

CABINET

22 NOVEMBER 2012

DECISIONS NOTICE

(PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2012)

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken on the substantive items at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday 22 November 2012. 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 Nicola Fletcher, Democratic & Electoral Services Officer on 020 8416 8050 or by email nicola.fletcher@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 30 November 2012 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.

8 London 60+ Card Motion

RESOLVED: That the Motion be noted.

Reason for Decision: To respond on the referral from Council.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: To approve the Motion.

Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member / Dispensation granted: None.

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

9 School Organisation

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the latest school roll projections that indicate a higher and later peak in demand for additional primary school places be noted;

- (2) the implications for additional school places that would be required and the significant pressure on the Council to fulfill its statutory responsibilities to provide sufficient school places be noted;
- (3) the second phase of primary schools be moved to the statutory process for permanent expansion;
- (4) the decision about the final list of schools that should be moved to the statutory process for permanent expansion be delegated to the Corporate Director Children and Families, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families;
- (5) following the statutory consultations, Cabinet agrees to receive a report in April 2013 to decide the schools about which statutory expansion proposals will be published;
- (6) the approach to reviewing and achieving preferred models of school organisation be approved with a report back to Cabinet in April 2012.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Local Authority to fulfill its statutory duties to provide sufficient school places in its area as part of its strategic role as champion for parents and families, for vulnerable pupils and of educational excellence.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: As set out in the officer report.

Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member / Dispensation granted: None.

10 Housing Revenue Account - Changes to Housing Asset Management Capital and Revenue Budgets

RESOLVED: That the following budgets changes be approved/agreed, as appropriate:

- (1) re-alignment of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, as set out in Table 1, paragraph 4.1, of the report;
- (2) a supplementary estimate for revenue funding of works arising from the new health and safety inspection regime to be funded by reduced capital funding costs in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) of £300k;
- (3) a supplementary estimate for salaries of £70k.

Reason for Decision: To enable the 2012/13 Capital Programme to be delivered on time, for savings achieved through procurement to be fully utilised, and to increase the staffing budget to reflect a more accurate apportionment of activities between capital and revenue.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: As set out in the officer report. To leave budgets as they were.

Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member / Dispensation granted: None.

11 Key Decision: Climate Change Strategy - Review of Progress 2011/12 and Revised Draft Strategy and Action Plan

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress review on the current Climate Change Action Plan be noted;
- (2) the progress made in reducing emission in 2011/12, as reported under CRC and GHG, be noted;
- (3) the progress of the RE:FIT programme be noted;
- (4) the Climate Local Declaration be signed;
- (5) the proposed draft of the revised Climate Change Action Plan be noted;
- (6) the proposed draft of the revised Delivering Warmer Homes (HECA) report be noted;
- (7) the revised proposals be subject to public consultation, with the results being reported back to Cabinet in March 2013.

Reason for Decision: To ensure continued progress in delivery the Council's Climate Change Strategy and the associated reduction in emissions.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: As set out in the officer report.

Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member / Dispensation granted: None.

12 Key Decision: Whitchurch Playing Fields

RESOLVED: That

- (1) having considered the proposed terms which have been negotiated, provisionally agreed and recommended by officers, Option 1, set out in the report, be agreed;
- (2) the Corporate Director of Place Shaping, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts, be authorised to conclude contractual arrangements on the basis of Option 1 and the heads of terms set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: To attract inward investment to establish a modern sports and leisure facility, to include substantially improved playing pitches, for the

benefit of local schools and residents and at no direct financial cost to the Council.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: As set out in the officer's report. Option 2 was rejected.

Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member / Dispensation granted: None.

13 Key Decision: Technical Reforms of Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That the discounts and exemptions, as set out in the detailed proposals and summarised in table A, be changed with effect from 1 April 2013.

Reason for Decision: Agreeing the proposed changes to Council Tax discounts/exemptions would result in Harrow generating an extra £1.1m in Council Tax revenue through the application of removal of discounts or exemptions, or the application of a premium on empty homes. The proposals would mean that Harrow, and the major preceptors, would benefit from an increase in Council Tax revenue without Council Tax being increased. This would maximise tax take and support the Council's financial priorities. Harrow's share would be 80% with 20% going to the preceptors (GLA, Fire and Police Authorities).

Alternative Options considered and rejected: As set out in the officer's report.

Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member / Dispensation granted: None.

[Call-in does not apply as the decision is reserved to Council.]

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.31 pm, closed at 9.15 pm).