

CABINET MINUTES

13 FEBRUARY 2014

Chairman: * Councillor Susan Hall

Councillors:

* Kam Chana	* Janet Mote
* Tony Ferrari	* Paul Osborn
* Stephen Greek	* Simon Williams
* Manji Kara	* Stephen Wright
* Barry Macleod-Cullinane	

**Non Executive
Non Voting
Councillors:**

* Graham Henson	* David Perry
* Thaya Idaikkadar	

**In attendance:
(Councillors)**

James Bond	Minute 776
Krishna James	Minute 776
Jerry Miles	Minute 788
Asad Omar	Minute 776

* Denotes Member present

785. Key Decision: Revenue and Capital Monitoring for Quarter 3 as at 31 December 2013

The Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report, which set out the Council's Revenue and Capital monitoring position as at December 2013. The report sought to close the substantial gaps inherited from the previous administration(s). It was noted that the additional recommendation, set out on the supplemental agenda, was withdrawn.

A non-voting non-Executive Cabinet Member referred to the appendix set out on the supplemental agenda and the potential pressures on the homelessness budget. He asked about a comment that the Leader of the

Council had made that Harrow did not suffer from problems of homelessness but that she had expressed a desire to keep an eye on this area and he asked how she had managed to do this in light of the pressures being experienced. The Leader of the Council replied that this comment had related to people sleeping rough and she confirmed that the Council's Homelessness Strategy was robust.

The same non-voting non-Executive Member was of the view that the administration was out of touch with the key issues affecting the vulnerable and the impact their measures were having on this section of the community.

The Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing replied that the Council was a key member of the Single Homelessness Forum which brought various organisations together to look at those individuals who were rough sleeping and how assistance could be provided. He also commended the excellent work undertaken by the Firm Foundation.

The Portfolio Holder added that the administration would not be lectured on the savings issue by the Leader of the Group which had failed to make the savings set out in their budget. It had singularly failed to control the budgets on procurement and agency staff.

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Transformation stated that the administration would not be lectured by a Group operating under the false premise of being a caring Party. He added that it should not be forgotten that the same administration had increased Council Tax in 2013/14 and had made staff redundant.

The same non-voting non-Executive Member commented that the administration was being disingenuous, as London-wide figures had shown that Harrow was suffering from an increase in homelessness. He added that he was merely highlighting the problem in this area with a view to both parties working together to resolve the issue. His party's 'alternative' budget would increase its budget for this issue.

In response to a question about the action being taken to reduce deficits within the various budgets and why the spending strategy had not been used, the Portfolio Holder for Finance stated that the Corporate Directors and the Portfolio Holders were required to operate within their budget targets and each would have their own action plans bringing budgets within targets set.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That an increase in the Empty Property Grants budget of £0.100m, as detailed in paragraph 58 of the report, in respect of additional grant funding received in the current year be approved.

Reason for Recommendation: To ensure that Cabinet was updated on the forecast revenue and capital financial position for 2013/14, that budget virements were agreed in line with the Financial Regulations and available external funding was fully utilised to achieve Council priorities.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: None.

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