

CABINET

21 MAY 2015

Record of decisions taken at the meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2015.

Present:

Chair: * Councillor David Perry

Councillors:

* Sue Anderson	* Varsha Parmar
* Simon Brown	* Kiran Ramchandani
* Keith Ferry	* Sachin Shah
* Glen Hearnden	* Anne Whitehead
* Graham Henson	

In attendance:

Susan Hall	Minute 191
Barry Macleod-Cullinane	Minute 191
Jerry Miles	Minute 195
Paul Osborn	Minute 195

* Denotes Member present

188. Apologies for Absence

None received from Members of Cabinet.

189. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members.

190. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions had been received.

191. Questions

Such public and Councillor questions as were received were responded to and any recording placed on the Council's website. Councillor questions 6-10 were not reached at Cabinet and the Councillors would be provided with written responses which would be placed on the Council's website.

192. Key Decision Schedule - May to July 2015

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Key Decision Schedule.

193. Progress on Scrutiny Projects

RESOLVED: To note the progress made on scrutiny projects.

RESOLVED ITEMS

194. Future Options for Harrow Arts Centre, Harrow Museum and Harrow Music Service

Having considered the confidential appendices, it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) having considered the options for the future of Harrow Arts Centre, Harrow Schools Music Service and Harrow Museum, paragraphs 3, 6, 7 and 8 of the report refer, Option C - Move to new governance arrangements as a single Charitable Trust, be approved;
- (2) the Divisional Director of Community and Culture, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder Community, Culture and Resident Engagement, be authorised to commence the setting up of a Charitable Trust for the delivery of services at Harrow Arts Centre, Harrow Museum and Harrow Schools Music Service, as outlined in paragraph 3, Option C, of the report, and including as follows:
 - the Corporate Director of Environment and Enterprise, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder Business, Planning and Regeneration, be delegated authority for the leasing of the properties to a new Charitable Trust at less than best consideration;
 - undertake the necessary actions for the formation of an Interim Board of Trustees and the Trust including preparation of legal agreements between the Council and a new Trust for the delivery of services, for staff transfer, back office services agreements, any contract novation, building surveys and other preparatory works which might be necessary and the identification of Council capital through the Council processes of up to a maximum of £1million in 2016/17 should this not be fully delivered by the Trust to support the delivery of the Phase 1 capital works;

- (3) a further report be submitted to Cabinet in January 2016 outlining the outcome of the formal review in October 2015, progress to date and seeking final approval for the transfer of services and assets, as appropriate, to a Trust on 4 April 2016 if Members were satisfied with that progress.

Reason for Decision: To consider the future governance options for Harrow Arts Centre, Harrow Museum and Harrow Music Service to ensure sustainable delivery of cultural services in Harrow whilst delivering savings for the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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.

195. Response to Overview and Scrutiny Challenge Panel Report on 'Libraries'

Having received representations from the Chair of the Scrutiny Review on Libraries and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it was

RESOLVED: That the response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Challenge Panel be noted.

Reason for Decision: To respond to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Challenge Panel.

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 noted.]

196. Procurement of Housing Responsive Repairs Contracts from June 2016

RESOLVED: That officers be authorised to undertake a procurement process for contractors to deliver the responsive repairs service to the Council's housing stock when the current contracts expire in June 2016.

Reason for Decision: The current Housing responsive repairs contracts were due to expire in June 2016 and there was no option to extend. As there would be a lengthy procurement exercise, both because of the value of the contract and the need to ensure that significant improvements in service delivery were protected, approval was required to begin the process of procuring contractors and to award contracts to deliver the service from 2016 onwards.

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.

197. Exercising option to extend existing contract with Quality Heating for 4 years

RESOLVED: That the Quality Heating contract be extended for up to 4 years when it expired in June 2016.

Reason for Decision: In 2012, the Council let a 4 year contract to Quality Heating to undertake the repairs, servicing and renewal of domestic gas heating systems. The contractor provided good value for money and performance was excellent. The contract included an option to extend for 4 years, taking it to June 2020. The existing contract expired in June 2016 and the Council has exercised its right to extend it for a further 4 years.

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.

198. Equality Matters – Delivering Fair and Equitable Services

A short video titled ‘Love has no Labels’ was shown prior to the consideration of this item.

RESOLVED: That Council’s progress against its equalities agenda as well as the response to the recommendations in the report into allegations of institutional racism be noted.

Reason for Decision: To ensure a greater awareness of the Council’s work in mainstreaming equalities.

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 noted.]

199. Timetable for the Preparation and Consideration of Plans and Strategies comprising the Policy Framework 2015/16

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the timetable for the preparation and consideration of the statutory Plans and Strategies, including the non-statutory plan and strategies, set out at Appendices A and B respectively, be approved;

(2) variation to the timetable be reserved to the Leader of the Council.

Reason for Decision: To comply with the requirements of paragraph 3 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in Section 4C of the Council's Constitution.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: None.

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

200. Appointment of Portfolio Holder Assistants

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the appointment of the identified Portfolio Holder Assistants and responsibilities be approved;
- (2) the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) to the Portfolio Holder Assistants with the implementation date of 21 May 2015 be approved.

Reason for Decision: To enable the support to Cabinet Members in terms of information provision and management, to contribute to and ensure an effective decision making framework as part of the democratic process.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: None.

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

201. Simon George, Director of Finance and Assurance

The Leader of the Council proposed a 'Vote of Thanks' to Simon George, the Council's Director of Finance and Assurance, who would be leaving the Council and wished him well for the future. The Leader of the Conservative Group also paid a tribute to Simon for his splendid work and stated that he would be sorely missed. Members applauded and wished Simon well in his new job.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.30 pm, closed at 7.55 pm).

Proper Officer

Publication of decisions:	22 May 2015
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<p>Deadline for Call-in:</p>	<p>5.00 pm on 1 June 2015</p> <p>(Please note that Call-in does not apply to all decisions).</p> <p>To call-in a decision please contact:</p> <p>Vishal Seegoolam on 020 8424 1883 or email: vishal.seegoolam@harrow.gov.uk</p> <p>Alison Atherton on 020 8424 1266 or email alison.atherton@harrow.gov.uk</p> <p>Manize Talukdar on 020 8424 1323 or email manize.talukdar@harrow.gov.uk</p>
<p>Decisions may be implemented if not Called-in on:</p>	<p>2 June 2015</p>