

CABINET MINUTES

20 JUNE 2013

Chairman: * Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar

Councillors: * Nizam Ismail * Asad Omar
* Krishna James * William Stoodley
* Zarina Khalid

**Non Executive
Non Voting
Councillors:** * Susan Hall * Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**In attendance:
(Councillors)** Joyce Nickolay Minute 652
Paul Osborn Minute 652
David Perry
Sachin Shah

* Denotes Member present

647. Apologies for Absence

None received.

648. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

Agenda Item 5 – Public Questions

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was employed by London Councils Limited, which was mentioned in an answer given to a question.

Agenda Item 12 – Adoption of the Development Management Policies DPD, Site Allocations DPD and Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan DPD

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he lived close to the Harrow-on-the-Hill Conservation Area and that his mother owned a property near a development site in Northolt Road. He would remain in the room and participate in the debate relating to this matter, which he did not envisage to be specific to the interests declared.

Councillor Susan Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she owned a business in Wealdstone. She would participate in the discussion relating to this item.

Councillors Paul Osborn and Joyce Nickolay declared a non-pecuniary interest in that they were members of the Harrow West Conservative Association, which was referenced to in the report. They would remain in the room to listen to the debate relating to the report.

649. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary Cabinet meeting held on 11 April 2013 and special Cabinet meetings held on 23 May, 28 May and 6 June 2013 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

650. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions had been received.

651. Public Questions

RESOLVED: To note that the following public questions had been received:

1.

Questioner: Jeremy Zeid

Asked of: Councillor Zarina Khalid, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families

Question: In view of the shocking cases in Blackpool, Oxford etc. What assurances can you give to Harrow Residents from across the community, that Harrow has robust checks, balances, public accountability in place, no veil of official secrecy and no culture of political correctness, to ensure that children removed from families and put into care, are fully protected from predatory gangs, and that girls from particular sections of the community are being protected from FGM?

Answer: Good evening and thank you for raising such an important question.

Just today, I was at an LSCB development day and

before that I had attended another LSCB function. It is an issue which is very important to me.

This issue was also raised at my first meeting with the Corporate Director of Children and Families in order to ensure we have robust mechanisms in place for safeguarding.

This is one of my key priorities and I can assure you that scrutiny in this area and the process of continually looking at ways to enhance our services will be taking place. Currently, there are a variety of monitoring arrangements and initiatives in Harrow to support young people to minimise the risk of exploitation and raise awareness.

With regard to monitoring, there are a number of structures in place to monitor the progress and safety of young people in the care system. They receive regular visits by Social Workers and we are currently in the process of employing more. They have access to an Independent Visitor and an advocate. Independent Reviewing Officers also see young people on their own prior to their reviews. The Independent Reviewing Officers chair the reviews of Children Looked After and will raise any concerns arising from that or from their conversations with young people with the relevant Social Workers. This is also overseen by managers as well, to ensure that, adequate work is taking place.

Children who go missing, for example, for periods over 48 hours are subject to strategy discussions. This is with the Police and other key professionals. So it is about proactive participation in our multi-agency approach - including health, youth offending team, drug and alcohol services. Persistent absconders will be subject to regular strategy meetings and key lines of enquiry will include those who they may be associating with, other people, friends for example, and whether they may be linked to any issues as well. So again it is really looking at it from a holistic perspective to ensure we cover all avenues. Children who have unauthorised absences from placements, who stay out later than agreed, for example, there is always that worry "Where could they be?", may also be subject to strategy discussions in order to consider whether they are placing themselves at similar risks.

I will be more than willing to discuss this with you later because this is a major issue. Before the time runs out, I will just touch on the FGM (female genital mutilation). Last year the LSCB delivered two full day training

sessions regarding gang involvement which included learning from children, from child sex exploitation. In 2011 and 2012 the LSCB wrote to local schools before the summer holidays regarding FGM and schools play a key role here. They have first hand information of their students and again it is working very closely with schools to ensure they are fully empowered and understand what the issues are and how they should deal with them.

The LSCB has looked into FGM reporting with the help of local police and the maternity unit at Northwick Park Hospital. This reporting information has been shared with the designated and named health professionals in Harrow.

In January 2013 there was a briefing for schools' designated leads by Harrow's e-safety ambassadors, based at two local schools, regarding online safety using CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) material.

Later this month there will be another school briefing session regarding child sexual exploitation by the Children's Society as part of a project called Rise.

The LSCB has been considering child sexual exploitation issues in Harrow quite seriously. It is about to launch a sub-group looking at the needs of vulnerable teenagers, which will include the needs of those affected by child sexual exploitation and / or gang involvement and missing children. The LSCB is also drafting a multi agency Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and is overseeing the development of a local multi agency Gang Strategy.

In 2009 and 2010 the LSCB had "safer internet" sessions involving young children. This year the LSCB has refreshed its e-safety policy. The LSCB Section 11 safeguarding evaluation process for local agencies now considers e-safety issues.

In Harrow, Children's Services commissioned Barnardo's for year 2011/12 to provide outreach work – which again is crucial. Currently, the local voluntary sector organisation Ignite is working with young people affected by gang involvement and the local charity WISH, who are fantastic, is offering counselling support to those affected by CSE.

At the Health and Wellbeing Board which I attended recently, I raised the issue with regards to specific

psychotherapy that is needed for people who have suffered child sexual exploitation because that is an issue where, I believe, normal counselling does not really fit the bill. So not only do we need to do preventative work but we need to make sure that whoever has suffered they have the right help out there to help them recover.

Historically, Children's Services has worked closely with Police to minimise the risk to young people of gang related activity and exploitation. For example, following the London riots in 2011 staff from Children Services and the Police worked with young people on the streets to ward off potential tension.

In addition, Children's Services and the Police held multi agency meetings to discuss what further intervention was required for young people who were viewed to be at risk of rioting. The meetings also considered whether females associated with these groups may have been subjected to exploitation.

One thing I will be working on in particular from a personal perspective here is working more closely with the voluntary and community sector and mapping an increasing number of organisations who work with children. So it is not only about dealing with children that we currently know who are currently on our books so to speak. It is about trying to reach out to all organisations who work with children and making sure they are aware. The local Safeguarding Board have produced a fantastic book 'Green Book', which provides safeguarding policy and support and they will even write policy documents for these organisations. They will come in and train all interested organisations. For example, at Harrow Mosque they have a new education facility opening up there and again they will be working with a lot of children. So I want to make sure that either it is I who goes and personally invites these local organisations to work with us and make sure they have a safeguarding policy in place and these same initiatives go to any private sports clubs that open that work with children.

Supplemental Question: My previous experience of Children's Services over the last few years has been "chequered" to say the least but hopefully under the new Directorate it will be better than it was last time round.

It mentions FGM in passing, and policy. Are there any doctors under observation for perhaps carrying this out? Are any children on your books for having been at risk,

perhaps been taken by an aunty out of the country? Is there any meat on the bones rather than just policy?

Supplemental Answer: I am sorry I cannot give you that information now. I can provide these to you in writing but I can assure you that this area is something that I will focus on. No prosecutions have taken place that I am aware of.

2.

Questioner: Angela Dias

Asked of: Councillor Krishna James, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: There are very few services to support people with physical disabilities in Harrow. Can you guarantee that the outcome of the consultation will not leave us without an accessible, shared space that is easy to get to, and provides the same advantages as Bentley Day Centre?’

Answer: Thank you for your question.

I have not had the chance to look at all the Day Centres but I certainly will be visiting these. My predecessor was involved with the consultation, so I will be taking up where she has left off.

I am sorry that you feel that Harrow does not provide enough support to people with physical disabilities. According to the Department of Health information, Harrow spends a higher than average proportion of social care resources on people with physical disabilities. The Council is committed to ensuring we meet the assessed eligible needs of all adults with physical disabilities in the borough. This includes support to a wide range of people who use personal budgets, alongside specialist services such as Bentley.

The Council is committed to maintaining high quality local provision, including fully accessible facilities to meet the needs of all groups.

Formal consultation on the Transformation of Day Opportunities, finished on 7 May 2013 and a report is due to go to Cabinet on 18 July this year. At this stage, I am not able to tell you what the recommendations in the final report will be but I can guarantee that we will continue to meet the eligible assessed needs of all service users.

Supplemental Question: Many disabled people feel the accumulative impact of local and central government cuts leaves them doomed to a very frightening future. Does the equality impact assessment for the changes to Day Services recognise this?

Supplemental Answer: I for one certainly recognise this and I am very aware of the fact that these two processes were going together. If it had been up to me it certainly would not have happened that way but, unfortunately, I was not in power to do anything about it at that time. I totally understand where you are coming from. At the same time as the government was doing their Return to Work Programme, and I did alert my then colleagues to this process. I wish it could be different - some of it could have been held back a little bit.

I will do everything in my power to make sure that the facilities are provided for and as I have said to you, Harrow provides higher than others in the country.

3.

Questioner: Chris Stewart

Asked of: Councillor Krishna James, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: I want to raise the serious concerns of HAD, and service users at Bentley Day Centre, regarding the Council's plans to reduce access to the Taxicard Scheme. Are you aware that this service is very unreliable, poor quality and expensive, and that few people would ever use it if they had any other choice, so what options can you suggest for people who cannot use public transport at all, or without a lot of support, cannot drive, and cannot get into a mini cab?'

Answer: Thank you for your question.

Part of this has been about balancing budgets. We live in times of austerity and we have had to take some of the cuts.

Taxicard funding has had to be cut in 2013/14. Harrow consulted on this topic widely for 12 weeks, between 8 March and 31 May. We received an enormous response, together with very valuable feedback regarding the quality of the service.

The Taxicard Service is wholly discretionary and from 2014/15 will rely on a Transport for London subsidy to

fund it. London Councils manage the service and tender and manage the many contracts issued to taxi operators in all 33 boroughs. The quality, value for money and responsiveness of the service is managed as part of this contract management.

In response to the consultation, we received many complaints about the existing service providers operating in Harrow. So in answer to you, yes we are aware. We have made representations to London Councils on behalf of users to ensure adequate monitoring is in place.

In addition, Harrow has recently developed alternative transport options as part of its development of the 'Personalised' market place, so with the budget and personalised budgets, we will be looking further into this matter.

Supplemental Question: If you were a disabled person, would you be happy doing that?

Supplemental Answer: I totally understand. Yes, it is a very difficult time. I have nursed for 15 years in Harrow, so I know what disability is and I can very well understand from some of the service users and groups that sometimes, we are not able to meet some of the requests.

I will try my hardest with the support of my colleagues to meet the needs of service users. I think that is why I have found myself in this space at the moment because I felt certain things were not happening. I cannot promise anything at this stage but I will certainly work towards it.

652. Councillor Questions

RESOLVED: To note the following Councillor Questions had been received:

1.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: Please could you indicate how you wish to re-allocate the Council under-spends from 2012/13?

Answer:

David, we are a responsible administration. We would never use this money as an election budget. The proof of that is that we have increased the amount going into the service.

To give you some details. The Council has ended the financial year in a healthy financial position, having delivered the level of savings required whilst continuing to deliver vital services to residents. Officers have worked hard to contain expenditure in a demand-led budget and minimise non essential spend across the Council.

The Cabinet report highlights the fact that a number of transfers to reserves are proposed at the end of the 2012/13 financial year.

- £4.8m is to be transferred to a MTFS implementation reserve to cover redundancy and other one-off costs associated with delivering the savings approved by Members in February, as part of the budget for next two years.

The use of any underspend in this way was part of the Council report approved by Members in February.

- £3.3m is to be carried forward into next year for departments to continue to deliver Council priorities for residents and projects that will help to deliver more savings in the future. A schedule of the individual carry-forward requests has been distributed as part of the supplementary agenda.
- A business Risk reserve is also being established in order to cover the financial risk of a number of contractual disputes the Council is currently engaged in.
- The remaining £996k will be transferred to the Council's General Fund balance, taking the total in the reserve to £8.6m.

The above is a prudent use of the monies available at the end of the financial year and helps to position the Council to face the difficult financial times ahead.

I had to bear in mind that there is going to be £24 million cuts in the next two years. I do not want to bankrupt the Council spending all the money I have got and leave

somebody else with the Council with no money in it. So I think it is a prudent, responsible decision.

Supplemental Question: The figure of which I am interested in is the £156,000 which is being installed with the PRISM project and what I am keen to know is, does that money, that carry forward, that additional money there, what changes in the current policy does that cater for and will you be carrying through the policy of PRISM, of which you were a senior Member of the Cabinet that approved it originally?

Supplemental Answer: Okay, the PRISM was, at that time, brought by a Portfolio Holder. I thought it was a good item at the time but I was not made aware of a number of things. Specifically, he did not tell me of a number of slippages in consultation.

The Chief Executive is carrying out a lot of consultation with the employees. When that consultation is finished, we will look at it, we will make a decision that is right for Harrow.

2.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Krishna James, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: What action are you taking to protect the people of Harrow and campaign against the A&E Crisis facing Northwick Park Hospital?

Answer: Thank you.

As you might recall, I was Chair of Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee, so I had quite a lot of input into this area.

Unfortunately, I took it over halfway through, and by the time I took responsibility, the Business Case was approved. So my job was very difficult. I am not making excuses but I saw at the forefront that there would be a problem with A&E and a backlog would be there. We have seen the publicity locally and it has been in the national paper as well as on the news.

There are a number of issues which cause the problems – it is not all local. The actions I have taken are:

- To satisfy myself that adult services and public

health are playing a full part in reducing these problems where possible.

Adult Services are working closely with colleagues from across the health service to support hospital discharges and reduce pressure on accident and emergency. We have been working together as part of an Integrated Care project to plan support for people who have complex needs and require hospital care. One initiative the Council has recently commenced is to identify people who are frequent ambulance or accident and emergency users and to provide them with a tailored re-ablement service.

We work closely together to identify people who may need to stay in hospital for longer when necessary, including Harrow's Hospital discharge team who are based at Northwick Park and work hand in hand with the services there. In April for example there was only one person delayed whilst a social care package was finalised.

- To promote greater integrated working across health and care through the Health and Wellbeing Board – we are proposing to bid for pioneer status to build on our integrated care project.
- I have also raised the issue with national and local partners, the Health and Wellbeing Board took place yesterday, for information, to ask them to feedback on steps they are taking to deal with these problems.

Supplemental Question:

I think the figures which have recently come out regarding the A&E waiting times, over 4 hours in Northwick Park Hospital, is the second worst in London and this is even before local hospitals in surrounding boroughs have closed and sometimes I think, regardless of what the officers are doing, there is a political solution. What efforts and what message can I give to the people of Marlborough and the people of Harrow?

What efforts will you be taking to liaise with Councillor Hall and Macleod-Cullinane in order for them to talk to their seniors in Westminster in order to reverse the devastating cuts which are happening to the NHS and one which Angela Dias, the representative from the voluntary sector, has already alluded to tonight?

Supplemental Answer: It is an extremely important issue and I will be looking at the figures. I am someone who uses the hospital and I will come back to you with any figures that you need.

Written Answer: I share your concern about the national and local problems in A&E services.

As you know, in my position as the previous chair of Health Scrutiny, I championed this issue. In my new role as Portfolio Holder I am using my influence in a number of ways to lobby locally, regionally and nationally on this issue:

Firstly, I raised the issue at the last Health and Wellbeing Board and asked for an action plan to be submitted by local organisations to show how we would deal with pressures in A&E over the winter.

Secondly, I have overseen the development of a proposal to integrate health and social care services in North West London - as you will appreciate hospital pressures can't be dealt with by one borough alone.

Finally, a proposal has been submitted to national government to highlight the issues we face and to secure government support to resolve it by us becoming a pioneer in health and social care joint working.

I am always happy to do more on such a crucial issue David and would welcome a cross-party approach and ideas from all Councillors.

3.

Questioner: Councillor Sachin Shah

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts
(Answer provided by Councillor William Stoodley, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration)

Question: What are you planning to do about the alleged breaches of the lease by the leaseholders at Prince Edward Playing Field (the Hive)?

Answer: I will answer this question as a commercial lease's terms and conditions are mainly backed up by the planning permission granted originally which is my Portfolio.

There are no actionable breaches of that lease to Football First Limited that have occurred so far.

I think what you are asking by your question is with reference to the number of complaints, the number of incidents that have happened over the last few months. I feel it would be better to come from the end and work backwards to explain what is going on.

Firstly, we would like to point out and stress, Barnet Football Club have not actually yet played a single football match at The Hive. So the disturbances are not actually related to Barnet Football Club playing. Whether or not they should play, again I know we have discussed this before; the lease definition is what is commonly accepted as professional football league standard of equivalent Coca Cola Standard 2. As you may be aware they were relegated and they therefore claim they are not of that standard. One could argue that, well if you are in the next league down and you are playing at a standard capable of being promoted then you are still of that standard. I have researched this and we could get counsel's opinion on that. It would cost a couple of thousand pounds but it would, once and for all, settle that point.

However, there could be a bit of a sticky wicket because it was actually resolved by Cabinet that professional league football matches may be played at the Prince Edward Playing Fields anyway. So I think whether we like it or not, Barnet are, at the end of the day, entitled to play at The Hive and as I said at the meeting the other night, I would suggest that is the best answer to this. Let them play. I suspect the disturbance will be a lot less. I suspect the events will be over a lot sooner than the other events that have caused the complaints so far.

We need to bear in mind the history of this. The capacity for the crowd in 2008 was granted planning permission for it to go up to 5,164. It was already at 4,000 in 2003. They had planning permission for a crowd of 4,000. They have not started to use that until next month probably when the friendly games start and I would liken that to being in the pub for a couple of hours, getting a couple of pints for £2 and suddenly the bar staff tells you oh, it is £3.50. Well, if the other person made a mistake that is your fortitude and the fact that for 4 or 5,000 have not been turning up the Hive for the last 9 years is presumably fortuitous to the residents but that does not mean to say that it could not have been happening all that time. It could have been happening

all that time and it is about to start now.

While on the subject of alcohol, one of the complaints raised was the possibility of people leaving the crowd drinking and I have been assured that actually it is the Police that would rather a bar on site available to the fans and the reason for this is that the away fans, if there is no bar, will stop off at various pubs in your Ward and the other Wards surrounding, cause problems possibly, go to the match, leave, back to the pub before they go home. The Police's view I am told, is that if the bar is on site, the coach goes to the football ground, it unloads. The fans have a drink, they watch the match, they have a great time. They get back on their coach, they go home. No problem, no hassle for the surrounding area.

Noise has been raised as a possible breach of the lease. Again it is not but we have acted on that and an abatement order has been served. We have spoken to Mr Kleanthos about this incident. He claims he had no idea that this mediaeval fighting and swords banging on shields was going to happen. Well, I am just saying that is what he claims and the second night it happened he told them they had to stop early but nevertheless I doubt that will happen again. It was a one off event and it is certainly not going to be coinciding with football matches when Barnet are playing. They will not want any periphery or distraction or car park filled up with other items while the matches are being played.

The other point I would raise is we are in the process of obtaining noise reports from them for the other complaint residents have raised that the new stand is higher and shorter, whereas the other one was long. I have spoken to him today and I have been assured that that is on its way. Again, it would be worth adding at this point that it was as a result of Tony Blair winning the London Olympic bid that Transport for London wanted to run more trains down the Jubilee Line, checked out the embankment and decided it was not solid enough to support the extra trains. They therefore proceeded to rip out all the trees which again is now a reason why the neighbours can see the stand as much as it is, that when you are on the ground you can see other periphery buildings that you could not see before.

The floodlights also are in hand. The timings are 10.30pm for the actual practice playing fields that are being complained about and again he has been told by a senior officer, in no uncertain terms, that he will be served with an Order if they are on any later than

10.30pm. So please ask your residents to keep us informed about that but again that is a breach of planning permission, not a breach of a lease.

We do have plans for the car parking which we are in negotiation with. I have been asked perhaps if I can run that by you later if you like. We also want to arrange with all the Councillors in the Wards affected so we can move forward on this and keep you informed as to what is going on but with respect to actual breaches of that lease, none have so far happened that would be actionable.

Supplemental Question: I think your response is disgraceful and it shows the absolute contempt in which you hold the people of Queensbury. Let us be very clear, the lease actually says they must stick to the planning permission and the conditions within the planning, so therefore if there is a breach of the planning, there is also a breach of the lease.

The question is, last night the floodlights were on until midnight, they were on until midnight which is a breach of the planning and it is also a breach of the lease. The question is, why are you not doing anything? Why are you treating the people of Queensbury with such utter contempt?

Supplemental Answer: I just spent a considerable amount of time explaining to you what we were doing. I never said there was no problem. I said there was no breach of the lease and a breach of planning permission is not a breach of the lease.

The following questions were not reached in the time limit of 15 minutes. It was noted that written responses would be provided, which have been reproduced below:

4.

Questioner: Councillor Bill Phillips

Asked of: Councillor Zarina Khalid, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families

Question: Currently families under the stress of having to resolve their differences through the courts, or are themselves involved with the courts through child protection issues, have to travel to Willesden in the neighbouring borough of Brent. This is bad enough, particularly for very poor families who might need to travel there to pursue a partner for non-payment of child maintenance, but now

we hear that the family courts are being moved to the now redundant Asylum and Immigration Tribunal offices in Hatton Cross.

Could the Portfolio Holder indicate to us the impact this will have on families within Harrow?

Written Response:

The simple answer to your question at Cabinet would be Yes, the impact would be big. Around 40 families would be affected by this change. The Hatton Cross building is a 30 minute walk away from the station and if travelling by public transport one would need to make around 3/4 changes of transport and the journey time would take around 2 hours. This is difficult for both social workers and the families.

Given all these issues we have requested that cases requiring a judge be heard at the PRFD (Principle Registry of the Family Division) in central London. A meeting was also held with the Courts Service and it was indicated that we were likely to have most cases heard in Barnet however this is still being consulted on. I will inform you of the outcome.

5.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: With the threat of 12 fire stations closures and cuts in 18 fire engines & 520 fire-fighter posts across London, could you indicate whether you oppose the Fire Commissioner's proposals?

Written Response:

The London Fire Brigade, in common with all of the public sector, faces severe challenges in terms of its budgets and the need to deliver modernised services. It has taken a strategic view of its challenges and resources and put a plan in place which is intended to meet its strategic and operational priorities, including the changing type of service which it needs to deliver in response to changes in these challenges. Obviously its proposals will have an impact across the city.

However, in Harrow, local resources have been gauged as being broadly appropriate to the needs of the borough and the needs for Harrow's resources to make

a contribution to emergencies in the wider geographical area. As such, we understand that the current plan is for Harrow to retain all its stations, retain or possibly increase the number of appliances based locally and retain all its firefighters.

The London Fire Brigade have always been committed partners to Safer Harrow and we must continue to place our trust in them to deliver a high quality and appropriate level of service on our behalf.

6.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Asad Omar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: Please provide details of when and how the borough-wide parking charges currently being reviewed will be implemented?

Written Response: Subject to Cabinet approval, the new tiered charging structure is scheduled to be operational by November / December 2013 following a statutory consultation to amend charges and time periods borough wide.

A trial of the 20 minutes free parking concession in on-street parking bays will be undertaken in Rayners Lane from July, reviewed in September and subsequently implemented borough wide in conjunction with the tiered charges programme of implementation.

7.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: Do you plan to make any further appointments to your Cabinet from within the Independent or Conservative Group?

Written Response: No.

8.

Questioner: Councillor Graham Henson

Asked of: Councillor Nizam Ismail, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services and Housing

Question: What is the Portfolio Holder doing to maximise the HRA income and ensuring that all funds owed to it are recovered?

Written Response: We have a very robust rent recovery procedure – lowest levels of current tenant arrears for many years.

- assigned Housing Officers contact current and former tenants very early (2 weeks) when they fall into rent arrears. We continue to actively seek recovery of amounts owed by former tenants. Housing Officers have performance targets to collect any outstanding income owed to the council;
- we are adding resources to our income team to contact our 'hard to reach' tenants in the evening and weekends. This officer will increase the number of agreements to pay current/former rent arrears and recharges;
- working with the Citizens' Advice Bureau to better understand our tenants and leaseholders. We also conduct financial risk assessments with our tenants to ensure that we engage the relevant support agencies as early as possible into the process;
- we have a number of payment options. Recently we introduced a third date in the month where tenants can pay their rent by direct debit;
- we are programming our major works to allow the statutory consultation for section 20 purposes, and working to improve the analysis of information for leasehold service charges in order to maximise recovery;
- we are monitoring the impact of welfare reform as it develops to identify any new pressures on income, and working with colleagues across the Council to develop procedures and policies for cases where there are multiple debts;

- we are actively looking at alternative uses for surplus land and/or garage sites, and are seeking approval to start to develop new housing within the HRA to generate additional income and strengthen cash flows.

9.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: Please could you indicate what policy areas / initiatives you will be prioritising within the Finance Department over the next 12 months?

Written Response: The finance department will focus on:

- a) delivering the Finance Transformation Project which aims to deliver a fit-for-purpose finance service for the Council. Specific projects include:
 - Restructuring the team
 - Developing a coherent L&D Plan
 - Creating a Service Charter
 - Improving the accuracy of our forecasting
 - Implementing the new Financial Regulations
 - Standardising management reports
 - Improving and rationalising our chart of accounts
- b) monitoring the delivery of the MTFS;
- c) horizon scanning and planning for the significant challenges ahead over the next four year planning period.

10.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Asad Omar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: Please could you indicate what policy areas / initiatives you will be prioritising within the Environment & Community Safety Departments over the next 12

months?

Written Response: Harrow has some of the best Environment and Community Safety services in London and our priority for the coming year will be to ensure that these services continue to develop and evolve to meet the challenges which are presented by our community.

Through Safer Harrow, Community Safety will be working on a new project to increase the level of partnership integration in dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour, introducing new systems and working methods which will ensure that all the resources of the Harrow Partnership are working as effectively as possible in investigating and tackling Anti Social Behaviour.

In Environmental Services we will be prioritising work aimed at ensuring that we are enforcing as effectively as possible against environmental nuisance. This will include work investigating the feasibility of introducing fixed penalty notice enforcement against low level nuisance issues such as littering and graffiti.

11.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Zarina Khalid, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families

Question: Please could you indicate what policy areas / initiatives you will be prioritising within the Children's Services Department over the next 12 months?

Written Response: **Children's Priorities**
Most of the services that come under my remit are dictated by statutory guidance and are key priorities of the Council. My priorities are aligned with those in the Health and Wellbeing Board.

One of my top priorities is to ensure that safeguarding services are robust and effective. I will work with the Corporate Director and the Chair of Harrow Safeguarding Board to ensure we have not only sufficient resources to provide good services but will ensure areas of improvement are a key priority i.e. the recruitment of qualified social workers. I will be enhancing the work we do with voluntary and community organisations as mentioned previously in my answer to the public question as this was not looked at adequately by the previous Portfolio Holder.

As you are aware, I was Lead Member for Scrutiny Performance for CS&F so was aware of key issues we were facing and was working to enhance performance in all areas. I am and will continue to work with officers to improve the outcomes for Looked After Children across the Council, working with all departments who play a key role in ensuring improvements for our most disadvantaged children and young people i.e. housing and youth employment.

I will take an active role in the implementation of new government guidance that is being introduced around SEN and Disability Services and try to ensure a smooth transition for families.

I will ensure our early help offer is in line with Ofsted expectations and that the principles of Families First are embedded across Early Intervention Services. I see Early Intervention as key and also want to promote the mentoring services we provide to community and voluntary groups.

I will ensure the Youth Offending Services, who have historically faced difficulties, are continuing to demonstrate key improvements. I want to look at Improved CAMHS support through health and innovative ways to try and change antisocial behaviour. I have been in discussions for example with a group called Only Connect, a drama production based around gang culture who use ex offenders as actors who then recount their own life stories. I would like to see them perform in every school in Harrow.

I will ensure the School Expansion Programme is given full support and that we are able to fulfil our statutory duty to provide school places for all children in Harrow. Phase two of the expansion programme will soon be going to Cabinet.

I will work with schools to provide the necessary support to achieve good and better outcomes including Ofsted ratings in a climate of increased scrutiny.

I am fully briefed on the issues affecting schools and will be embarking on visits to schools over the next few weeks, which are planned. Fitting in school visits has been something which is key but must be done with the least disruption to schools working schedule.

In my first weeks of taking on the Portfolio I have spent time with all Divisional Directors and their teams to get a

better understanding of the services and the issues affecting them. I have spent time with front line staff and the youth parliament and will continue with a very focused programme of front line visits to ensure that we continue to improve outcomes for children and ensure that I have an active and engaging dialogue with front line staff.

I have had the full support of the Directorate and have ensured, within a short space of time that I have had a very full programme of induction that will continue and I would like to thank them for responding to all my needs and requests so swiftly.

I will continue to work to strengthen partnerships, particularly with health and the voluntary sector, to improve outcomes for all children in Harrow, but especially the most vulnerable. Children deserve the best start in life.

I have undertaken a number visits to teams and services over my short period of holding this Portfolio and have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. I will ensure I champion the needs of children and young people in everything I do and work co-operatively with staff and managers in our improvement journey.

12.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Nizam Ismail, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services and Housing

Question: Please could you indicate what policy areas / initiatives you will be prioritising within the Community & Cultural Services Department over the next 12 months?

Written Response: We will be prioritising the delivery of the stringent savings targets that we have inherited for the next 12 months which includes the delivery of the new libraries and leisure management contracts and working to reduce the Council subsidies on Harrow Arts Centre and Harrow Museum, which includes through the Heritage Lottery funded development work for the Museum and the work to completely refurbish the Tithe Barn, which is already underway.

Although these savings targets leave little room for fresh initiatives, I will be leading the Division to work even more closely with local communities particularly in the delivery of future community events including the

planning for Under One Sky in 2014.

In addition, I am keen to identify areas for bringing in external investment into our facilities, such as Bannister Stadium, to maximise the improvements for our residents whilst reducing costs to the Council. We will be working closely with Public Health.

Finally, I want to ensure that we work with local community organisations to meet their infrastructure needs including accommodation so that we are helping to support them through the difficult financial times ahead.

As my Portfolio also covers housing I thought I should point out the important developments in housing policy that are also included on this cabinet agenda, they include for the first time:

- a thirty year business plan for housing which is showing a very healthy surplus - almost £200 million in surplus over the life of the plan which provides opportunities for the Council to develop new housing.
- a draft asset management strategy for consultation which will consult people on the best way of managing and maintaining our own Council stock.
- A host of new housing incentives in the form of grants to help free up council housing for those most in need.

13.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Krishna James, Portfolio Holder for Adults Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: Please could you indicate what policy areas / initiatives you will be prioritising within the Adult Services Department over the next 12 months?

Written Response: The coming year will be another year of substantial challenges for adult services, with a significant amount of change taking place alongside the constant need to support and protect the most vulnerable adults in the borough.

Broadly speaking we have five main priority areas this year. These are delivering Personalisation, continuing to focus on quality and assurance, delivering MTFs savings improving mental health services and continuing to work more closely with the health service.

Harrow are already leaders in Personalisation, but with the deliver and roll-out of My Community ePurse this year we will be the first borough to provide an on-line support planning tool which will allow everyone who receives social care in the community to take advantage of a personal budget. People will be facilitated by our support workers to plan, purchase and track services and satisfaction of services.

Quality and safety have always been at the heart of work in Harrow, and following Winterbourne View and the Francis report the benefit of this emphasis is even clearer. We will be further improving quality assurance in social care and enabling us to track the experience of every single service user.

David, you will be aware of the extensive savings targets set for adult services in the MTFs you agreed in February. These follow successive years of delivering savings on target. A number of projects such as the review of residential care have been to Cabinet and are being implemented and others such as the Transformation of Day Services will be coming in future months.

Mental Health is a big priority of mine, and something that I have campaigned about for years. We will be working with CNWL during the year to challenge the quality of their services and the experiences of the people who use them. An example of this is work underway by the National Development Team for Inclusion to understand the experience of people with personal budgets and to lead to improvements.

Finally, We have made excellent progress with the Integrated Care Project in recent months, and expect this to continue as we work together in the Health & Wellbeing Board to identify more opportunities in the future.

14.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor William Stoodley, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

Question: Please could you indicate what policy areas / initiatives you will be prioritising within the Planning / Regeneration Departments over the next 12 months?

Written Response: Our priority focus to stimulate economic growth will centre on initiatives to support People, Place and Business. This will include continued support for the Xcite employment initiative, which will be holding its next Job Fair on 25 June, providing a bridge between local employers and jobseekers.

The completion of the Harrow Town Centre regeneration schemes, to bring footfall and spend to Harrow town centre, safeguarding existing jobs and creating new jobs.

The continued delivery of provision to support local businesses, which includes an event being held this evening to help businesses secure Access to Finance, and our continued work to develop local supply chains which in 2012/13 saw the council increase spend with small firms from 10% to 12% of total spend, and the number of contracts with small firms up from 17.5% of the total to 25%.

The priorities for planning and regeneration are to focus on the implementation of the Local Plan objectives set out in Harrow's Core Strategy. In particular:

1. The delivery of 4,000 new jobs and 6,000 homes through the management of completions on existing permissions for Honeypot Lane, Bentley Priory, Stonebridge & Rayners Lane;
2. The conclusion of planning applications and reserve matters for key development sites such as Bradstowe House, ColArt, RNOH, Kodak and Lyon Road;
3. The engagement of landowners and developers on taking forward other development opportunities;
4. The effective delivery of Council programmes including schools expansion, HRA and affordable housing delivery and the planned improvements to Lowlands Reserve;
5. The implementation of Harrow's CIL and infrastructure planning process (with partners) to fund much needed improvements and enhancements to the borough's social and

physical infrastructure;

6. Continued engagement with TfL and the Mayor for London regarding investment in transport and Harrow's town centres;
7. Continued support for the Xcite employment initiative, providing a bridge between local employers and jobseekers;
8. The continued delivery of provision to support local businesses, including events to help businesses secure Access to Finance and work to develop local supply chains.

This is totally in keeping with Harrow's planning and urban regeneration policy that Harrow Labour had in place for the last three years under the then Portfolio Holder, Councillor Keith Ferry.

15.

Questioner: Councillor Sachin Shah

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: Please provide me with a line by budget line break down of how you intent to spend the £3.268m in carry forwards from the 2012/2013 budget to the 2013/2014 budget.

Written Response: This detail has been supplied as part of the supplementary agenda.

16.

Questioner: Councillor Sachin Shah

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: Please provide me with a line by line budget break down of how you intent to spend the new business risk reserve.

Written Response: The Business Risk reserve has been established to cover the financial risk of a number of contractual disputes. It would compromise the council's negotiating position to give a line-by-line response but I am happy for the Finance Director to brief you separately.

653. Key Decision Schedule - June to August 2013

The Leader of the Council reported that the 'Community Safety Plan' and the 'Joint Waste London Waste Plan' items from the Key Decision Schedule had been deferred to later Cabinet meetings. He added that a report on the 'Commissioning of Libraries and Leisure Management' was considered at the special Cabinet meeting on 6 June 2013.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Key Decision Schedule for June 2013.

654. Progress on Scrutiny Projects

RESOLVED: To receive and note the progress of scrutiny projects.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

655. Adoption of the Development Management Policies DPD, Site Allocations DPD and Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan DPD

Cabinet received a report of the Corporate Director of Environment and Enterprise, which documented the outcome of the independent Examination in Public of the three Local Plans, formerly known as Development Plan Documents. The proposal was to recommend to Council the adoption of the Local Plans, as part of the Local Development Plan for Harrow.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration briefed Cabinet on the outcome of the Examination in Public and the subsequent changes made to simplify the Plans. He added that the Plans would set policy until 2026.

In commending the report to Cabinet, the Portfolio Holder explained that the Plans may need re-visiting before that time should the forthcoming revision to the London Plan significantly increase Harrow's housing delivery "target."

A non-Executive non-Voting Cabinet Member suggested that instead of wasting valuable resources, reference to tall buildings ought to be deleted from the Plans. He was of the view that the Council's vision that it would not support, for example, 20-storey buildings being built in Harrow should be clearly set out in the Plans.

In response, the Portfolio Holder stated that whilst he too recognised the Member's concern, the Council was not in a position to make unequivocal statements and that the Council had been guided by the Planning Inspector in this regard. He added that the Planning Inspector was satisfied with the Plans.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That the Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan Local Plan, the Site Allocations Local Plan, and the Development Management Policies Local Plan be adopted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the outcome of the independent Examination in Public of the three Local Plans be noted;
- (2) the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration be notified as soon as practicable when the post-adoption statutory requirements for the Local Plans have been complied with.

Reason for Decision: To progress the Local Plans to adoption in accordance with the current Local Development Scheme. To ensure that an up-to-date Development Plan for the Borough was in place and to comply with regulatory requirements.

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 as the decision is reserved to Council.]

RESOLVED ITEMS

656. Housing Business Plan 2013, consultation draft Asset Management Strategy, Proposals for a future Affordable Housing Programme, and Proposed Grants to Move Scheme

Cabinet received a report of the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing setting out the long term aspirations of the Council to be achieved through the Housing Business Plan, including how the Council intended to maintain and improve its housing stock over a 30 year period, offering grants to existing tenants to move if they wished and deliver a new build Council Housing Programme on housing land that was underutilised.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing highlighted the key aspects of the report, as follows:

- the HRA account was in a healthy position and was projected to generate a balance of £170m once costs had been deducted;
- the draft Asset Management Strategy was 'fit for purpose' to meet both current and future housing needs;

- the HRA could afford to develop up to 150 new affordable homes, which was a clear priority of this administration. He thanked the former Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Currie, and Councillor Bath for their work in identifying the potential sites for development; some of which would be utilised for this purpose;
- houses owned by the Council would be utilised effectively, as grants would be provided to tenants whose properties were under occupied thereby encouraging them to downsize. Such measures would help free up affordable housing for the vulnerable.

A Non-Executive Non-Voting Cabinet Member asked why Option 1, a higher cost option, was being recommended over Option 2. He was also concerned that the report had not addressed the risks associated with changes in the governing of the HRA by future governments, as in the past 15 years three different arrangements for the HRA had been put in place by consecutive governments. He was of the view that the report should have addressed these points on the basis that a 30-year Business Plan had been put in place for the HRA. Additionally, he was also concerned how and why only some estates had been chosen for the regeneration programme and others in similar condition, such as Grange Farm, had been omitted.

The Divisional Director of Housing explained that Option 2 was a one off event while Option 1 was linked with the developing of the Council's skills base and ability thereby keeping options open for determining what the Council did in the future and how it developed alternative development options. The logic behind recommending Option 1 was to rebuild that capacity to keep options open for the future, which, whilst expensive in the short term would provide long term benefits. The Portfolio Holder for Housing added that Option 1 represented better value for Harrow residents.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing explained that various estates had been chosen for feasibility studies as part of the regeneration programme on the basis that they were dilapidated and consideration had been given to identifying these across the borough.

The same Non-Executive Non-Voting Cabinet Member, whilst welcoming the desire for new development on existing garage sites as part of the programme, was concerned that the Council might not have the capacity to drive this forward. He concluded his remarks with a request that the language used in reports ought to be politically neutral.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Housing Business Plan 2013, at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the consultation draft Asset Management Strategy, at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
- (3) officers be authorised to proceed with the first phase of the Affordable Housing Programme, set out at Appendix 3 to the report, and the

Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing and the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services and Housing be authorised to approve alternative sites if those identified were unable to be progressed;

- (4) expenditure from HRA reserves, HRA capital receipts and the Affordable Housing Fund of up to £6.5m to fund the development of the first phase of the Affordable Housing Programme be approved;
- (5) officers be authorised to procure an external Development Management Service with a value of up to 5% of the estimated development costs to support the first phase of the Affordable Housing Programme, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report;
- (6) officers be authorised to undertake detailed regeneration feasibilities on the HRA housing estates, as set out in the Affordable Housing Programme at Appendix 3 to the report;
- (7) officers be authorised to develop Business Cases for long term strategic housing delivery options, as set out at Appendix 3 to the report;
- (8) the Grants to Move Scheme, attached at Appendix 4 to the report, be approved and the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing, the Director of Finance and Assurance and the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services and Housing be granted delegated authority to approve amendments to the Scheme as necessary to ensure the Scheme objectives were achieved to time and within budget.

Reason for Decision: To have in place an agreed 30 year Housing Business Plan for the purposes of long term planning (subject to annual review) and to enable delivery of agreed key housing objectives.

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.

657. Parking Charges Review Implementation

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety introduced the report, which set out the background to the Parking Review, including proposals to implement the Review agreed in 2011.

The Portfolio Holder added that the report focused on standardising parking charges across the borough in order to avoid confusion and frustration amongst users. He was pleased that part of the proposals included a free 20 minute free period of parking, which had been championed by the Leader of the Council, and would involve a trial in Rayners Lane prior to its introduction across the borough.

A Non-Executive Non-Voting Cabinet Member expressed caution, as the proposal for concessionary or free parking was not supported by a key Director. The same Member stated that she too was concerned, as free parking could be easily abused, resulting in loss of income thereby putting additional pressure on the budget. She asked if extra enforcement officers would be required to stop abuse and the associated costs of the trial in Rayners Lane, including the nature of the trial. She added that it was important to identify these issues now rather than later as once the proposal was introduced, it would be unreasonable to remove. Moreover, would the money be better spent elsewhere, such as on repairing potholes and street cleaning.

Both the Non-Executive Non-Voting Members felt that it was important to be aware of the cost implications at the outset, including costs associated with the implementation of 20-minute free parking across the borough. They asked if the proposals were robust. They were mindful of the risks identified in the report and urged that all information be gathered and made available before important decisions were taken. Additionally, Equality Impact Assessments and Corporate Priorities needed to be assessed, as sections of the report were contradictory. They felt that all these matters had also been ignored in the initial report considered in 2011. They added that the Review had failed to gather all the relevant information and asked that the report be deferred as there was need to have true regard of the impact of the trial and the roll out.

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety stated that it was important that the Council listened to its residents and businesses who wanted some free parking time and he cited recent examples where the Council had listened to its residents and where it had tackled parking abuse.

An officer explained that the financial impact of the Rayners Lane trial would be monitored as part of the before and after study of the trial and the costs of the trial were minimal, the principle cost being one day of officer time. The trial was not anticipated to cost more than £1,000 and related to the physical nature of the proposal. Operation costs would be additional and it was difficult to assess these until a trial was conducted. The trial would also help establish the true impact on the vulnerable. Should the proposal be rolled out, it would cost the Council up to three weeks of officer time to alter 150 parking machines. There may additional costs associated with the physical change to the infrastructure. Costs could be provided separately to Members.

The Portfolio Holder added that it was important to have a trial first in order to understand and assess the impact of a borough-wide roll out of 20-minute free parking.

The Leader of the Council stated that the primary reason for introducing a 20-minute free parking was to ensure that Harrow's town centres did not become 'ghost' towns. Moreover, businesses, such as supermarkets and shopping centres, provided free parking for shoppers. He added that enforcement would continue in the same spirit as applied currently. He

agreed that the Harrow Card was probably unworkable, but that a 20-minute free parking trial in Rayners Lane would help identify issues prior to agreeing a roll out across the borough. He concluded that he was satisfied with a further report being presented to Cabinet to allow consideration of the outcome of the before and after study of the trial.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the new on-street and off-street tiered parking charges and standard charging periods in paragraph 2.10 of the report be agreed and statutory consultation be authorised to amend the Traffic Regulation Orders;
- (2) the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety be delegated authority to consider representations received from the statutory consultation and to agree the final Scheme for implementation;
- (3) a trial locally in Rayners Lane with a variation to the tiered parking charges that permits the first 20 minutes of on-street parking free be implemented;
- (4) a before and after study on the trial in Rayners Lane be undertaken and a report be submitted to Cabinet to allow consideration of the outcome of the study with a view to a wider implementation across the borough as soon as was practicably possible.

Reason for Decision: To implement a new charging regime for on and off street parking to enable the borough to simplify parking charges and better support the local economy.

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.

658. Appointment of Contractors to deliver Repairs and Maintenance to Corporate Properties and Schools

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Major Contracts introduced the report, which set out the results of the tender process for the provision of general repair and maintenance services to Corporate properties and schools.

The Non-Executive Non-Voting Cabinet Members enquired if Cabinet was satisfied that staffing levels were sufficient to manage the contracts and that the staff had had the requisite skills, as they were mindful that the Council had not always managed contracts successfully, such as the Kier contract. They identified this as a risk, and asked if the Council was getting value for money.

The Leader of the Council stated that there had been no objections from residents in relation to the proposals and that the contracts were small, including the savings to be achieved. The Corporate Director(s) had not

identified any staffing issues. He was satisfied that the contracts provided value for money.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council be authorised to enter into a framework agreement commencing on 1 August 2013 for a period of up to four years, subject to performance review at the end of Year 3, for the provision of Responsive Repairs and Maintenance Works in Lots to Corporate Properties and Schools with the companies listed below:

Lot 1 General Build – 1st D & L Contract Services; 2nd Terry & Stephens; 3rd Mead Building Services

Lot 2 Fencing – 1st D & L Contract Services; 2nd Terry & Stephens

Lot 3 Plumbing – 1st Blackbourne Integrated Services; 2nd Terry and Stephens; 3rd Mead Building Services

Lot 4 Electrical – 1st SCC International; 2nd Blackbourne Integrated Services; 3rd P3 Electrical Services

Lot 5 Drainage and External Works – 1st D & L Contract Services; 2nd P & R Installations Company Limited

Lot 6 Gas and Heating – 1st R & L Paul; 2nd P & R Installations Company Limited;

- (2) the Corporate Director of Environment and Enterprise, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance Services, be delegated authority to agree the final contract details with the contractors and to award call off contracts under the framework agreement throughout the term of the framework agreement.

Reason for Decision: The evaluation of the tenders received had been conducted to arrive at the most economically advantageous bids. The framework structure was designed to maintain a degree of competitiveness and resilience throughout the 4-year framework period.

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.

659. Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration introduced the report, which set out the Council's approach, policies and procedures in respect of the use of planning obligations alongside the proposed introduction of Harrow's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in September 2013.

The Portfolio Holder added that government policy was clear and the legislative framework within which planning obligations were considered had changed with the introduction of the CIL. These changes meant that the strategic infrastructure, such as schools and healthcare, could no longer be funded through planning obligations, which had been scaled back. He added that the role of Planning Obligations had been limited to funding affordable housing, including the mitigation of site specific impacts. The purpose of the draft SPD was to clarify the types of site specific obligations, such as affordable housing, that the Council might see in addition to a CIL depending on the nature of the development, including any mitigation required.

The Portfolio Holder agreed that the consultation period ought to be extended and he undertook to address, through the imposition of relevant planning conditions, the concerns relating to littering in relation to fast food restaurants in new developments, as this would help alleviate the problems associated with street cleaning.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Planning Obligations, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for publication for formal public consultation to be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement;
- (2) it be noted that the consultation period would be extended.

Reason for Decision: To ensure the SPD, when adopted, was afforded weight as a material planning consideration. To reflect the Council's proposal to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and to clarify the relationship between CIL and Planning Obligations to reduce the planning risk of 'double dipping' when seeking or securing contributions from development towards specific infrastructure requirements.

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.

660. Revenue and Capital Outturn 2012/13

Cabinet received a report of the Director of Finance and Assurance, which set out the Council's Revenue and Capital Outturn position for 2012/13.

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report and added that Cabinet was being asked to approve a number of transfers to reserves and the addition of £996k to the General Fund balance, taking it to a figure of £8.6m. He identified the transfers, as follows:

- £4.8m to be transferred to a MTFS implementation reserve;

- £3.3m to be carried forward into the next financial year to allow Directorates to continue to deliver Council priorities for residents and projects that would help deliver additional savings in future years;
- a Business Risk Reserve to cover the financial risks associated with contractual disputes.

The Leader added that the Council's Section 151 officer had advised that it would be appropriate for the Council to hold reserves of £10m and, as a result, £996k would be added to the existing reserves. Moreover, any additional spend would not be dictated by political events.

The Non-Executive Non Voting Cabinet Members welcomed the desire of the administration to retain the dog mess collection service, which residents had campaigned for and asked which other services would be implemented to improve outcomes for residents. The Leader of the Council replied that amongst the suggestions included spot fines for littering, environmental projects such as potholes, street cleaning and tree pruning. He added that the costs of the various proposals had not yet been identified.

The Non-Executive Non Voting Cabinet Members asked questions on the underspend on sewage and highway works, the small amount of money that was being carried forward, if there had been any loss of income from the TfL resulting from non-implementation of schemes, how issues associated with troubled families were funded, including related costs, and how slippage on the HRA budget could be avoided. They were concerned that income from parking enforcement would be lost as a result of the introduction of a 20-minutes free parking period.

In response, the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Director of Finance and Assurance, the Corporate Directors of Resources, Children and Families, and Community, Health and Wellbeing stated that:

- the change of contractors had led to an underspend in sewage and highway works. The TfL grant money had to be submitted in August 2013;
- £150k had been used for intervention measures for troubled families. The youth service was also being targeted as part of the overall early intervention programme. The Early Intervention Service would be funded by the Local Area Agreement Reward Grant, which would be received and measured following its successful delivery;
- due to a challenging number of referrals, recruitment and retention of staff in the social care area was underway, as part of the Transformation Programme. This had proved to be a challenge and bench marking of salaries had been built into the programme. Internships were also being considered. The Corporate Director of Children and Families added that the costs associated with recruitment and retention of staff would be provided to Members. Additionally, the outcome of the process would be reported to the Overview and

Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. A dedicated person had been recruited to look at this specialised area. A Non-Executive Non-Voting Cabinet Member was concerned to learn of the possible duplication of the HR functions described by the Corporate Director and he was informed that it was not unusual to have a dedicated person overseeing this crucial area;

- credits would be received from Capita for non-delivery of the IT Contract. There were two types of savings against the contact with Capita – performance credit and savings resulting from the not moving to a data centre;
- an extensive Capital Programme had been delivered. Any slippages had largely been due to the transition from the Kier Contract to localised contracts;
- housing capital schemes included a number of intensive schemes and the good news element was the reduction in the cost of homelessness;
- the Council's ability to deliver on the HRA had been tested successfully in 2012. The Corporate Director of Community, health and Wellbeing was confident that the Asset Management Strategy would be delivered on time.

The officers also agreed to provide further details on the following information:

- a detail account of whether the premium proposed had been sufficient or whether it should have been a higher figure. The Corporate Director of Children and Families informed Cabinet that the premium had had to be benchmarked and the issue also related to relocation costs and workloads. A long term solution was required to this problem which was acute to London;
- the cost of the delay towards a shared legal practice;
- a line by line detail in relation to the underspend of £1.2m;
- the amount of credits received Capita.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revenue and capital outturn position for 2012/13 be noted;
- (2) the contributions to Reserves outlined in paragraph 3 of the report be approved;
- (3) the net remaining revenue underspend of £0.996m be utilised to increase the General Reserves from £7.650m to £8.646m;

- (4) the changes in quarter 4 and carry forwards on the Capital Programme outlined in paragraph 26 and set out at Appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (5) the timetable for accounts completion and external audit review as outlined in paragraph 29 of the report be noted.

Reason for Decision: To confirm the financial position as at 31 March 2013.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: None.

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

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.30 pm, closed at 8.38 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR THAYA IDAIKKADAR
Chairman