

CABINET

18 OCTOBER 2011

DECISIONS NOTICE

(PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2011)

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken on the substantive items at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 18 October 2011. These decisions will be implemented on the expiry of 5 clear working days, unless there is a call-in of any of the decisions (for details on how to do this, please contact Alison Atherton, Senior Professional, Democratic Services on 020 8424 1266 or by email alison.atherton@harrow.gov.uk) in which case any such decision may not be implemented until the resolution of the call-in process. If no request for call-in is received by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 26 October 2011 then the decisions will be implemented.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Daksha Ghelani, Senior Democratic Services Officer on 020 8424 1881 or by email daksha.ghelani@harrow.gov.uk.

RECOMMENDED ITEM

7. Key Decision - Cabinet Decision Making Protocol and Amendments to the Financial Regulations

Resolved to RECOMMEND: to Council

That

(1) the Cabinet Decision Making Protocol proposal for the amendment to Key Decision thresholds be agreed and included in the Council's Constitution

(2) the amended Financial Regulations be agreed and adopted into the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Decision Making Protocol and the amended Financial Regulations be approved.

Reason for Decision: To give clarity and transparency for officers, Members and the public about which matters would go to Cabinet. To update the Financial Regulations to give greater clarity of financial governance.

[Call-in does not apply to a Recommendation to Council].

RESOLVED ITEMS

8. Harrow Partnership Board

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

[Call-in does not apply to decisions that have been noted].

9. Strategic Performance Report (Q1)

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

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

10. Key Decision - Risk Management Update and the Draft Risk Management Strategy

RESOLVED: That the risk management position be noted and the Risk Management Strategy, at appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: To be aware of the Council's progress in risk management, to comply with the Governance Framework and to ensure that the Council's Risk Management Framework continues to align with best practice.

11. Key Decision - Sustainable Procurement Policy

RESOLVED: That the Sustainable Procurement Policy be adopted and implemented.

Reason for Decision: To facilitate delivery of the objectives of key Council strategies and policies (for example the Corporate Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy, "Enterprising Harrow" and Climate Change Strategy) through Council procurement. To facilitate the use of social, economic and environmental considerations within Council procurement processes, for example the stimulation of supply chain opportunities for local businesses and Third Sector organisations, the creation of local employment and training opportunities.

12. Quality in Adult Social Care - Quality Assurance Report 2010/2011 and Harrow's Local Account

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Reason for Decision: To be aware of an overview of the Adult Services Quality Assurance Report 2010/11.

[Call-in does not apply to decisions that have been noted].

13. Key Decision - Proposals following Adult Care Services Consultation

RESOLVED: That

- (1) in relation to Contributions to Care,
 - (i) the Fairer Contributions Policy, as annexed at Appendix A to the report, be approved;
 - (ii) the funding of the Adult Care Services consultation process of £117k from the Corporate Contingency Budget be approved;
 - (iii) the funding for the implementation of the Fairer Contributions Policy transitional programme between November 2011- March 2012 of £200k from the Corporate Transformation and Priority Initiatives Fund, be approved;
 - (iv) the transitional programme between November 2011 - March 2012 with contributions be approved, subject to financial assessment for existing service users, effective from 1st April 2012, as set out in paragraph 10.15 of the report;
 - (v) contributions for new service users, subject to financial assessment, be implemented immediately following agreement to their new support plan, be agreed;
 - (vi) the Corporate Director Adults and Housing, in consultation with the Corporate Director Finance and Portfolio Holders for Finance and Business Transformation and Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to review the corporate debt collection policy to ensure it is appropriate for Adult Care debt collection;
 - (vii) the Corporate Director Adults and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to develop a Communication Plan that ensures all service users are made aware of the content of the new Fairer Contributions Policy.

Reason for Decision: To introduce a fairer system in that service users are asked to make a contribution towards the overall cost of their care package based on their ability to pay. To protect the quality and ensure financial sustainability of the service. To achieve an estimated full year savings in the region of £500k if all the proposals were agreed.

- (2) in relation to Eligibility to Adult Social Care Transport,

- (i) the Corporate Director Adults and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to determine criteria, based on the Fairer Contributions Policy, for eligibility to community transport based on the needs of the individual and maximising mobility options;
- (ii) the cost of community transport be incorporated into the Resource Allocation System and ring-fenced;
- (iii) transitional arrangements be implemented to ensure that all existing service users continue to receive the service until 31 March 2012 at which time those, whose care need assessment has determined they would not be eligible, would no longer receive the service;
- (iv) all new service users who, through their care need assessment are determined to be eligible for the service, be required to make a contribution towards the cost of their care immediately, subject to their financial assessment;
- (v) the Corporate Director Adults and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to develop a Communication Plan that ensures users understand how the assessments would be carried out for access to Adult Social Care Transport.

Reason for Decision: The introduction of an eligibility criteria based on need would ensure that people who have unmet needs would be able to access transport. To help ensure financial sustainability of the service. To note that those assessed in eligible need would still be supported. To achieve approximately £350k revenue savings in a full year.

- (3) in relation to Meals on Wheels,
 - (i) the Corporate Director Adults and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to continue to investigate ways of reducing the cost of the service and generate income, whilst maintaining the quality of the meals;
 - (ii) Option C, as set out in paragraph 12.34 of the report, which ensures no increase in the price of meals for 2011/12, be agreed;
 - (iii) an annual inflation factor uplift on meal prices based on the Council's inflation rates be agreed, as a part of the overall budget setting process;
 - (iv) the Corporate Director Adults and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to develop a Communication Plan that ensures all service users are made aware of any changes made to the delivery of services and/or prices.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that the service was sustainable and continued to contribute to safeguarding vulnerable people. To ensure added value on prevention and safeguarding.

(4) in relation to Concessionary Travel,

(i) **National Disabled Freedom Pass Review Outcome:**

National Disabled Freedom Passes, which did not qualify for the statutory scheme under the recent Audit review, be transferred to Discretionary Freedom Passes and re-assessed against the new Discretionary Freedom Pass Policy cancelling any that did not qualify by 31 March 2013;

(ii) **Discretionary Freedom Pass:**

the new Discretionary Freedom Pass criteria, as set out in paragraphs 13.46 and 13.47 of the report, be adopted and implemented immediately for new applications and existing recipients be reviewed, with a view to effecting cancellations by 31 March 2013 for those not meeting the new criteria;

(iii) **Establishing levels of entitlement for multiple services:**

new entitlement band levels and other conditions, as set out below, be adopted with effect from 1 April 2012:

| | |
|--------|--|
| Band A | Applicants who hold either a Freedom Pass or a Blue Badge or both, would be entitled to a Taxicard with a maximum allocation of 52 trips annually. |
| Band B | Applicants who did not hold a Freedom Pass or Blue Badge would be entitled to a Taxicard with a maximum allocation of 104 trips annually. |
| | Applicants who hold a Discretionary Freedom Pass would not be entitled to a Taxicard. |

Current Discretionary Freedom Pass / Taxicard holders who had already been assessed and had qualified for both concessions be offered the choice of which one they wished to retain and the unwanted concession be cancelled by 31 March 2012.

(iv) a charge of £10 be made, with effect from 1 April 2012, for the replacement of a lost or damaged Freedom Pass.

Reason for Decision: To reduce overall cost and restrict future cost growth. To protect the most vulnerable. To note that if all the proposals are agreed the overall savings would be £309,000 in a full year.

14. Children's Centre Consultation Report

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Consultation Report be noted;
- (2) the development of an operating model for Harrow Children's Centres, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, be approved and a report submitted back to Cabinet for consideration.

Reason for Decision: To allow proposals to be developed in order to support the sustainability of Children's Centre services in Harrow.

15. Key Decision - Pride in Harrow - Acting Together Neighbourhood Champions

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the successful launch and progress of the Neighbourhood Champions Scheme be noted;
- (2) anonymity not be offered to future volunteers on the Scheme;
- (3) the Corporate Director Community and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety, be authorised to develop the Scheme incorporating reporting and involvement on a wider range of issues.

Reason for Decision: The Neighbourhood Champions Scheme provided a valued volunteer arrangement for involvement and community action between the Council, Police and Community Partners. The Neighbourhood Champions have identified improvements that could benefit the community of Harrow further.

16. Key Decision - Parking and Permit Charges Review and Way Forward

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the new structural format for Parking and Permit Charges, based on the Parking and Permit Charges Consultation, be agreed;
- (2) officers prepare options for introducing credit/debit card payment for parking borough-wide;
- (3) the Parking Management and Enforcement Plan, which reflected these changes as well as enabling the provision of doctor parking permits and revised eligibility for disabled parking bays, be approved;
- (4) the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety be authorised to make minor changes to the Parking Management and Enforcement Plan in order to reflect future working practice changes;
- (5) it be noted that detailed parking and permit costs would be presented at the budget setting meeting(s).

Reason for Decision: A new structure for charging for both parking and permits would enable the borough to simplify parking and permit charges; provide increased transparency as to how all charges were set; and, better support the local economic conditions. The revised Parking Management and Enforcement Plan will enable the borough to better manage parking and enforcement and ensure that the operational management of enforcement is brought into line with the revised Transport Local Implementation Plan (LIP).

17. Key Decision - Energy Purchasing Strategy for 2012/16

RESOLVED: That

- (1) LASER be appointed for the procurement of energy for all Council properties for the period October 2012 - September 2016;
- (2) the Corporate Director Community and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts, be authorised to take all necessary actions to formalise the appointment.

Reason for Decision: The Council had previously agreed to purchase all gas and electricity centrally to ensure value for money. The current arrangement with LASER (a central purchasing organisation) expires on 30 September 2012. In renewing this arrangement, it now ensures that LASER can purchase energy over the next 12 months in advance of anticipated price rises thereby ensuring that the costs are as low as possible.

18. Key Decision - Third Sector Investment Plan 2012/15

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Third Sector Investment Plan 2012/15 be approved;
- (2) the transition from the Main Grants Funding Programme, to a phased implementation of Commissioning Services and small grants for the distribution of Main Grants Funding, as described in Option 2 (paragraph 2.2.2) of the report and the proposed timetable for the delivery of the 2012/13 Main Grants Programme, be approved;
- (3) the Corporate Director Community and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services, be authorised to identify service priorities, develop service specifications, tender arrangements and the commissioning/small grants budget, as described in Option 2 (paragraph 2.2.2) of the report;
- (4) the Corporate Director Community and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services, be authorised to progress proposals for widening access to accommodation for the Third Sector in Harrow, as outlined in paragraphs 2.2.3 and 2.2.6 of the report.

Reason for Decision: To implement a more strategic Council approach to supporting the Third Sector that supports the delivery of Corporate Priorities and statutory duties.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.25 pm).