

CABINET

13 DECEMBER 2012

DECISIONS NOTICE

(PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER 2012)

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken on the substantive items at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday 13 December 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 21 December 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.

7(b) Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget - Report on the self Financing of the HRA

RESOLVED: That the Divisional Director of Housing Services submit a report to the next meeting of Cabinet responding to the findings of the Review Group.

Reason for Decision: To allow a response to be considered and submitted to the Review Group.

8 Key Decision - Housing Changes Review: Approval of Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy, Consultation Drafts of Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy, Private Sector Housing Strategy and Allocation Scheme, and update on the draft Housing Business Plan and Asset Management Strategy

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the consultation responses and subsequent amendments to the Tenancy Strategy 2012 be noted;

- (2) the final Tenancy Strategy 2012, at appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (3) the consultation responses to the Tenancy Policy 2012 be noted;
- (4) the final Tenancy Policy 2012, at appendix 2 to the report, which will introduce 12 month probationary tenancies followed by fixed term 5 year flexible tenancies for all new Council tenants from the 1 April 2013, be approved;
- (5) the consultation drafts of the Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and Private Sector Housing Strategy, at appendices 4, 5 and 6 to the report, be approved;
- (6) the consultation draft of the proposed amended Housing Allocation Scheme and transitional arrangements, attached at Appendix 7 to the report, be approved;
- (7) Harrow's current Transfer and Lettings Scheme be amended now in order to place all homeless households placed in temporary accommodation in band C, regardless of whether they are in emergency B&B or hostel accommodation, or in longer term temporary accommodation;
- (8) it be noted that the progress and key issues on the draft Housing Business Plan and Asset Management Strategy would be finalised and presented to Cabinet in March 2013;
- (9) expenditure of up to £1.5M from the Affordable Housing Fund towards the development of intermediate housing on Council development sites in Harrow be approved;
- (10) the views of the Tenants', Leaseholders' and Residents Consultative Forum meeting held on 4 December 2012 be noted.

Reason for Decision: To enable the completion of key housing policy and strategy documents and set out the Council's Strategic Housing Vision in responding to the freedoms and flexibilities introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

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

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

9 Key Decision - Shared Public Health Team - Inter Authority Agreement Principles

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the principles for the Inter Authority Agreement, as outlined in the report, be endorsed;

- (2) the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to:
 - (a) agree the terms of and execute an Inter Authority Agreement which reflects the principles outlined in the officer report;
 - (b) implement a Shared Public Health team in accordance with that Agreement.

Reason for Decision: To allow the development of a resilient and cost effective public health service to provide improved support to both Councils at a reduced cost and improved capacity.

Alternative Options considered/rejected: As set out in the officer report/Option 2.

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

10 Key Decision - Tree Maintenance Access Agreement and Contract

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Environment and Enterprise, in liaison with the Portfolio Holders for Environment and Community Safety and Property and Major Contracts, to enter into an Access Agreement with Brent Council for Arboricultural Services and a call-off contract under the Framework Agreement referred to in 2.1 with Gristwood and Toms Ltd for a term of 3.5 years with a possible two year extension.

Reason for Decision: The Council undertakes £400,000 of tree work per year to ensure the Borough's tree stock was maintained in a safe condition and to maintain levels of street tree provision. A cost effective well provisioned contractual arrangement was essential to enable the Council to fulfill its statutory obligations to maintain the Borough's trees in a safe condition.

Alternative Options considered/rejected: As set out in the officer report/Undertake an independent OJEU tender process and obtain individual Batch Quotations.

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

11 Key Decision - Consultation Draft Garden Land Development Supplementary Planning Document

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft Garden Land Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), at Appendix A to the report, be approved for public consultation;
- (2) the views of the Local Development Framework Panel meeting held on 3 December 2012 be noted.

Reason for Decision: To progress the preparation of a SPD, as the most effective way of supporting the implementation of Harrow's new presumption against garden land development.

Alternative Options considered/rejected: As set out in the officer report / Do nothing and issue an informal guidance note.

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

12 Authority's Monitoring Report

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Authority's Monitoring Report 2011/12, at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for publication on the Council's website;
- (2) the views of the Local Development Framework Panel meeting held on 3 December 2012 be noted.

Reason for Decision: To enable compliance with the requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

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.

13 Strategic Performance Report (Q2)

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

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

Alternative Options considered and rejected: None.

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

14 Key Decision - Tender for the Council's Occupational Health Service Provider

RESOLVED: That the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, be authorised to enter into a Partnering Framework Agreement with the successful tenderer, for a period of up to four years, two years with an extension of another two years subject to performance review, for the provision of an Occupational Health and Employee Assistance service.

Reason for Decision: The Council's current contract for the delivery of the Occupational Health Service was due to expire in January 2013. In compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 the Council followed an open competitive tendering procedure and based on the results agreed to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tender.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: None.

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

15 Half Year 2012/13 Treasury Management Activity

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the half year Treasury Management Activity for 2012/13 be noted;
- (2) the Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee be recommended to consider and 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.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: None.

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

16 Key Decision - Localisation of Council Tax Benefit

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council) That

- (1) the new Harrow Localised Council Tax Support Scheme, at appendix H to the report, be agreed and adopted;
- (2) the parameter configuration set out in Scheme 1 for the two year period April 2013 to March 2015, which fully manages the funding gap, and recommended by officers, be agreed and adopted;
- (3) the Scheme remain in perpetuity after the two year period, with parameters updated as per the Scheme rules, unless a policy decision is taken to replace or alter the Scheme at annual review;
- (4) the existing s13A policy on hardship agreed by Cabinet on the 3 August 2006 and now known as s13A(1)(c) be continued.

Reason for Decision: The Council had carried out a wide consultation to ensure that residents within Harrow were given the opportunity to give their view and help shape the new Council Tax Support Scheme. Feedback from the

consultation had informed the recommendations to Cabinet and helped towards identifying the impacts of the changes.

Statutorily the Scheme must be agreed by 31 January 2013 to enable the Council to make the required savings of approximately £3.8m for the year 2013/14 and £5.1m the following year 2014/15. If this deadline was not met and a local scheme agreed, the Council would be required to deliver the default Council Tax Support Scheme. This would not allow the authority to manage the funding gap between the reduced devolved grant given to the Council and the Council Tax Support expected expenditure.

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.

[Call-in does not apply to decisions reserved to Council]

17(a) Equality Framework for Local Government

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the new Equalities Framework for Local Government, as a tool to measure on a continuous basis, improvements and progress in equalities in addition to the specific measures set out in the Council's Equality Objectives, be adopted;
- (2) external accreditation not be sought against the Framework.

Reason for Decision: The use of the Framework as a tool focuses on continuous improvement rather than provide a snapshot assessment.

Alternative Options considered/rejected: As set out in the report/Not to use the Framework at all.

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

17(b) Key Decision - Revenue and Capital Monitoring for Quarter 2 as at 30 September 2012

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revenue and capital forecast outturn position at the end of September 2012 be noted;
- (2) the following capital virements, detailed in paragraph 36 of the report and reproduced below, be approved:

Description	From £000	To £000
Adult Social Care Framework I project Supported Housing (HIV)	250	250
St. Ann's Road project Strategic Sites	500	500
Total	750	750

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

Alternative Options considered and rejected: None.

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

17(c) Key Decision - Collection Fund 2012/13

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the estimated surplus of £1,319,071 on the Collection Fund as at 31 March 2013 of which £1,045,960 was the Harrow share be noted;
- (2) £1,045,960 be transferred to the General Fund in 2013/14.

Reason for Decision: To adhere to the Council's statutory obligation to make an estimate of the surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund by 15 January 2013, a major part of the annual budget review process.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: None.

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

17(d) Key Decision - Fees and Charges

RESOLVED: That

- (1) It be agreed that the Fees and Charges, set out in the officer report, be implemented, where appropriate, from January 2013;
- (2) the changes to cemetery fees be reviewed and the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety be delegated responsibility to amend the fees as necessary.

Reason for Decision: To allow fees and charges to be set in line with costs and inflationary pressures.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: Alternative levels of fees.

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

17(e) Key Decision - Draft Revenue Budget 2013/14 to 2016/17

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft budget for 2013/14 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved for consultation;
- (2) the remaining budget gaps of £5.2m in 2013/14, £3.3m in 2014/15, £16.9m in 2015/16 and £14.3m in 2016/17 and the plans to close the gap be noted;
- (3) the planned investment in services and efficiency programme be noted;
- (4) the statutory changes to school funding be noted and the proposed changes to the school funding formula at Appendix 4 to the report be approved;
- (5) the proposed level of contribution to the London Boroughs Grant Scheme of £263,831 for Harrow be agreed.

Reason for Decision: To publish a draft budget for 2013/14.

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.

17(f) Harrow Partnership Board

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Reason for Decision: To note the work of the Partnership.

[Call-in does not apply]

18 Key Decision - Tree Maintenance Access Agreement and Contract

RESOLVED: That the appendix be noted.

Reason for Decision: To allow the appendix to be considered in conjunction with the main report at agenda item 10.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: As set out under item 10.

Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member / Dispensation granted: As set out under item 10.

19 Key Decision - Tender for the Council's Occupational Health Service Provider

RESOLVED: That the appendix be noted.

Reason for Decision: To allow the appendix to be considered in conjunction with the main report at agenda item 14.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: As set out under item 14.

Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member / Dispensation granted: As set out under item 14.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.27 pm).