

Cabinet

Minutes

21 October 2021

Record of decisions taken at the meeting held on Thursday 21 October 2021.

Present:

Chair: Councillor Graham Henson

Councillors: Phillip O'Dell
Varsha Parmar
Richard Almond
Natasha Proctor
Krishna Suresh
For Minute 535

Joined Virtually: Councillor Peymana Assad
Councillor Simon Brown
Councillor Keith Ferry
Councillor Christine Robson
Councillor Antonio Weiss (Non-Executive Cabinet Member)
John Higgins (Non-Executive Voluntary Sector Representative)

In attendance (Councillors): Marilyn Ashton
Stephen Greek
Paul Osborn
Anjana Patel
For Minute 535
For Minute 537 & 545
For Minute 530 – 545
For Minute 535

530. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sue Anderson (Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement, Accessibility & Customer Services) and Councillor Adam Swersky (Non-Executive Cabinet Member).

531. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the declaration of interests, which had been published on the Council website, be taken as read.

532. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions had been received.

533. Public Questions

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

534. Councillor Questions

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

535. Key Decision Schedule October - December 2021

Having noted that the report on "Request for authority to award the housing domestic and commercial gas contracts" had been deferred to November, Cabinet

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Key Decision Schedule for the period October – December 2021.

536. Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Race Equality in Harrow Council

RESOLVED: To note the reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

537. Progress on Scrutiny Projects

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

538. Covid-19 Update

Having agreed to vary the order of business, Cabinet received a presentation from the Chief Executive, which provided Members with a regular strategic update on Covid-19 cases across the borough, the Council's ongoing response to Covid-19, testing, vaccination progress and winter planning. Acknowledging the continuous pressures on Council services and the ongoing impact on organisational capacity and staff resilience throughout this challenging period, Cabinet wished to express their gratitude to all staff for their work and ongoing commitment.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update and accompanying presentation from the Chief Executive, be noted.

Resolved Items

539. Maintained Schools Fire Door Upgrade Programme

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the procurement process to appoint a contractor(s) for the installation of new fire doors across the Council's maintained schools at an anticipated value of £915,000.00, be commenced;
- (2) the Corporate Director of Community, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, Portfolio Holder for Education and Social Services for Children and Young People and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources together with the Director of Finance, be authorised to finalise the procurement and award of the contract(s).

Reason for Decision: To provide an efficient and compliant procurement route to award a contract(s) for the upgrade of fire doors in schools detailed below and maintained by the Council, in order to ensure the Council fulfilled its statutory and regulatory responsibilities for maintaining its buildings.

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

540. Harrow Community Infrastructure Levy (HCIL) - Approval of Discretionary Social Housing Relief Policy /Statement

RESOLVED: That the Discretionary Social Housing Relief policy / statement set out in Appendix 1 to the officer report, be agreed.

Reason for Decision: The Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 ('CIL Regulations') required charging authorities to publish statements about the availability of discretionary social housing relief in its area for such relief to be applied.

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.

541. Security, Health & Safety Compliance - Homesafe Works Request for Additional Budget

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the increase to the current Programme budget of £2.4m by an additional £1.6m to a new total budget of £4,000,000, funded from

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital resources in financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23, be approved;

- (2) the commencement of a procurement process to identify a suitable provider to deliver the enhanced Programme be approved;
- (3) the Corporate Director of Community, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Housing and Finance and Resources, be authorised to award a contract to the Most Economically Advantageous Tender following the completion of a compliant procurement process;
- (4) the Corporate Director of Community, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Housing and Finance and Resources, be authorised to issue a Letter of Intent to the successful tenderer to carry out pre contract surveys and to order materials with expected long lead-in times for delivery.

Reason for Decision: The increased estimated Programme value required Cabinet approval for the additional budget to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial 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.

542. Green Homes Grant Coalition Bid - request to access grant funding awarded

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the collaboration with the lead Borough Ealing, in order to utilise the funding awarded under the Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery scheme (GHG:LAD) Phase 2 and any further phases to the West London consortium of 12 boroughs, be agreed to enable retrofit solutions works to be delivered via an appointed managing agent procured by the lead Borough).
- (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:
 - a. Approve the contribution of £75,000 from the HRA under Phase 2 which required the Council to match fund one third of the Green Homes Grant of £150,000 for the installation of energy efficiency measures to council owned properties.
 - b. Seek and secure future funding including Phase 3 of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme, Sustainable Warmth Competition, and/or Home Upgrade Grant following, following a West London Consortium competitive procurement process or other compliant procurement process, to take all

necessary actions to utilise such funding and carry out further retrofit works to homes in the Borough.

Reason for Decision: An indicative allocation, based on population and fuel poverty figures, of £10.788 million was awarded to the West London Consortium. Harrow's indicative allocation for Phase 2 is £750,000 based on this formula. This would fund the retrofitting of at least a further 75 properties in addition to the anticipated 58 in Phase 1a.

The delivery of retrofit activity under the scheme would enable the Council to:

- - Address the Climate Emergency that Harrow Council had declared by undertaking domestic retrofit measures in the borough.
- - Target not only Harrow's poorest energy performing stock but also those households in greatest need helping to reduce fuel poverty.
- - Contribute to helping the local Harrow economy by providing opportunities for local training within colleges and employment opportunities, via agreed social value contribution/ commitments.
- Improve the energy efficiency of private properties and social housing, supported by grantfunding and £75,000 Harrow HRA funding.

Due to the estimated value of the proposed contract award, Cabinet authorisation was required to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure rules and to enable utilisation of the grant funding.

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.

543. School Organisation Update and School Capital Programme

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update on changes to school place provision and the School Roll Projections 2021-2033 Report and the changes in the overall school organisation landscape be noted;
- (2) the schools where additional SEND provision would be established including the associated Capital programme be noted;
- (3) changes to School Place Planning Areas that would be applied following a review of the current planning areas to ensure that they were compliant with the new Department for Education (DfE) guidance be noted (the updated planning areas would incorporate any changes to ward boundaries which would be implemented in May 2022).

Reason for Decision: To enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duties to provide sufficient school places in its area.

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

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

[Call-in does not apply to the decisions above as it was a noting report].

544. Race Equality in Harrow Council

Having noted the points raised by Councillor Stephen Greek as Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the reference submitted by the Committee (at item 7), Cabinet

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council's strategic approach on race equality in Harrow and the Race Equality Action Plan attached at Appendix A to the officer report, be agreed and the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Equality and Public Health, be authorised to implement the Plan;
- (2) the Zero Tolerance Statement attached at Appendix B to the officer report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: In light of the murder of George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter protests and the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on those from Black, Asian, and Multi-Ethnic backgrounds, the Council recognised the need to do more to improve the experiences and outcomes for staff. The report set out the Council's ambitions on race equality in Harrow Council and responded to the recommendations set out in the Independent Race Review conducted by Professor Patrick Vernon in April 2021.

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

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

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.30 pm, closed at 8.05 pm).

Proper Officer

Publication of decisions:	22 October 2021
Deadline for Call-in:	5.00 pm on 29 October 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:	30 October 2021