. An open tender would be costly to run, take a long time and delay service improvement, and the result would probably be the same.

24. Key Decision - In Year Funding Cuts 2010/11

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Finance, which set out the Council's approach to managing in year funding cuts.

The Leader of the Council stated that the government had decided to cut public sector spending by £6.2bn in 2010/11, a significant sum of which, £1.2bn, would come from local government. He outlined how the Council and its partners would be affected by the various cuts and why some of the good projects, such as free swimming, might have to cease. In addition, future planned projects, such as dealing with dangerous dogs, might be delayed as a result. The Sure Start project might also be affected.

The Leader stated that the Council faced a challenging future, and that the Directorates were working on plans to deliver saving in year to the value of £1.3m. A further report would be submitted to the next meeting in September 2010, as part of the first quarter monitoring report.

RESOLVED: That the requirement for all Directorates to deliver savings in year to the value of £1.3m to compensate for the balance of the grant cuts be noted.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that the Council comes in budget this year and maintains its general balances at an acceptable level.

[Call-in does not apply to the Decision.]

25. Key Decision - Better Deal for Residents Programme: Shaping Harrow for the Future

The Leader of the Council introduced the report, which set out the steps for the Council's Better Deal for Residents Programme: Shaping Harrow for the Future. The report set out the vision and direction of travel for services across the Council and its Partners until 2013, as follows:

- being a more efficient and effective organisation that could live within its means;
- joining up and personalising customer services for residents;

- building on the community spirit of residents with a view to encouraging their involvement in the future of the borough.

The Leader identified various projects, such as a new Civic Centre, online citizen accounts and personalised budgets would help achieve the vision and direction of travel whilst realising savings. He added that it was important to build on the community spirit of residents by involving them in projects such as the management of parks and open spaces.

Cabinet noted that central to the Residents Programme was partnership working, with all partners, including businesses and residents, becoming more involved in the future of the borough.

The Chief Executive stated that by October 2010, the Council would be better placed to identify the funding gaps. Various issues had to be addressed, such as an increase in the landfill tax, health related matters and an increased demand in housing benefit. He added that incremental change was not an option, and that the challenges were not unique to the Council. Whilst immense challenges lay ahead for the public sector as a whole, Harrow was better placed than most because of the Programme. The Programme would help us deal with the challenges in a more structured manner. Furthermore, there was scope to make the organisation more efficient by reducing the tiers of management, investing in technology and increasing the number of services provided through Access Harrow, and by altering our relationship with the residents of Harrow.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) officers undertake consultation as appropriate to inform decision-making on the proposals set out in the report;
- (2) a further evaluation of the proposals set out in paragraphs 6.1 - 6.41 be agreed, including the evaluation of such other projects agreed amongst the Corporate Directors and Portfolio Holders, subject to the development of business cases and appropriate consultation;
- (3) it be noted that when detailed business cases had been developed and appropriate consultation undertaken, the proposals would be submitted to Cabinet for decision.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Council to deliver its part of the Sustainable Community Strategy whilst developing a sound financial platform for the next three years.

26. Integrated Planning 2011/12 to 2015/16

Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director Finance and Assistant Chief Executive, which set out the framework for the development of the new Corporate Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/12 - 2015/16. The report set out the strategy for closing the funding gaps at appendix 2, including the strands that would be used to close the gaps identified.

The Leader of the Council stated that the administration would be reviewing the Council's vision and priorities in due course, which would form a critical part of the development of the medium term plans. The Leader added that the Year Ahead Statement would be presented to Cabinet in September 2010, and drew attention to the financial context the Council was operating under, as outlined in the report. He referred to the proposed process for consultation and mentioned the proposal to carry out consultations through a Residents' Panel.

In response to a comment from the Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts, the Corporate Director Finance explained that the public sector pay freeze would not necessarily apply to local government and that discussions were ongoing in this respect. The impact of various pay restraints would be modelled.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the timetable setting out the planning process at appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (2) the strategy for closing future funding gaps at appendix 2 to the report be approved;
- (3) the approach to carrying out public consultation be approved.

Reason for Decision: To promote effective medium to long term planning.

27. Annual Health and Safety Report 2009/10

The Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services introduced the report, which summarised the Council's health and safety performance for 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010, and planned improvement activities for 2010/11. It was noted that the Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee and the Employees Consultative Form had considered similar reports.

The Portfolio Holder identified the key aspects of the report and drew attention to the increase in reported accidents in 2009/10. He added that further improvement was required in this area, as had been recommended by the Employees' Consultative Forum. Other areas that needed more attention were training and the evacuation procedures in case of fire and bomb threats. A report addressing these issues would be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council's health and safety performance for 2009/10 be noted;
- (2) the planned activities for 2010/11 to address health and safety be noted;
- (3) the work in progress to improve the health and safety data be noted.

Reason for Decision: To note the health and safety information and ensure it was being improved.

[Call-in does not apply to the Decision.]

28. Strategic Performance Report - Quarter 4

The Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services introduced the report, which summarised Council and service performance against key measures, including areas where further action was required. The report outlined the key successes and the challenges that the Council continued to face.

The Portfolio Holder stated that the government had abolished the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). He identified the challenges that the Council continued to face, such as resident perceptions of value for money and satisfaction with the Council. Other challenges that lay ahead were understanding the full impact of public funding cuts on services, and that measuring performance in this environment would become more important. As a result, the focus and workings of Improvement Boards, the Council's internal performance management process, would be improved. He added that the strong management team led by the Chief Executive was a good foundation in which to enter the challenges that lay ahead.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing identified some of the key areas, which had seen improvements. The Portfolio Holder was pleased to see an increase in the applications for personal budgets from the BME community, a 13.6% of learning disability service users were in employment compared to 7.7% during the previous year and above the Local Area Agreement target, and that Harrow had the highest percentage of carers who felt they were well supported and encouraged. She was concerned how the future job market would impact on these improvements.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and Portfolio Holders continue working with officers to achieve improvement against identified key challenges.

Reason for Decision: To be informed of performance against key measures and to identify and assign corrective action where necessary.

29. Key Decision - Housing Ambition Plan 2010/12

Cabinet considered a report of the Divisional Director Housing Services introduced the report, which set out the key elements of the Housing Ambition Plan. The Plan would be a measure and the ambition was to ensure that its customers saw the Housing Service as one of the best in London by 2012.

The Corporate Director Adults and Housing praised the work done by the Divisional Director Housing Services with the support and passion of both the former and the current Portfolio Holders. He also thanked the support received from staff following a thorough review of the housing service, which had resulted in securing a permanent management team and led to

development of the Housing Ambition Plan. The Plan would help to improve satisfaction levels of tenants and leaseholders.

The Divisional Director of Housing Services stated that the Plan would ensure an improvement in service provision and provide value for money. The Divisional Director outlined the key aspects of the Plan and asked that Cabinet also approve the Plan at the meeting. She stated that a detailed Plan was available on request, and was encouraged by the commitment received from staff to deliver on change. Cabinet was informed of the additional resources that would be required to support the Plan.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing thanked officers and the former Portfolio Holder for their work.

RESOLVED: That the Housing Ambition Plan be approved together with the consequent virements of £512k from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue balances and £82k within the HRA capital programme to resource the delivery of the Housing Ambition Plan 2010/11.

Reason for Decision: To resource delivery of the Housing Ambition Plan 2010/11.

30. Key Decision - A Framework Agreement for Adult Home Support Services for Harrow in Partnership with the West London Alliance

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing introduced the report, which set out details of the procured framework agreement in conjunction with the boroughs that made up the West London Alliance to supply personal homecare, housing and related support, including an integrated service for adults. It would also provide a choice of a provider for residents. Of particular note was that the service would deliver a substantial saving whilst meeting the Council's Corporate Priority to support the vulnerable. She commended the report to Cabinet.

The Corporate Director Adults and Housing spoke of the collaborative work of the West London Alliance and the leadership and impetus given by the Chief Executive. The Leader of the Council stated that joint procurement was important, as it would help achieve savings.

Prior to reaching a decision on this matter, Cabinet considered a confidential appendix, which set out the final framework provider list for personal homecare, including prices.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Framework be approved;
- (2) the Council continue to collaborate with the West London Alliance to implement the Framework;

- (3) the Corporate Director of Adults and Housing be authorised to work with the final list of providers to optimise the terms and conditions and then call off each of the three services on the Framework as required.

Reason for Decision: To support the Council's priority in relation to the vulnerable people and the personalisation agenda by having an effective strategy for ensuring the continued provision of high quality and efficient home provision to enable people to live independently. To provide an accredited list of providers for the purpose of enabling and safeguarding the choices of people opting for individual budgets.

31. Key Decision - Future Organisation of Longfield First School and Longfield Middle School

The Portfolio Holder for Schools and Colleges introduced the report, which set out the outcome of the statutory consultation about the future organisation of the Longfield First and Middle Schools and the recommendation of the governing bodies that the two schools amalgamate in September 2011. He stated that the headteacher of Longfield First School had resigned, thereby triggering the amalgamation policy agreed in 2007. He took this opportunity to wish the headteacher a long and happy retirement.

The Portfolio Holder outlined the various stages of the consultation and the outcomes and commended the report to Cabinet. He thanked the governors of both schools for their commitment and work in ensuring a good Ofsted report. He added that whilst this would not apply to the newly merged school, the foundations put in place would be realised.

RESOLVED: That, having considered the outcome of the statutory consultation and the recommendation from the governing bodies that the two schools amalgamate, the publication of statutory notices to combine Longfield Infant School and Longfield Junior School, be approved.

Reason for Decision: Combining the two schools would give the opportunity to further improve educational standards by enabling planning a coherent whole across the primary phase of the national curriculum and providing greater flexibility across and between key stages. Access to the whole primary curriculum supports and informs whole school planning, assessment, pastoral systems, and provide opportunities for wider staff development and experience across the full primary phase.

32. Key Decision - Food Safety Plan 2010/11

The Corporate Director Community and Environment introduced the report, which sought approval of the Food Safety Service Plan for 2010/11. He added that the Plan was a key document, and the food safety team provided value for money in ensuring that food and drink intended for sale for human consumption was without risk to public health and consumer safety. However, the team was not complacent and carried out both statutory and non statutory functions.

RESOLVED: That the Food Safety Service Plan for 2010/11 be approved.

Reason for Decision: To meet legislative requirements and statutory duties.

33. SALIX Loans - For Energy Saving Projects

The Corporate Director Community and Environment introduced the report, which sought approval of an increase in the Capital Programme with a view to implementing a range of projects that would deliver reductions in carbon emissions. It was noted that SALIX finance was a government company that provided loans to the public sector for energy saving projects. Loans were interest free over five years from the resultant savings in utility bills.

The Corporate Director stated that this was a good example of partnership working, and the initiatives would help reduce carbon emission in a full year by 1.75%. He outlined the projects that would be undertaken, which focused on the Civic Centre, some schools and other civic buildings. Cabinet was informed that that revenue savings over five years could rise to £100k.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) £400k be added to the Capital Programme for the self financing of energy projects;
- (2) interest free loans to the value of £400k be taken from SALIX finance.

Reason for Decision: To meet the targets to reduce CO2 emissions by 4% a year from April 2010, as set out in the Council's Climate Strategy. To reduce the amount of energy used and introduce carbon pricing from April 2011.

34. Urgent Decision - Creation of a Major Developments Panel

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise introduced the report, which proposed the setting up of an advisory Panel of Cabinet to be known as the Major Development Panel. The Panel would initially have an oversight of the development of Harrow and Wealdstone Intensification Area and thereafter look at other areas. The report proposed the membership and terms of reference of the Panel.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a Major Developments Panel be established;
- (2) the terms of reference and the membership of the Panel at Appendix I to these minutes be agreed and Councillor Bill Stephenson be appointed Chairman;
- (3) that reference to the Town Centre and Major Projects Panel be deleted from the Council's Constitution and substituted with the Major Developments Panel and its terms of reference.

Reason for Decision: To oversee the development of the Harrow and Wealdstone Intensification Area and proposals for individual major development sites across the borough.

[Call-in does not apply to the Decision.]

35. Box Tree Public House, Box Tree Lane, Harrow Weald

The Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts introduced a report, which set out proposals for the disposal of the freehold interest in the Box Tree Public House for the provision of affordable housing. He stated that he was satisfied the best possible value would be obtained for the site and commended the report to Cabinet.

Prior to making a decision, Cabinet considered a confidential report, which provided additional financial information.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Director Place Shaping, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts, be authorised to negotiate and conclude the disposal of the freehold interest in the Boxtree Public House for best consideration, subject to the restriction that the site is to be used for the development of affordable housing; the development mix to be agreed with the Council's Housing Department.

Reason for Decision: To generate a capital receipt for the Housing Revenue Account and provide much needed social housing for the borough thereby fulfilling one of the Council's Corporate Priorities of Building Stronger Communities.

36. Motion - 2M Group

In accordance with the Local Government Access to Information Act 1985, the report, was considered by Cabinet as a matter of urgency to enable the motion to be considered at the earliest opportunity. The report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated, as Council met after the publication date.

Cabinet received a motion on 2M that was referred from the Council meeting held on 8 July 2010.

RESOLVED: That the motion be noted.

Reason for Decision: To take a decision on the motion referred to the Executive.

[Call-in does not apply to the Decision.]

37. Motion - Kenton Road

In accordance with the Local Government Access to Information Act 1985, the report, was considered by Cabinet as a matter of urgency to enable the motion to be considered at the earliest opportunity. The report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated, as Council met after the publication date.

Cabinet received a motion on Kenton Road together with an amendment that had been proposed at the Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the motion, as amended and set out below, be agreed:

“This Council notes that the removal of the right turning from Kenton Road into Kenton Lane has proven unpopular with residents, and that a petition on this issue was presented to the Mayor of London by Councillors Teli, Mithani and Zeid in March 2010.

This Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Mayor of London regarding what action has been taken”.

Reason for Decision: To take a decision on the motion referred to the Executive.

38. Key Decision - Teenage Placement Strategy

The Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services introduced a confidential report of the Corporate Director Children’s Services, which referred to the development of a Teenage Placement Strategy and recommended a change in the current residential arrangements at a residential unit in order to achieve better outcomes for Children Looked After and ensure efficient use of resources. She commended consultation on Option 2 to Cabinet and stated that a further report would be presented to Cabinet in September 2010 setting out the outcomes.

The Corporate Director of Children’s Services stated that provisions needed reviewing due to demographic changes. There was an increasing need to rethink how resources were used to deal with the increasing needs of teenagers preparing for independence, and bringing Children Looked After back into the borough. She informed Cabinet that the building was very adaptable and was intended for use by Looked After Children.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the users and workforce be consulted on Option 2;
- (2) following consultation on the long term future of the residential unit, a further report be submitted to Cabinet.

Reason for Decision: To contribute to the implementation of the Teenage Placement Strategy that would deliver improved placement choice, promote better outcomes for Children Looked After, address a significant budget pressure and ensure improved value for money.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.56 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR BILL STEPHENSON
Chairman

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS PANEL

Terms of Reference

1. To oversee the development of the Harrow and Wealdstone Intensification Area, to include:
 - providing comments to the Area Action Plan Project Board;
 - reviewing the emerging master plan(s) for the area;
 - considering emerging design and development principles; and
 - reviewing the outcomes of community consultation and feedback on the emerging strategy.

2. To oversee the development of proposals for individual major development sites within the borough including:
 - providing comments on pre application proposals received by the Council for such sites;
 - reviewing progress of strategic development sites within the borough; and
 - considering site specific planning and development briefs

Membership

	Labour	Conservative
Members	Councillor Keith Ferry Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar Councillor Phillip O'Dell Councillor Bill Stephenson (CH)	Councillor Tony Ferrari Councillor Susan Hall Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Reserve Members	1. Councillor Bill Phillips 2. Councillor Navin Shah 3. Councillor Varsha Parmar 4. Councillor Zarina Khalid	1. Councillor Joyce Nickolay 2. Councillor Anthony Seymour 3. Councillor Stephen Greek