

CABINET

14 FEBRUARY 2013

DECISIONS NOTICE

(PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2013)

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken on the substantive items at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday 14 February 2013. 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 22 February 2013 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 Key Decision - Activities and Short Breaks for Disabled Children and their Families

RESOLVED: That

- (1) approval be granted to tender and set up a Framework Agreement for activities and short break services for disabled children from 2013 onwards;
- (2) the Corporate Director of Children and Families, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders of Children, Schools and Families and Property and Major Contracts, be delegated authority to award contracts under the Framework Agreement for activities and short breaks for children with disabilities.

Reason for Decision: To note that the Framework contract value (for multiple providers) was in excess of £1,000,000 over 4 years. To deliver savings as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the financial year 2014/15.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: To continue to commission current services at the same level as in financial year 2013/13.

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

9 Key Decision - Shared Public Health Team - Transfer Scheme for Assets, Liabilities and HR

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the list of contracts that were to transfer to Harrow Council on 1 April 2013 be noted;
- (2) the progress on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Clinical Commissioning Group Core Offer (CCG) be noted;
- (3) the allocation of any unallocated contingency/additional grant arising from the Public Health grant be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Children, Schools and Families, and advised by the Corporate Directors of Community, Health and Wellbeing and Children and Families;
- (4) the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to:
 1. agree the finalised transfer scheme for the contracts and liabilities and the transfer order for the public health staff;
 2. sign off of the final CCG Memorandum of Understanding for the Core Offer.

Reason for Decision: To note that as of April 2013, public health responsibilities, together with a ring fenced grant would transfer from the Department of Health to local authorities. Local authorities would have a duty to promote the health of their population and also take on key functions requiring robust plans to be in place to protect the local population and to provide public health advice to NHS Commissioners.

To note the areas of work that were taking place, in conjunction with NHS North West London and NHS North Central London, to complete the transfer of the Public Health function by April 2013.

To focus on the transfer of contracts and staff for the Public Health services that would become the Council's responsibility, based on current available NHS guidance and legal and contracting arrangements required of the Council.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: None.

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

10 Key Decision - Corporate Plan 2013-15

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That the Corporate Plan 2013/15 be adopted.

RESOLVED: That the Leader of the Council be authorised to make any minor amendments to the Plan, as necessary, prior to the matter going to Council for adoption.

Reason for Decision: To update the Council's Policy Framework and set out the Council's Direction of Travel for the next two years.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: None.

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

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

11 Key Decision - Final Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council) That

- (1) the budget be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2013/14 to be set;
- (2) the Medium Term Financial Strategy, at appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed;
- (3) the policy on the use of the contingency, at appendix 6 to the report, be approved;
- (4) in relation to schools, the schools budget, at appendix 7 to the report, be approved;
- (5) the Reserves Policy, at appendix 9 to the report, be approved;
- (6) the Members' Allowances Scheme, at appendix 14 to the report, be adopted for 2013/14;
- (7) that the model Council Tax resolution, at appendix 11 to the report, be approved;
- (8) the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2013-14, at Appendix 15 to the report, be endorsed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the planned investment in services and efficiency programme, at Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;
- (2) the risk assessment, at appendix 8 to the report, be agreed and referred to the Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee for consideration and monitoring;
- (3) in relation to the model Council Tax resolution at appendix 11 to the report, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, as advised by the s151 officer, be authorised to make minor amendments prior to Council;
- (4) the Medium Term Financial Strategy at appendix 1 to the report be approved.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that the Council sets a balanced budget for 2013/14.

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.

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

12 Key Decision - Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2016/17

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That the Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Council to have an approved Capital Programme for 2013/14.

Alternative Options considered and rejected: None.

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

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

13 Key Decision - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council) That

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2013/14, including the additional rent to be generated by the proposed Rental Strategy, be approved;

- (2) the HRA Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report, be approved;
- (3) the Portfolio Holders for Housing and Finance, in conjunction with the Corporate Directors of Community, Health and Wellbeing and Resources, be delegated authority to adjust the Capital Programme, within the overall capital envelope for 2013/14, without seeking approval from Cabinet to ensure delivery of works.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) an average rent increase of £4.74 (4.64%) in line with the revised Rental Strategy, detailed in paragraph 20(b) of the report, resulting in an average weekly rent of £106.88, be approved;
- (3) the additional rental income generated in 2013/14, detailed in paragraph 21 of the report, be used to complement the General Fund in assisting Council tenants under the Harrow Help Scheme;
- (4) an average service charge increase of £0.07 (2.61%), resulting in an average weekly service charge of £2.75, be approved;
- (5) in accordance with the policy recommended by the Tenants', Leaseholders' and Residents' Consultative Forum in January 2012, that garage and car parking rents be frozen pending finalisation of the Garage Strategy, be approved as set out at appendix 3 to the report;
- (6) an increase in energy [heating] charges of 10% from 1 April 2013, as detailed at Appendix 4, be approved;
- (7) an increase in annual water charges based on notified amounts from Veolia Water, as set out at Appendix 5, be approved;
- (8) Community Centre charges, as set out in Appendix 6, be increased;
- (9) the changes to the staffing establishment to reflect the "Getting closer to the Customer" initiative be noted.

Reason for Decision: To publish the final HRA budget and set Council rents and other charges for 2013/14.

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.

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

14 Key Decision - Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and Strategy 2013/14

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council) That

- (1) the Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) and Prudential Indicators be approved;
- (2) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Strategy for 2013/14 be approved.

RESOLVED: That the report be referred to the Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee for review.

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

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.

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

15 Key Decision - Revenue and Capital Monitoring for Quarter 3 as at 31 December 2012

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revenue and capital forecast outturn position at the end of December 2012 be noted;
- (2) the transfer from Earmarked Reserve, detailed in paragraph 22 of the report, be approved;
- (3) the revenue virements, detailed in paragraph 25 of the report, be approved;
- (4) the debt write off, as detailed in paragraph 33 of the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: To present 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.

16 Key Decision - Non-Domestic Discretionary Rate Relief, Changes to Charity Shop Eligibility

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Charity Shops no longer be eligible for Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR);
- (2) awards of DRR to this category of charity stop as soon as legally practical but not before 31 March 2013;
- (3) no relief will be awarded under the new powers of s69 of the Localism Act 2011 which amended s47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Reason for Decision: To decrease the amount of awards granted so expenditure remained within the new reduced budget.

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.

17 2013/14 Council Statement of Risk Appetite

RESOLVED: That the 2013/14 Council Statement of Risk Appetite, enclosed as an appendix to the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: To ensure the Council complied with good professional practice and supported the aims and objectives of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) Solace Good Governance Guide 2012.

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.

18 Employees' Consultative Forum Terms of Reference - Proposal for Revisions

RESOLVED: That the revised Terms of Reference for the Employees' Consultative Forum, as recommended by the Forum on 31 January 2013, be approved.

Reason for Decision: To facilitate quick outcomes. Some discussions held in the public arena did not assist the Council's reputation. The bureaucracy associated with meetings was a drain on Council resources.

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.

19 Key Decision - Grant Recommendations for Outcomes Based Grants 2013/16 and Small Grants Funding 2013/14

RESOLVED: That

- (1) £75,000 be ring-fenced from the Grants budget to fund the commissioning of an infrastructure support service for the Third Sector during 2013/14, as set out at paragraph 2.2.2 of the report;
- (2) grant applicants be awarded funding at the levels set out in paragraphs 2.2.3 (Small Grants) and 2.2.4 Option 3b (Outcome Based Grants) of the officer report, subject to:
 - (a) receipt of satisfactory references and supporting documents by the 11 March 2013;
 - (b) confirmation from applicants that the proposed project or activity could be delivered at the same or different level as described in the application with the amount of grant recommended by the 11 March 2013;
 - (c) satisfactory responses to any queries raised by the Grant Assessment Panels by the 11 March 2013;
 - (d) completion of the appeals procedure and any changes to the amounts awarded necessitated by decisions on appeals.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Well-Being, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services, to withdraw funding offers where organisations do not comply with the conditions as detailed in resolution 2 above.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Divisional Director Community and Culture, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services, to consider and determine appeals with the support of an Independent Adviser and vary both the percentage grant awarded and the threshold above which grant awards are made in light of decisions taken on appeals.

Reason for Decision: To award Council funding under the Outcomes Based and Small Grants programmes to Third Sector organisations to support them in delivering their services to Harrow residents.

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.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.13 pm).