

CABINET MINUTES

11 APRIL 2013

Chairman: * Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar

Councillors:

* Bob Currie	* Phillip O'Dell
† Margaret Davine	* David Perry
* Keith Ferry	* Sachin Shah
* Mitzi Green	† Bill Stephenson
* Graham Henson	

In attendance: Susan Hall Minute 624
(Councillors) Barry Macleod-Cullinane Minute 624

* Denotes Member present

† Denotes apologies received

618. Simon George, Director of Finance and Assurance

The Leader of the Council welcomed Simon George, the newly appointed Director of Finance and Assurance and Section 151 Officer, to his first Cabinet meeting. A warm welcome was given to Simon by all Councillors present at the meeting.

619. The Big Energy Switch

The Leader of the Council applauded officers and Councillors for their efforts in bringing this important matter to the attention of Harrow residents. He reported that Harrow had the second highest number of residents who had registered for the Switch, which was intended to use collective buying power to drive down energy bills.

620. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interest was declared:

Minute Number 619 – Council’s Big Energy Switch

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was employed by London Councils Ltd., an organisation which had supported the Big Energy Switch. He remained in the room during the Leader’s announcement in this regard.

621. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2013, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

622. Petitions

Council Proposal to Leave Parks Unlocked at Night - Petition

Councillor Stephen Greek presented a petition, signed by 84 residents, with the following terms of reference:

“We, the undersigned, strongly object to Harrow Weald Recreation Ground being left unlocked at night for the following reasons:

We already have problems with teenagers drinking, the selling, buying and taking of drugs, loud music from cars in the Weighton Road car park, etc. During the summer there is often shouting and screaming at night with all sorts of things thrown over the fences into our back gardens – one resident even had their fence set on fire – so goodness know what will happen if the park is left wide open.”

RESOLVED: That the petition be received and referred to the Corporate Director of Environment and Enterprise and the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety for consideration.

623. Public Questions

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

624. Councillor Questions

RESOLVED: To note the following Councillor Questions had been received:

1.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O’Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: How soon will street cleaning go from four to six weeks, as per the £82,000 saving in your budget?

Answer: The current proposals are out for consultation with the staff because of the staff reductions that are required. Assuming there are no alternatives proposed, the implementation for this will be in August/September this year.

Supplemental Question: If it is August/September this year, how does that affect the £82,000 saving in your budget?

Supplemental Answer: It will not affect it all because the department will manage the situation within the year.

2.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: Dog waste collection was also a casualty of your budget. Can you confirm when, in order to meet the £35,000 saving, dog waste collection will cease?

Answer: The intention is for this proposal to be implemented in May this year.

Supplemental Question: Are you not concerned that there could be cases of toxocariasis in the borough? This of course is the eye disease that is caught from dog faeces and which disproportionately affects children aged 1-4?

Supplemental Answer: Yes, I would be concerned if we were withdrawing the service all together but obviously dog waste has now been classified as normal waste and, therefore, residents will be able to dispose of the dog waste in normal bins.

3.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: Given the number of grounds staff the Community and Environment department is losing, how are you going to guarantee the long term maintenance of the sports pitches which are part of the revamp proposals before Cabinet?

Answer: We will be working with the local community, sports clubs and outside bodies to get more local ownership of those sports pitches and those who use them. We will work with them to ensure they continue to be well maintained.

Supplemental Question: So are you assuming then that the residents or the cricket players are going to maintain their own pitches? Is that what you are saying?

Supplemental Answer: We can certainly encourage them and give help, to do that. If you read the report that is coming up later on, the example of a bowls club, Wealdstone Bowls Club, which operates from Byron Park, is virtually maintained by the bowls club themselves, independent of the Council.

4.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts

Question: Do you plan to introduce any new policies or practices to improve the Council's commitment to openness and transparency?

Answer: I have always believed in openness and transparency.

The authority's vision is working together, 'our Harrow, our community' and we take that very seriously. It is meant to make our decisions with the community not behind closed doors and that is why we held more extensive consultation last year than ever before.

For example; our consultation on changes to Council Tax benefit legislation reached almost every person affected and gave them the chance to have their say and help create the new scheme. It involved 71 community meetings while the online information was viewed nearly 3,000 times. Although it is early days, we believe this engagement has led to more people opening direct debits to pay their Council Tax, which will help them manage their money.

Last year, we held four Let's Talk events and had very open and honest conversations with our stakeholders, inviting them to help us to set our budget.

We are also the Council which launched the much-copied 'Let's Talk' engagement programme – talking to residents openly and honestly about our future plans by

going out to where they are, not always expecting them to come to us.

Where we can, we hope to make even more of our decisions in partnership with the community. Our Housing Service is a particularly good example of this where through our network of consultative forums we have made decisions about new housing legislation with the community. You will see that tonight when we discuss the housing strategies at item 8.

There will be more consultation this year and I can assure you that will be as open and transparent as possible.

Now, openness and giving more information also brings a lot of responsibility on our side. Without responsibility we cannot give information

Yesterday I was handed a paper. It was a press release from your Group. I will read it. "Far worse is Labour's proposal to take out an interest only mortgage at credit card interest rates to finance its offer of 80,000 interest free loans for 5 years to some tenants to help with their mortgage costs. Reading the small print reveals that Labour is not only proposing to just service the interest on these loans but will be using other Council tenants' rent to do so. At £16,000 per year interest, this works out to be an annual interest rate of 20% and then after 5 years, the householder will face having to borrow an extra £80,000 to be made homeless".

Now the truth is Barry, at the TLRCF meeting they had a very small discussion about this and considered an officer report on that. This was a suggestion which was subsequently dropped as the Government has proposed a similar 5 year equity interest free loan. We are not now even consulting on it.

The TLRCF report that set out this proposal did not make it clear that the interest rate was for 5 years. There is a mistake here, we admit that. Over 5 years is not 20%, it is more like 4 or 5%. We are not even going to consulting on this proposal. This was 'blue sky' thinking from somebody and you go to town on this. Now, if for a time I try to open up and give you more information, you will do something similar, it makes me want to go backwards and 'cut' all the information. The fault lies with you, not with me.

Supplemental Question:

Given to your commitment, stated just now to openness and transparency, do you think 162 days and counting is an acceptable length of time for senior scrutiny

Members to be waiting to be furnished with existing reports, especially since no objection to their release has been stated by the Council and, furthermore, do you think it is unacceptable for the Portfolio Holder for Finance to promise the full commissioning papers will be released a day after the budget setting Council and yet we are still waiting for those to be furnished by him?

Supplemental Answer: I had an email saying that had been released. I will research into it and come back to you.

5.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: Could you explain how the new Homelessness Strategy will improve the working between the Housing Department and all other Departments and relevant agencies in preventing homelessness?

Answer: There is really a good working relationship between Housing Services and other Council departments. In particular, colleagues across Housing Needs and Housing Benefit work closely on cases where homelessness is threatened as a result of rent arrears or affordability issues to prevent homelessness. Additionally, the work between Environmental Health and Housing Needs continues to result in prevention of homelessness through joint visits to properties and supporting landlords to meet the required standard of accommodation for continued occupation.

As part of our team plans we will introduce the homeless Strategy to other Council departments. Housing Needs staff will attend team meetings with sections within Children & Families Services and continue to attend meetings with Adult Services to raise awareness of the current homelessness issues/trends and to highlight the triggers for referral to our housing advice and preventative services which include debt, budgeting and income maximisation advice.

We will continue to meet with our voluntary sector, Housing Associations and private sector landlords to ensure ongoing relationships we have built remain in place in the prevention of homelessness. We meet with Housing Association colleagues; colleagues in the voluntary sector and private landlords on individual cases to prevent homelessness and to generally discuss our supply and demands.

Officers in Economic Development join Housing staff at interviews to explore employment/training opportunities for those threatened with homelessness with a view to them gaining employment, and giving them more choices of what they can afford.

Supplemental Question: Can you clarify how your proposals to incentivise social tenants to move abroad will complement your administration's homelessness strategy?

Supplemental Answer: I have answered that in the question. It is not a supplementary. You are just going back. I mean I have explained all the details of what we actually go through.

6.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: What measures are included in the Homelessness Strategy to improve and monitor the accuracy and helpfulness of advice being given to residents?

Answer: One of the priority actions within the Homeless Strategy Action Plan is to ensure good quality housing advice and to accessible prevention services. The way in which we meet these commitments is to share with staff any lessons learnt from complaints, implement training if required and adjust procedures if necessary. In addition, management will ensure that a 10% check on all casework is achieved and, once again, any lessons learnt will be shared with the staff and any training and issues identified will be put in place.

Supplemental Question: I have recently dealt with multiple cases where residents were not clearly explained their rights or responsibilities, leading to confusion and acceleration of problems which did not need to exist.

Can I have your personal assurance that this aspect of the Housing Service will improve and improve quickly?

Supplemental Answer: I understand the stressful experience of the applicants and sometimes the information can be confusing. However, I am confident that the officer provided information that was accurate at the time and would never give misleading or unhelpful information intentionally.

The following questions were not reached in the time limit of 15 minutes. It was noted that written responses would be provided, which have been reproduced below:

7.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts

Question: How many Portfolio Holder Advisers do you feel would allow Cabinet to operate most effectively?

Written Response: 0-10.

8.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts

Question: You claimed that outsourcing was 'cheap and nasty' in your manifesto, so can you confirm which services which have previously been outsourced you intend to bring back in-house?

Written Response: This Council will always make decisions that are in the best interests of Residents. Decisions to outsourcing services, where they have been taken, are properly evaluated to ensure that it is in the Council's financial interests, that performance objectives are met, that customers will be satisfied with the service and that the quality of the service will, where possible, be enhanced. This Administration has chosen to outsource some services as did the previous Administration.

Where services are outsourced the performance of that service and the performance of the contract are monitored to ensure that we are delivering best value to our residents.

A number of the Council's outsource arrangements are currently working well, delivering better quality services to more satisfied residents. We have all noticed the benefits at the Leisure Centre of our work with Greenwich Leisure and how much better this is performing than our previous partner Leisure Connections. We have just delivered enormous savings on our re-let of our Print contract. Our new contracts for Housing works with Slade and Linbrook are performing well and tenants are satisfied. Our

arrangements with Coram to deliver an Adoptions service are nationally recognised. I could go on to list a lot more.

Some contracts that we let we have changed provider when the opportunity came along – saving money and delivering better performance in the process, for example our recent re-let of our contract for Occupational Health.

There are no services at present where we believe that Residents interests would be best served by bringing the service back in-house.

9.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: Your budget contained a £220,000 saving from a review of trade waste collection, which I told you would be an unwise thing for the Council to stop. In order for this saving to be achieved, can you confirm when trade waste collections will stop?

Written Response: The proposal is to review the Trade Waste Service with the aim of achieving the saving; this review could conclude that the service should cease or that it should continue.

10.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: Which shopping centres will lose their dedicated cleaners, and when?

Written Response: Implementation of this saving is planned for August. Whilst the staff dedicated to each centre will change, the cleaning service will continue through a mobile workforce focused on need.

11.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

Question: How much money is the Council committing to

regeneration of St. Ann's, and how much is coming from the Mayor of London?

Written Response: The Council has committed £1.8m to St Ann's Road, and the Mayor of London has committed £182,000 to Havelock Place.

The £1.8m investment will have a 25 year long investment, and the return is safeguarding jobs and creating new jobs is far greater than would be the bill in welfare benefits if jobs are lost in St Ann's Road.

12.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor David Perry, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services

Question: Could you clarify why Greenwich Leisure are seeking to downgrade the requirement to have attendance-linked door supervisors at the Leisure Centre, and move to only having them if requested by the police?

Written Response: Before GLL took on management of Harrow Leisure Centre, there had been serious issues with some of the lettings for Byron Hall. As a result of a particular incident, onerous licensing regulations were placed on the operators to ensure that such incidents could not recur and to ensure event hires were properly managed. The police made it clear that they would not be prepared to see these relaxed until such time as they could be convinced that such incidents would not recur. Since GLL have taken over the management and letting of Byron Hall, there have been no incidents and the police have commented on how well managed the venue hire now is. The provision of extra door supervisors is costly for both GLL and/or the hall hirers and makes the letting of Byron Hall less viable for some. With robust audited booking procedures in place and robust management of lettings demonstrated, GLL now feel confident that they can apply to have some of the licensing regulations returned to normal conditions but will take guidance from the police for those bookings where the police recommend that extra security is required. This is standard procedure for venue hire.

13.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor David Perry, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services

Question: Could you clarify why the Commissioning of Libraries and Leisure Management Services report has been pushed back from February to May?

Written Response: The Commissioning of Library and Leisure Services is a complex and lengthy process, especially where, in libraries, these services have never been commissioned before. In addition, the decision involves three boroughs (Brent, Ealing and Harrow) and has required all three boroughs to synchronise their decision making processes. Harrow is working with Ealing on libraries and with Brent and Ealing on leisure. However, the main reason that we have delayed the report is so that we can give the decision the serious consideration it deserves before bringing it to Cabinet. We strongly support our library and leisure services and we want to make sure that any decisions we take on their future are as informed as they can be and that all options have been carefully scrutinised before those decisions are made.

625. Key Decision Schedule - April to June 2013

The Leader of the Council reported that the 'Commissioning of Libraries and Leisure Management Services' item from the Key Decision Schedule had been deferred to May Cabinet.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Key Decision Schedule for April 2013.

626. Progress on Scrutiny Projects

RESOLVED: To receive and note the progress of scrutiny projects.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

627. Financial Procedure Rules

The Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report, which proposed updated Financial Procedure Rules for the Council, which had also been considered by the Constitution Review Working Group. He outlined some of the key changes made.

The Director of Finance and Assurance reported that the changes accorded with best practice.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That the existing Financial Regulations be replaced with the revised set of Financial Procedure Rules.

Reason for Decision: It has been the duty of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to maintain an up to date set of Financial Procedure Rules. The current Financial Regulations were agreed by Cabinet on 3 November 2011 and required updating to ensure that the Council had effective governance arrangements in place.

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 as the decision is reserved to Council.]

RESOLVED ITEMS

628. Special Needs Transport Change Programme 3 (SNT 3)

Cabinet received a report of the Divisional Director of Special Needs Services, which set out a programme of change for the service that included significant procurement of new suppliers to the Council over the next 3 years.

In inviting the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families to introduce the report, the Leader of the Council stated that the way forward was well defined and he thanked officers and his colleagues for their work.

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families stated that as part of the process for SNT 3, it was important that a high level of service continued to be maintained. She was supported by the Corporate Director of Children and Families in this regard, who added that following the successful implementation of SNT 1 and 2, the Council had been working with relevant parties, including the Unions, to deliver on SNT3.

The Corporate Director added that Harrow was one of the few local authorities that had continued to maintain an in-house service. She informed Cabinet that at present a percentage of the travel routes were outsourced. The Council would work with local providers and the existing work force, over a period of three years to deliver on this complex project. She cited an article in a local newspaper, which showed the support given to this project by the Chief Executive of the Harrow Association of Voluntary Services (HAVS).

The Portfolio Holders for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services and Community and Cultural Services commended the work undertaken by officers and the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families with a view to further radicalising the services over a period, including the building of relationships and trust with local organisations whilst maintaining the services provided.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress on the SNT3 Programme be noted;
- (2) the Corporate Director of Children and Families, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Children, Schools and Families, Property and

Major Contracts, and Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to:

- a) procure, select and award contracts to the preferred transport services suppliers on such terms as agreed, acting in the best interests of the Council and in doing so promoting local social enterprises and private organisations;
 - b) consult on a new transport eligibility policy;
- (3) a further progress report with a final draft policy be received for approval in Autumn 2013.

Reason for Decision: The MTFs provided a need and a timeframe for delivering further savings of £540k from special transport. The SNT3 programme would deliver the required savings whilst maintaining the service required by residents.

To deliver savings within the timescales required delegated authority to identify best providers and award contracts to the best placed provider.

A broader, more flexible delivery would future proof the service for the direction of government policy. The preferred option would seek solutions that were delivered by local suppliers and local social and community enterprises.

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.

629. Housing Changes Review: Approval of Housing Strategy 2013/18, Homelessness Strategy 2013/18, Private Sector Housing Strategy 2013/18, Housing Allocations Scheme 2013, and update on Housing Business Plan 2013 and draft Asset Management Strategy 2013

The Portfolio Holder for Housing introduced the report, which sought approval of the key strategies and policies included within the Housing Changes Review.

The Portfolio Holder outlined some of the practical measures included within the Housing Changes Review. He explained that the cost of housing and the impact on income as a result of the welfare reforms would result in an increase in homelessness in Harrow, as the borough had a small element of social housing. In order to mitigate the impact, other options were being explored such as the effective use of social housing, provision of new homes, a holistic and sustainable approach in the use of existing assets, a strengthened quality of private homes, bringing empty properties into use and reduce housing waiting times.

The Portfolio Holder applauded the work undertaken, particularly the contributions and participation from tenants and leaseholders in bringing the strategies and policies included in the Housing Changes Review to fruition.

The Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services recognised the good work undertaken during a period of rapid changes in legislation and commended the manner in which robust consultation had been carried and in capturing options as a 'Listening' Council. The Portfolio Holder added that Harrow had a small housing stock and the exercising of the 'Right to Buy' could put added pressure in this respect.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the consultation responses and proposed amendments to the Housing Strategy 2013-2018, Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018, Private Sector Strategy 2013-2018 and Housing Allocation Scheme be noted;
- (2) the final Housing Strategy 2013-2018, attached at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
- (3) the final Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018, attached at Appendix 3 to the report, be approved;
- (4) the final Private Sector Housing Strategy 2013-2018, attached at Appendix 4 to the report, be approved;
- (5) the final Housing Allocations Scheme and transitional arrangements, attached at Appendix 5 to the report, be approved;
- (6) the position with regard to the draft Housing Business Plan and Asset Management Strategy be noted;
- (7) the intention to enter into a Consortium Agreement with the Greater London Authority (GLA) acting under the powers devolved from the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) to receive funding towards bringing empty homes back into use be noted, and authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing and the Portfolio Holder for Housing to sign off the Consortium Agreement;
- (8) the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing, the Director of Finance and Assurance and the Portfolio Holder for Housing be granted delegated authority to approve individual cash incentive payments to Council tenants to enable them to move to settled private sector accommodation, supported by a Business Case, pending approval of a general scheme for cash incentive payments for Council tenants to be included in the final Housing HRA Business Plan;
- (9) the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing and the Portfolio Holder for Housing be granted delegated authority to approve participation in a pilot National Mobility Scheme that would provide additional opportunities for tenants to move;
- (10) it be noted that from 1 April 2013 general Right to Buy (RTB) receipts (i.e. not those specifically set aside for new affordable housing) could

not be used for non-HRA purposes without penalty to the General Fund, and that the implications for the Housing Revenue Account would need to be considered in finalising the Housing Business Plan due to be reported to Cabinet in June 2013.

Reason for Decision: To enable the adoption of key Housing Policy and Strategy documents which clearly set out the Council's Strategic Housing Vision in responding to priority housing needs in Harrow.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: Do nothing or adopt some but not all of the freedoms and flexibilities, as set out in the report.

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

630. Harrow Outdoor Sports Strategy 2013-2023

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services introduced the report, which set out the strategic objectives identified in the Strategy and sought approval for its implementation.

The Portfolio Holder outlined how the 10-year Strategy had culminated following discussions with many sports clubs. He added that whilst the Strategy identified key priorities, it also showed how funding would be sought and used to ensure a viable Strategy. He gave an example of how Section 106 money from an agreement for the Kodak site would be used to drive improvements to Headstone Manor Recreation Ground and Roger Bannister Sports pitches, including improvements in drainage and quality. Moreover, external funding would be sought and opportunities to work with other sports clubs explored. He commended the action plan, which set out details of how the quality of grass pitches would be improved and how all weather pitches would be developed for the enjoyment of all.

The Leader of the Council welcomed the report which provided an example of how assets could be better used to reduce the costs associated with people's wellbeing. In response, the Portfolio Holder showed the value added through planning and regeneration and the key role played by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration. He was confident that the Strategy would attract investment into the borough. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration recommended the need to improve the quality of pitches by working with the private sector.

In conclusion, the Leader of the Council stated the proposals would help improve the enjoyment and wellbeing of Harrow residents.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Harrow Outdoor Sports Pitch Strategy 2013-2023 and the implementation Plan, as outlined in appendices A and B and in paragraph 2.7 of the report, be adopted;
- (2) the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing be authorised to proceed with the implementation Plan (Appendix 2 of the

report refers) provided by the Strategy and take any action necessary in consultation with the Corporate Director of Environment and Enterprise, the Portfolio Holders for Community and Cultural Services and Environment and Community Safety;

- (3) the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing be authorised to submit external funding bids to support the delivery of the priorities and actions within the Strategy, through the ongoing development and delivery of a responsive action plan, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Environment and Enterprise, the Portfolio Holders for Community and Cultural Services and Environment and Community Safety.

Reason for Decision: The Harrow Outdoor Sports Pitch Strategy would enable Harrow to plan for the provision and quality of outdoor sports facilities to provide better access and increase people's participation in sport and physical activity to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes for Harrow. The Strategy would enable Harrow to access external partnerships and funding to take the priorities forward and outlined how £1.7million would be invested in pitches in the borough.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: Continue with the current situation and not adopt an Outdoor Sports Strategy, as set out in the report.

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

631. Adult Learning Commissioning Framework

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services introduced the report, which set out a new Commissioning Framework for Adult Learning and suggested how it could best be used to achieve the vision for Community Learning set out in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills document, 'New Challenges, New Chances'.

The Portfolio Holder commended the proposals to Cabinet as they would enable local residents to gain and improve skills to progress further in both education and employment, particularly for those with English as their second language. He added that the proposals would help make the society more cohesive, bring communities together, and help those with abilities and disabilities to enrich their lives.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Preferred Providers Framework Agreement for Adult Learning with a total estimated annual value of £450,000 be approved;
- (2) the decision to make annual contract awards under the Framework Agreement during its lifetime to providers on the Framework be delegated to the Corporate Director of Community, Health and Wellbeing in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services, provided that the total value of contract awards did not exceed the overall Framework value.

Reason for Decision: The Adult, Community and Family Learning Service, as a recipient of a Community Learning funding allocation, must deliver to the objectives set out in *New Challenges, New Chances*. Provision should be targeted for the benefit of disadvantaged learners whilst maintaining a fee-paying universal offer and should show strong partnership working, with a diversified provider base. Establishing a Framework of Preferred Providers with delegated approval of contracts would enable the Service to respond flexibly to local needs throughout the year and target core funding to achieve overall objectives.

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.

632. Garden Land Development Supplementary Planning Document

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration introduced the report, which proposed the adoption of the Garden Land Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to support the presumption against garden land development set out in Harrow's Core Strategy 2012. He added that the report defined what constituted garden land and development.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Garden Land Development SPD, at Appendix B to the report, be adopted;
- (2) the Divisional Director of Planning be delegated authority to make typographical corrections and any other necessary non-material amendments to the Garden Land Development SPD prior to formal publication of the SPD.

Reason for Decision: To adopt the Supplementary Planning Document for development management purposes as the most effective way of supporting the implementation of the presumption against garden land development set out in Harrow's Core Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: Do nothing, or issue an informal guidance note, as set out in the report.

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

633. Report of the Harrow Partnership Board Meeting held on 13 March 2013

The Leader of the Council introduced the report, which summarised discussion at a recent meeting of the Partnership Board.

The Leader took this opportunity to thank the Partners for their contributions and highlighted the need to develop the Board further to meet the challenges

of efficiency and savings faced by all those involved. The challenge to work together in such issues would be a priority for the future.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Reason for Decision: To be informed of the Partnership's decisions.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: None.

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

[Note: Call-in does not apply to matters that have been noted.]

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.31 pm, closed at 8.21 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR THAYA IDAIKKADAR
Chairman