

CABINET

15 DECEMBER 2011

DECISIONS NOTICE

(PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER 2011)

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken on the substantive items at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday 15 December 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 Friday 23 December 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 ITEMS

9 Half Year 2011/12 Treasury Management Activity

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council) That

- (1) the revised Counterparty Policy for investments, shown in appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the increase in authorised limit (£378m) and operational boundary (£366m) for external debt be approved.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Half Year Treasury Management activity for 2011/12 be noted;
- (2) the Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee be asked to review the report.

Reason for Decision: To promote effective financial management and comply with the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003 and other relevant guidance. To note the Treasury Management activities and performance.

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

10 West London Waste Plan: Pre-Submission Consultation Document

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council) That

- (1) subject to the changes in the existing draft document as recommended by the Local Development Framework Panel meeting held on 8 December 2011, the West London Waste Plan: Pre-Submission Consultation Document and the associated Sustainability Appraisal be approved for the purposes of public consultation;
- (2) authority be delegated to the Divisional Director of Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Planning, Development and Enterprise and Environment and Community Safety, to agree the Sustainability Appraisal and Equalities Impact Assessment and to make any minor editing/textual changes to the Pre-Submission Draft of the West London Waste Plan prior to public consultation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the responses received to the consultations held during February and March 2011 on the West London Waste Plan: Proposed Sites and Policies Consultation Document be noted;
- (2) the contents of the West London Waste Plan: Pre-Submission Consultation Document, in particular, the continued inclusion of the Council's Depot site on Forward Drive as a proposed new waste management site in Harrow be noted;
- (3) it be noted that approval was also being sought to undertake consultations on the West London Waste Plan: Pre-Submission Consultation Document by five other west London councils, namely Brent, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames, as members of the West London Waste Authority partnership.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Council to make meaningful progress on the West London Waste Plan (WLWP) in order to meet targets set out in the London Plan 2011, and Planning Policy Statements 10 and 12.

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

RESOLVED ITEMS

11 Senior Management Structure

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed Senior Management Structure, as set out in the Consultation Pack, attached at appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the job descriptions, as set out in the Consultation Pack attached at appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: To enable implementation of a more cost effective and strategically focused Senior Management Structure.

12 Calendar of Meetings 2012/13

RESOLVED: That the Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2012/13 be approved.

Reason for Decision: To approve the Calendar for the succeeding Municipal Year. To facilitate the planning and forward commitments of both Members and officers, and allow the room booking arrangements to be put in place at the earliest opportunity.

13 Strategic Performance Report - Quarter 2

RESOLVED: That

- (1) an aspect of Priority Action 2.1, "Roll out a Tenants' Charter for Housing" be deferred until 2012/13;
- (2) Portfolio Holders continue working with officers to achieve improvement against identified key challenges;
- (3) the report be noted.

Reason for Decision: Given the numerous changes in Housing Policy currently being explored and consulted upon it was considered appropriate to delay production of the Tenants' Charter until decisions are made. To note that the roll out would not commence until 2012/13. To note performance against key measures and identify and assign corrective action where necessary.

14 Scrutiny Review - Use of Performance Information Phase 2 - Response

RESOLVED: That the responses recommended by officers be endorsed.

Reason for Decision: To respond to the scrutiny recommendations and improve the effectiveness and accessibility of performance information for different audiences.

15 Draft Revenue Budget 2012/13 - 2014/15

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft Revenue Budget for 2012/13 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved for consultation;
- (2) the remaining budget gaps of £2.387m in 2012/13, £6.109m in 2013/14 and £5.805m in 2014/15 be noted;
- (3) the planned investment in services and efficiency programme be noted.

Reason for Decision: To publish a draft budget for 2012/13.

16 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 as at 30 September 2011

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revenue and capital forecast outturn position for 2011/12 be noted;
- (2) the actions being taken to ensure that the forecast overspend is eliminated be noted;
- (3) the virements, detailed in paragraph 22 of the report, and the amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in appendix 2 Table 1, be approved.

Reason for Decision: To note the forecast financial position and actions required to be taken.

17 Calculation of Tax Base for 2012/13 and Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit

RESOLVED: That

- (1) it be agreed that Band D equivalent number of taxable properties be calculated, as shown in accordance with the government regulations;
- (2) the provision for uncollectable amounts of Council Tax for 2012/13 be agreed at 1.50%, producing an expected collection rate of 98.50%;
- (3) subject to resolutions (1) and (2) above, a Council Tax Base for 2012/13 of 88,140 Band D equivalent properties (being 89,482 x 98.5%) be approved, allowing for payment in lieu of Ministry of Defence properties;
- (4) an estimated surplus of £1,683,703 on the Collection Fund, of which £1,335,176 is the Harrow share, as at 31 March 2012, be noted;
- (5) an amount of £1,335,176 be transferred to the General Fund in 2012/13;

- (6) the Interim Director Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation, be authorised to review and change as necessary the calculation rates for the bad debt provision relating to the Collection Fund.

Reason for Decision: To fulfill the Council's statutory obligation to set the Council Tax Base for 2012/13.

18 Housing Reform and Revenue Account Budget Setting 2012/13 - 2016/17

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the changes to the way the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) would be managed in the future be noted;
- (2) it be agreed that the key points laid out in paragraph 9 of the report inform the Council response to the government's consultation paper on HRA reform;
- (3) the anticipated CLG self-financing settlement, and borrowing options, referred to in paragraphs 7 and 14 of the report respectively, to fund the additional debt that the Council would need to borrow as a consequence of the HRA reform, be noted;
- (4) the options for spending any additional resources that would be available as a consequence of HRA reform, as referenced at paragraph 30 of the report, be noted;
- (5) consultation on a revision to the current rent strategy, including proposals to increase rent and service charges from April 2012, together with the borrowing options arising from self financing settlement and potential investment options, be agreed;
- (6) the Interim Director Finance, Corporate Director Adults and Housing and Portfolio Holders for Finance and Business Transformation and Housing Services be authorised to consult on the options and bring a report to February 2012 Cabinet proposing an appropriate borrowing option and revised Rent Strategy and recommended rent increases to be implemented from April 2012.

Reason for Decision: To enable further work to be undertaken to develop and subsequently recommend an appropriate approach to borrowing and a new Rent Strategy.

19 Housing Changes Review

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Housing Policy changes arising from the Localism Act and other reforms and the related requirements on Local Authorities arising from this be noted;

- (2) the outcomes from the Housing Changes consultation be noted;
- (3) the revised Housing Strategy objectives, set out in paragraphs 33 - 39 of the report, be agreed for consultation alongside the proposed policy options;
- (4) the policy options set out in paragraphs 40-45 to the report, and the Next Steps Action Plan, set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be agreed for further consideration;
- (5) the Corporate Director Adults and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, be authorised to approve draft policies for formal consultation;
- (6) Harrow participate in the Pan-London Mobility Scheme by putting 5% of lettings into the Scheme together reducing the number of lettings that go into the West London cross-borough Scheme, so that the total number of lettings available for non-Harrow residents wishing to move to Harrow does not change and the existing Allocation Scheme be amended as set out in Appendix 5 to the report.

Reason for Decision: To enable the completion of key Housing Policy and Strategy documents required by the Localism Act.

20 Primary School Expansion Programme

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the outcomes of the consultation on proposals for primary school expansion be noted;
- (2) it be agreed the recommended schools be moved to the statutory process for permanent expansion, as set out in Annexe D to the report, subject to government capital funding announcements; the recommended schools being: Camrose Primary School with Nursery, Cedars Manor School, Glebe Primary School, Marlborough Primary School, Pinner Park Infant and Nursery School, Pinner Park Junior School, Stanburn First School, Stanburn Junior School, Vaughan Primary School, Welldon Park Infant and Nursery School, and Welldon Park Junior School;
- (3) the Corporate Director Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Schools and Colleges, be delegated the decision about the final list of schools that should be moved to the statutory process for permanent expansion following government capital funding announcements;
- (4) Cabinet receive a report in April 2012, following the statutory consultations, to decide those schools about which statutory expansion proposals would be published;

- (5) the Corporate Director Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Schools and Colleges, be delegated the decision to open additional bulge classes across all community schools as required for September 2012 onwards;
- (6) it be agreed that the Schools Capital Strategy priority will be for primary school expansion and to address essential condition work where this is affordable;
- (7) the draft Admission Arrangements for entry to school in September 2013 be agreed for consultation purposes.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Council to fulfill its statutory duties to provide sufficient school places in its area and to consult on the School Admission Arrangements for entry to school in September 2013.

21 A Sustainable Future for Children's Centres

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed Hub and Spoke Operating Model for Harrow Council's Children's Centres, which will provide the framework for delivering Children's Centre Services ensuring geographical coverage, be agreed;
- (2) the Corporate Director Children's Services implement the new Operating Model in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.
- (3) a Governance Board for each Hub be put in place with representation from service users, staff, partners and Ward Councillors.

Reason for Decision: To improve ways of working in Harrow Council's Children's Services following changes in government policy and funding.

22 Highways Construction Contract

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council enter into a contract with May Gurney Limited for the delivery of all the Council's Highway works;
- (2) authority to negotiate and agree the final terms and conditions of the contract be delegated to the Corporate Director Community and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Property and Major Projects and Environment and Community Safety;
- (3) the Interim Director Finance and Corporate Director Community and Environment be delegated authority to realign budgets following the award of contract.

Reason for Decision: The Council has a statutory duty to maintain its Highway assets, achieving this through engaging and working with external contractors.

The condition of the Public Highway impacts upon everyone, residents, businesses and visitors to Harrow. It must be kept fit for use and safe for users at all times, contributing significantly to the Corporate Priorities, in particular, Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe. To ensure a continuous service and effective mobilisation for the new contract by early February 2012 the Council needs to make the contract award decision before the end of December.

23 Snow Clearance Challenge Panel Response

RESOLVED: That the recommendation of the Scrutiny Challenge Panel together with the actions arising from the Challenge Panel report be accepted.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that the Winter service can continue to be delivered in the best possible way within the current financial constraints.

24 Heart of Harrow Area Action Plan

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan: Preferred Option consultation document 1 be noted;
- (2) the draft Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan: Preferred Option consultation document and the Sustainability Appraisal be approved for the purposes of a six week public consultation;
- (3) the Divisional Director of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise, be authorised to agree the Sustainability Appraisal and Equalities Impact Assessment and to make any minor editing and textual changes to the Pre-Submission Draft of the West London Waste Plan before public consultation.

Reason for Decision: To progress the Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan through the various stages of informal and formal consultation on its way to adoption as part of Harrow's Local Plan.

25 Draft Local Development Order North Harrow Consultation Document

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Draft Local Development Order and the accompanying documents be approved for purposes of a four week period of public consultation;
- (2) the Divisional Director Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise, be authorised to make minor drafting or typographical changes to the content of the documents, if required, prior to public consultation.

Reason for Decision: To enable consultation to commence on proposals for a Local Development Order in North Harrow to support the regeneration of this

important District Shopping Centre in line with the Corporate Policies of supporting our town centre, local shopping centres, and businesses.

26 Annual Monitoring Report

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Annual Monitoring Report 2010/11, attached at appendix 1 to the report, be approved for submission to the Secretary of State;
- (2) the Divisional Director Planning be authorised to make minor amendments to the Annual Monitoring Report 2010/11, if necessary, prior to its submission to the Secretary of State.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Council to comply with the requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for submission of the Annual Monitoring report to the Secretary of State before the 31 December 2011 deadline.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 10.30 pm).