

CABINET

18 JULY 2013

DECISIONS NOTICE

(PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 19 JULY 2013)

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken on the substantive items at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday 18 July 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 or Una Sullivan, Democratic & Electoral Services Officer, on 020 8424 1785 or by email una.sullivan@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 26 July 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.

10 School Organisation

RESOLVED: That

- (1) phase 2 of the Primary School Expansion Programme be moved to the statutory process for permanent expansion, as stated in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) the Special School SEN Placements Planning Framework, at Appendix B to the report, be approved;
- (3) the Amalgamation Policy, at Appendix C to the report, be confirmed;
- (4) the progress made in developing the Harrow's Early Years Strategy be noted.

Reason for Decision: To fulfill the local authority's statutory duties to provide sufficient, high quality school places in its area as part of its strategic role as

champion for parents and families, for vulnerable pupils and of educational excellence.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: As set out in the report.

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

11 West London Independent Fostering Agency Framework Tender

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the process taken by officers in entering into a Framework Agreement with the West London Independent Fostering Agency Framework headed by the London Borough of Hillingdon for a period of up to four years be noted;
- (2) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Children and Families, in consultation with Portfolio Holder of Children, Schools and Families, to enter into the West London Independent Fostering Agency Framework for the provision of independent foster carers.

Reason for Decision: To enter into the Framework Agreement with other boroughs and delegating authority.

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.

12 Transformation of Day Opportunities in Harrow

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a new service model, which incorporated a focus on internal services for those with the highest needs, provided in specialist environments and in which people with lower needs would be supported by alternative providers in the community, be agreed;

Phase One: Reducing & Rationalising Buildings

During Phase One, the Council would make operational changes to services to tackle the current over provision of spaces and offer best value for money. This would deliver required Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings during 2013/14 whilst moving towards the proposed service model.

During this phase the Council would reduce the number of Council buildings used by in-house services from seven to four. Capacity at Sancroft Hall would also be utilised as the Council moved to this approach. Current vacancy levels in all five facilities would ensure that the Council

could continue to offer high quality day opportunities as it transitioned to the new model.

The Council would support service users to maintain friendship and peer groups, which consultation had demonstrated to be important to them. Services provided would be at the current level, and of a similar type. The Council would commence planning for comprehensive reviews of individual needs to take place in Phase Two.

Phase Two: Longer Term Changes to Delivery in NRCs

During Phase Two we would implement changes to deliver the new day opportunities model. This will include the development of specialised services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in the community.

Phase Two would involve changes over a period of time, including individual assessment and support planning to help people to identify the most appropriate service for their needs.

- (2) the transformation of individual services during Phase Two of implementation, as described below, be approved:

A: Byron Neighbourhood Resource Centre - A specialised service would be provided for people with a learning disability including challenging behaviour and Autism;

B: Kenmore Neighbourhood Resource Centre - A specialised service would be provided for people with Complex Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities;

C: Vaughan Neighbourhood Resource Centre - A specialised service would be provided for people with a learning disability and complex needs;

D: Milmans Neighbourhood Resource Centre - A specialised service would be provided for older people including people with dementia;

- (3) the Council cease to use the following buildings for day opportunities for vulnerable people:

Bentley Neighbourhood Resource Centre – the Council would consider alternative use or potential disposal of this property.

Gordon Avenue – Officers would negotiate with the owner of the property in relation to changing/ending use.

Bedford House – The building would continue to be used as a permanent residential care home for ten people with a learning disability as approved by Cabinet in March 2013. The Council would consider the future use of this building;

- (4) the Capital Programme be amended so that this resource could be made available for capital works which arise from this review, and the recent review of Residential Care services. This would rename the capital project for "Bentley Day Centre Remodelling and Refurbishment" to "Remodelling and Refurbishment of Adult Services Residential Care and Day Care Services";
- (5) the further development of a marketplace of community-based services for people with personal budgets delivered through the Council's on-line market place – My Community ePurse – be noted;
- (6) the further development of integrated services, offering a greater range of health related services and therapies within the four designated Neighbourhood Centres and other community facilities, as part of the new responsive model of day opportunities, be noted.

Reason for Decision: The development of this new model of day opportunities for vulnerable people in Harrow would

- deliver a model in which services were strategically aligned and financially affordable for the future;
- ensure that the London Borough of Harrow was using its resources to support those most in need in safe and high quality services;
- deliver revenue savings of £300,000 in 2013/14 and £300,000 in 2014/15;
- ensure that we use the buildings available to us in the most effective and efficient ways;
- support greater integration of health and social care services in order to develop improved seamless, preventative services, for example, using centres for physiotherapy and health education;
- respond to the changing demographic profile of people who use day opportunities, for example, by providing services that were able to respond to young people with severe autism and challenging behaviour support staff.

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.

13 Adoption of Harrow's Community Infrastructure Levy

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That

- (1) the CIL Charging Schedule and the Instalments Policy and Regulation 123 List appended to the Schedule be adopted;
- (2) a commencement date of 1 October 2013 for the coming into effect of the CIL Charging Schedule be approved.

Reason for Recommendation: To provide an important mechanism for the funding of infrastructure to support the implementation of the Local Plan.

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 this recommendation as the decision is reserved to Council.]

14 Discretionary Housing Payment

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the new Discretionary Housing Payment Policy for 2013/14, as recommended by officers, be agreed and adopted;
- (2) the policy remain in place for future years unless a substantial change in legislation or funding results in a need for review;
- (3) the Policy be reviewed in any event after a period of three years if it remained unchanged.

Reason for Decision: The Discretionary Housing Payment policy had incorporated feedback from consultation with internal services, the public and voluntary agencies. It had been shaped to target £1.2m between those households identified as in greatest need following the implementation of welfare reforms to Housing Benefits.

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.

15 Concessionary Travel - Changes to the Taxicard Scheme

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the scheme changes as recommended by officers in the body of the report, namely the adoption of Option (2), a maximum of 40 trips per annum for all users with effect from 1 October 2013 be agreed;
- (2) the scheduled review of all existing members during 2013/14 be noted;

- (3) it be noted that officers would be liaising with London Councils regarding the issues raised by users and HAD regarding the operation of the Taxicard Scheme;
- (4) the implementation of additional trips on top of the new scheme allowance for the period 1 October 2013 to 31 March 2014 to support phasing from current scheme into new scheme be agreed; however
 - (i) for those users who were previously allocated 104 trips, an additional allocation of 20 trips for the year 2013/14 only for the period 1 October 2013 until 31 March 2014, be agreed so long as no more than 52 trips had been used by 30 September 2014, otherwise scheme holders would be given the balance of 72 trips minus their trip usage to 30 September 2013;
 - (ii) for those users who were previously allocated 52 trips, an additional allocation of 20 trips for the year 2013/14 only for the period 1 October 2013 until 31 March 2014, so long as no more than 26 trips had been used by 30 September 2013, otherwise scheme holders would be given the balance of 46 trips minus their trip usage to 30 September 2013.
- (5) resolution (4) above would provide transitional arrangements and would ensure that all scheme members had at least some trips for the rest of the year and specifically to use during the winter months when bad weather and lack of transport facilities could lead to unnecessary isolation.

Reason for Decision: The changes proposed to the Taxicard Scheme had been shaped as a result of feedback from a wide consultation with residents and users of the Taxicard Scheme. Feedback from the consultation had influenced both the proposals that have been put to Cabinet for consideration and the Equality Impact Assessment showing the impacts of these changes.

To implement the changes to the Taxicard on 1 October 2013 and provide transitional arrangements.

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.

16 Strategic Performance Report (Q4)

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

Reason for Decision: To enable Cabinet to be informed of performance against key measures and to 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.

17 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2012/13

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the outturn position for Treasury Management activities for 2012/13 be noted;
- (2) 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. To keep Cabinet Members informed of 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.

[Call-in does not apply, as the decision was for noting only.]

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.30 pm, closed at 9.59 pm).