

Cabinet

Minutes



Monday 6 January 2020

PRESENT

Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of the Council
Councillor Sue Fennimore, Deputy Leader
Councillor Adam Connell, Cabinet Member for Public Services Reform
Councillor Larry Culhane, Cabinet Member for Children and Education
Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for the Environment
Councillor Lisa Homan, Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Sue Macmillan, Cabinet Member for Strategy
Councillor Max Schmid, Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services

85. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2019

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 December 2019 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings, and that the outstanding actions be noted.

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Andrew Jones and Ben Coleman.

87. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

88. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2020/21

RESOLVED:

That the Council will, for another year, continue to support our most vulnerable residents by protecting our local scheme. Once again for the eighth year running, we are proposing providing the maximum 100% support to our residents where they are on low incomes. This is at a time when we continue to have reduced funding from Central Government and are observing that many other local authorities, including our neighbours, are asking their vulnerable

residents to now contribute towards their council tax, at levels often up to 25% of their actual charge.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

89. COUNCIL TAX BASE AND COLLECTION RATE 2020-21 AND DELEGATION OF THE BUSINESS RATE ESTIMATE

RESOLVED:

1. That the estimated numbers of properties for each Valuation Band as set out in this report be approved.
2. That an estimated Collection rate of 97.5% be approved.
3. That the Council Tax Base of 80,495 Band “D” equivalent properties be approved.
4. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services, to determine the business rates tax base for 2020/21.
5. To approve the recommendations in the Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21 report, prior to the recommendations in this report, as they are reflected as Band “D” equivalents in the Council’s Tax base calculations in section 8 below.
6. To confirm that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham wishes to continue in a pan-London business rates pool in 2020/21.
7. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services, to agree the recommendations in this report from 2021/22 in advance of budget setting.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

90. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITOR & BUDGET VARIATIONS, 2019/20 (SECOND QUARTER)

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the proposed budget variations to the capital programme totalling £12.45m (summarised in Table 1 and detailed in Appendix 2).
2. To approve a budget virement of £100,000 from the Corporate Planned Maintenance Programme to the Column Replacement programme reported within the Environment Department.
3. To establish a disposals programme that will enable reserves to be maintained and reduce reliance on additional borrowing.
4. To note the proposed change in the Minimum Revenue Payment (MRP) rate from 3.24% to 3.01% and that this will reduce the charge against revenue budgets by approximately £200,000 over the next 4 years.
5. To note that the recent government decision to increase the PWLB rate (the rate at which local authorities can borrow from the government) by 1% will potentially increase the Council's borrowing costs by £1.38m per year by 2022/23 and by £69m over a 50-year loan period.
6. To note the potential risks regarding the Housing Capital Programme, as summarised in section 5 of the report.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

91. CORPORATE REVENUE MONITOR 2019/20 MONTH 6 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

RESOLVED:

1. That Directors and Cabinet members urgently identify and deliver actions that offset the forecast General Fund overspend of £9.4 million.
2. To note the HRA forecast overspend.
3. To approve the virement requests set out in Appendix 9 of the report.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

92. ACQUISITION OF FREEHOLD INTEREST - 145/155 KING STREET, W6

RESOLVED:

1. To note that appendices 1 and 2 of the report are not for publication on the basis that they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the authority holding that information) as set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. To delegate to the Strategic Director for the Economy, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor and Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services to agree the property legal agreements
3. To acquire the freehold interest of 145-155 King Street, W6 on the terms set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
4. To approve a capital budget of up to £19.81 million in 2019/20, to be funded by borrowing, represented by an increase in the Council's Capital Financing Requirement.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

93. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

RESOLVED:

The Key Decision List was noted.

94. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Queen's New Year's Honours - Steve Miley OBE

The Leader extended the Council's congratulations to Steve Miley, our former Director of Children's Services, who was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours.

The West Kensington and Gibbs Green Estates

With delight the Leader stated that the Council had received back the West Kensington and Gibbs Green Estates. The nightmare was now over for the 1000s of residents who had been worrying about their homes.

The return of the two estates and the Gibbs Green School Site completed the Administration's 2014 manifesto commitments. The Council was happy that it had been able to help our residents to save their homes from demolition.

The Leader thanked the Officers, Members and Lewis Silkin LLP (Solicitors) who had worked together tirelessly to achieve this great success

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 7.05 pm

Chair