

Cabinet

Minutes

18 March 2021

Record of decisions taken at the meeting held on Thursday 18 March 2021.

Present:

Chair: Councillor Graham Henson

Councillors: Sue Anderson
Simon Brown
Keith Ferry
Phillip O'Dell
Varsha Parmar
Christine Robson
Krishna Suresh
Adam Swersky

**Non-Executive
Cabinet
Member:** Antonio Weiss

**Non-Executive
Voluntary
Sector
Representative:** John Higgins

In attendance (Councillors):	Richard Almond	For Minute 434
	Marilyn Ashton	For Minute 434
	Paul Osborn	For Minute 430-441
	Anjana Patel	For Minute 434
	Norman Stevenson	For Minute 434

430. Apologies for Absence

None received.

431. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the declaration of interests had been published on the Council website and that:

- (1) Councillor Varsha Parmar, who had declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 5 – Councillor Questions as her husband worked for London Underground Limited, would remain in the meeting by virtue of her dispensation.

432. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions had been received.

433. Public Questions

RESOLVED: To note that one public question had been received and responded to and the recording had been placed on the website.

434. Councillor Questions

RESOLVED: The Councillor Questions were responded to and the recording placed on the Council's website.

435. Key Decision Schedule March - May 2021

Having noted that the report on "Treasury Management - Shared Service Arrangement with the Greater London Authority (GLA)" had been to April, Cabinet

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the updated Key Decision Schedule for the period March – May 2021.

436. Progress on Scrutiny Projects

RESOLVED: To receive and note the current progress of the scrutiny reports.

437. Covid-19 Update

Having agreed to vary the order of business, Cabinet received a presentation from the Chief Executive, which provided a high level overview on the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions across the borough, the government's plans for reopening the economy and the society, progress on the vaccination roll out programme as well as the Council's recovery plans from June 2021 onwards.

Acknowledging the continuous work and efforts of staff from all levels throughout the pandemic, Cabinet

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the verbal update and accompanying presentation from the Chief Executive, be noted;
- (2) the Council's ambition to carry out 70,000 asymptomatic tests between 11th January and 31st March 2021, be noted;
- (3) the Government's promise to reimburse "reasonable and actual costs of test delivery", be noted;
- (4) that the Corporate Directors of Resources, Community and People, following consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, be authorised to approve a payment of £2.693 million as the estimated cost of Harrow's Community Testing Programme until the end of March 2021, which includes premises, staffing, contractors, consumables, waste and communications;
- (5) an update on staff wellbeing and resilience be provided as part of the Covid-19 presentation at the April Cabinet meeting.

Resolved Items

438. Additional Restrictions Grant Policy Revision

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Additional Restrictions Grant to fund additional activities supporting Harrow's businesses, Metropolitan Town Centre, District Centres and Local Centres be allocated in accordance with the proposals set out in the officer report;
- (2) the Director of Finance and the Corporate Director of Community, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Resources, and Business, Property and Leisure, be authorised to allocate funds in accordance with those proposals detailed in the officer report, noting that the Corporate Director will then delegate operational authority to the Head of Revenue and Benefits and the Acting Director Economy and Culture to implement.

Reason for Decision: To ensure public funding was allocated in accordance with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Guidance and the Harrow principles set out in the officer report, and to utilise the additional £2.3m increase to rebuild the Harrow 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.

439. Essential heating upgrade works for Sheltered schemes: Cornell, Meadfield and Alma Court

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the request to commence the procurement process (via accessing a legally compliant Framework Agreement) for a contractor(s) to carry out decommissioning work and proceed with the implementation of Ground Source Heat Pumps to Cornell House and Alma Court in this financial year (2021/22) and Meadfield House in 2022/23, be approved;
- (2) the Corporate Director of Community, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Housing and Finance and Resources and the Director of Finance, be authorised to award contract(s) for the implementation of Ground Source Heat Pumps to Cornell House, Alma Court and Meadfield House.

Reason for Decision: Due to the estimated value of the proposed contract award Cabinet's authorisation was required to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Approval was required so that works required to the Sheltered blocks in alignment with the Council's Climate Change Strategy could be carried out and to continue to provide essential service to meet the Council's statutory duties as a landlord across Sheltered dwellings within the Borough and comply with Health and Safety Regulations.

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.

440. Property Disposal Programme 2021- 2022

Having noted the confidential appendix to the officer report, Cabinet

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the properties detailed in the officer report under numbers 1 to 8 be declared surplus and their disposal be approved;
- (2) the financial implications and estimated sale prices as set out in confidential Appendix 1 to the officer report, be noted;
- (3) the Corporate Director of Community be authorised, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder (PH) for Business, Property and Leisure, to take all appropriate action to dispose of the Council's freehold interest, where appropriate in the properties detailed under numbers 1 – 8 in the officer report for the best consideration reasonably obtainable and to consider the reviewed options for property number 9 in respect of bringing this forward for future development and to progress the preferred option;
- (4) the Corporate Director of Community undertake to review the options to bringing forward Belmont Community Centre and Kingshill Car Park,

property number 9 for development, retaining the community centre and that the results of the deliberation be reported to Cabinet when finalised.

Reason for Decision: The nine disposals recommended would release assets which were surplus to Council requirements and that either required significant expenditure to repair, renovate, or develop and had no value or had little value or beneficial use from retention per se.

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.

441. Department for Education (DfE) funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Corporate Director of People Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, be authorised to issue a direct award (of the value of £616,240 (£60,200 programme coordination and evaluation costs and the remaining £556,040 allocated to the sub-contracted providers delivering the activities) from the Department for Education (DfE) grant) to Young Harrow Foundation (YHF) to coordinate the delivery and evaluation of the Department for Education (DfE) funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme on behalf of the Council.

Reason for Decision: To fulfil the requirements for Local Authorities to provide holiday activities and food programme in line with the aims and objectives set out the DfE Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) 2021 Guidance for Local Authorities February 2021.

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

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.30 pm, closed at 8.14 pm).

Proper Officer

Publication of decisions:	19 March 2021
Deadline for Call-in:	5.00 pm on 26 March 2021 (Please note that Call-in does not apply to all decisions). To call-in a decision please contact:

	Mwim Chellah via email : mwimanji.chellah@harrow.gov.uk
Decisions may be implemented if not Called-in on:	27 March 2021