

Portfolio Holder Decision Meeting Minutes

18 February 2021

Present:

Chair: Councillor Graham Henson

49. Declarations of Interest

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

50. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2020 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

51. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that the following petition had been received:

- (1) Councillor Graham Henson presented a petition on behalf of Veldene Way residents, containing 11 signatures, requesting the introduction of parking controls in the area.

RESOLVED: That the petition be received and referred to the Corporate Director of Community for consideration.

52. Public Questions

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions had been received.

53. Matters referred to the Executive Member

RESOLVED: To note that no matters had been referred to the Leader of the Council for consideration.

54. Reports from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub-Committees

RESOLVED: To note that none were received.

Resolved Items

55. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Grant Funding

The Leader of the Council considered a report requesting authority for Harrow Council to receive and utilise grant funding from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in order to carry out energy works that supported the decarbonisation of public buildings.

The Head of Natural Resources & Climate Strategy, who was present in the virtual meeting, explained that Harrow Council had submitted a number of applications prior to the scheme's closing date in January 2021. A formal notification of whether any had been successful was expected next week. The government's approach was that any allocated funds would be paid in advance this financial year and would have to be spent by the end of September 2021. The Director of Finance added that as the grant funding was expected to be below the £5 million threshold for expenditure covered by additional external sources, it would be accounted for and included in the Council's Capital Programme.

The Leader of the Council thanked officers for their report and stressed the urgency of the decision which was required in order to enable the Council to confirm formal authority and preparedness to accept any potential funds by the Government's deadline of 20 February 2021 should any of its bids were successful. Having noted the importance of the such funding and the subsequent benefits it would bring to Harrow, the Leader

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the principle of the Council accepting any grant funding received from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 be approved;
- (2) the Corporate Director, Community be authorised to enter into documentation and take all other necessary actions to:
 - (a) formally accept specific awards of funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme; and
 - (b) procure and deliver the implementation of works for which funding had been received.

- (3) the Director of Finance be authorised to amend the capital programme to include any capital grant funding awarded to the Council under the terms of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, subject to the capital project meeting the requirements of Financial Regulation B48.
- (4) the outcome of the Council's funding applications be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet.

Reason for Decision: To enable the Council to receive and use external funding for the delivery of energy works that would support decarbonisation of its built estate, thereby taking action to address the climate emergency.

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

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

[Call-in did not apply as a waiver of Call-in had been obtained from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the decision proposed was reasonable and should be treated as a matter of urgency as any delay likely to be caused by the Call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's interests.]

Reasons for Urgency: This decision was urgent in order to provide confirmation to Salix Finance, the Scheme administrators, by the Government's deadline of 20 February 2021 that the Council was prepared to accept any awarded grant funding, such funding to be paid in advance prior to the 20/21 financial year end for delivery of works in the next financial year.]

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 4.00 pm, closed at 4.06 pm).

(Signed) Councillor Graham Henson
Chair