

Cabinet

Minutes

Monday 11 February 2013

PRESENT

Councillor Nicholas Botterill, Leader (+ Regeneration, Asset Management and IT)
Councillor Greg Smith, Deputy Leader (+ Residents Services)
Councillor Helen Binmore, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Mark Loveday, Cabinet Member for Communications (+ Chief Whip)
Councillor Marcus Ginn, Cabinet Member for Community Care
Councillor Andrew Johnson, Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler, Cabinet Member for Transport and Technical Services

145. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2013

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 January 2013 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings, and that the outstanding actions be noted.

146. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

147. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

148. REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX LEVELS 2013/14

RESOLVED:

1. That approval be given to a council tax reduction of 3% for the Hammersmith & Fulham element for 2013/14.

2. That the council tax be set for 2013/14 for each category of dwelling, as calculated in accordance with Sections 31A to 49B of the Localism Act 2011, as outlined below and in full in Appendix A:
 - (a) The element of council tax charged for Hammersmith & Fulham Council will be £757.90 per Band D property in 2013/14.
 - (b) The element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be confirmed on the 25th February and is expected to be £303.00 per Band D property in 2013/14. A reduction of 1%.
 - (c) The overall Council Tax to be set will be £1,060.90 per Band D property in 2013/14.

Category of Dwelling	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio	6/9 £	7/9 £	8/9 £	1 £	11/9 £	13/9 £	15/9 £	18/9 £
A) H&F	505.27	589.48	673.69	757.90	926.32	1,094.74	1,263.17	1,515.80
b) GLA	202.00	235.67	269.34	303.00	370.34	437.67	505.00	606.00
c) Total	707.27	825.15	943.03	1,060.90	1,296.66	1,532.41	1,768.17	2,121.80

3. That the Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2013/14 is set at £181.944m
4. That fees and charges are approved as set out in paragraph 5.2
5. That the budget projections made by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance to 2015/16 be noted.
6. That the statement made by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 regarding the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates be noted (section 14).
7. That the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance be authorised to collect and recover National Non-Domestic Rate and Council Tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Council Schemes of Delegation.
8. That all Executive Directors be required to report monthly on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates (as part of the Corporate Monitoring Report).
9. That all Executive Directors be authorised to implement their service spending plans for 2013/14 in accordance with the recommendations within this report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.

Members' attention is drawn to S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which requires any Member who is two months or more in arrears on their Council Tax to declare their position and not to vote on any issue that could affect the calculation of the budget or Council Tax.

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.

149. 4 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14 TO 2015/16

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft General Fund Capital Programme budget at £65.0m for 2013/14, be approved.
2. That a Debt Reduction target of £20m for 2013/14 which will reduce underlying debt – based on current forecasts and as measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) - to £71.4m, be approved.
3. That 25% of receipts generated for the Decent Neighbourhoods programme continue to be used to support general capital investment or debt reduction in 2013/14 to 2016/17, subject to future review and potential regulatory changes.
4. That approval be given to the following proposed capital receipts funded initiatives within the General Fund capital programme 2013/14 (Table 5):
 - The continuation of the rolling programmes for repairs to Carriageways and Footways £2.03m;
 - Corporate Buildings Planned Maintenance £2.5m;
 - Private Sector Housing Grant (Disabled Facilities) £0.45m;
 - Parks Improvements £0.5m;
 - Contributions to the Invest to Save Fund £0.75m;This totals £6.23m.
5. To note existing capital receipts funded schemes (approved for 2012/13) but now scheduled for 2013/14 as follows:
 - The Schools Capital Programme £8.906m;
 - The Corporate Buildings Planned Maintenance £1.84mThis totals £10.746m.

The overall total use of capital receipts for General Fund capital schemes in 2013/14 is £16.976m.

6. That the level of resource forecast (Table 2) and indicative capital expenditure budget 2013/14 of £27.6m for the Decent Neighbourhoods programme, funded fully by capital receipts, as detailed in Appendix 2, be approved.
7. That the 2013/14 HRA capital programme of £37.0m as set out in Table 7 (Appendix 4) and the use of £15.212m of Decent Neighbourhoods' capital receipts in support of this programme for 2013/14, be approved.
8. That approval be given to the annual Minimum Revenue Provision for 2013/14 (Appendix 7).
 - For debt which is supported through Formula Grant this authority will calculate the Minimum Revenue Provision in accordance with current regulations (namely 4% of the Capital Financing requirement net of adjustment A).
 - For debt which has arisen through prudential borrowing it should be written down in equal instalments over the estimated asset life. The debt write-off will commence the year after an asset comes into use.
9. That the CIPFA prudential indicators as set out in Appendix 8 to the report be approved.

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.

150. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the future borrowing and investment strategies as outlined in this report be approved and that the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance be authorised to arrange the Council's cashflow, borrowing and investments in 2013/14.

2. That in relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year the comments and the Prudential Indicators as set out in this report, be noted.
3. That to pay the HRA investment income on unapplied HRA receipts and other HRA cash balances calculated at the average rate of interest earned on temporary investments with effect from 1 April 2013, be approved.
4. That the Money market Funds set out in Table 1 of Appendix B to the report for use as part of the Council's investment strategy, be approved.

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.

151. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE COMPLAINTS POLICY

RESOLVED:

1. That the new Corporate Complaints Policy be approved and implemented with effect from 1 April 2013.
2. That the new model for managing Stage 2 complaints be agreed and implemented for all Stage 2 complaints recorded after 31 March 2013.

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.

152. TRI-BOROUGH MANAGED SERVICES - FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES (TRANSACTIONAL SERVICES)

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council enters into a contract with the preferred supplier, BT, for five years (with the potential to extend for a further three years) at an annual cost of £1.5 million to provide the full range of services covered by the Tri-borough Managed Services Framework Agreement for Finance and Human Resources (transactional services).
2. That £4.15 million be set aside from the Efficiency Projects Reserve to fund the transitional costs involved in moving finance and HR transactional services to the preferred supplier.
3. That delegated authority is given to the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance and the Director of Law to finalise the contract arrangements with the preferred supplier.
4. That the Leader of the Council approves any amendments to the services to be drawn down from the preferred supplier.
5. That arrangements are put in place for Westminster City Council to provide an Intelligent Client Function to manage the relationship between the preferred supplier and this Council at a cost of £100,000 per annum.

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.

153. INTERIM PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND SURESTART SERVICES

RESOLVED:

1. That the requirement contained in the Council's Contract Standing Orders to seek competitive tenders be waived, in accordance with CSO 3.1, and that approval is given to negotiate new contracts for children's centres and Sure Start services with existing providers, in accordance with CSO 9.11.
2. That these new interim contracts with existing providers are for no more than a period of two years, with provision for a break clause after one year, be approved.

3. That the interim contracts with existing providers are negotiated so that they meet new funding and inspection regimes, including formal registration, leadership and management of the 'hub and spoke' model, and clear links with the targeted 2 year old offer, be approved.
4. That funding to the hub centres is reduced by 5% in 2013/14, or that the 5% is achieved through equivalent savings, with either option reflecting the national reduction in Early Intervention Grant Funding and the impact of this at a local level, as set out in Appendix 2: Current and proposed children's centres funding allocations, be approved.
5. That the interim contracts with existing providers incorporate a revised performance management framework that clearly reflects national developments, the Council's priority outcomes for children and families, and the statutory duty of Best Value, taking in to account cost and quality, be approved.
6. That the Children's Centre spot purchasing fund (currently £133,000) be re-profiled to support the efficient delivery of these recommendations, service transition, and any other relevant interim measures, including the employment of one fixed-term FTE post at grade PO 3 (approximate cost £46,000), and contribute to mitigating the proposed level of reduction in funding to the hub centres, be approved.
7. That authority to approve any further actions necessary to ensure that the Council meets its statutory duties for the provision of children's centres, and to give practical effect to these interim measures, be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, be approved.

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.

154. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND RENT INCREASE 2013-14

RESOLVED:

1. That the HRA financial strategy as set out in section 7 of the report, be endorsed.
2. That the Housing Revenue Account 2013/14 budget as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved..

3. That a rent increase for 2013/14, based on application of the Government's rent restructuring formulae for dwellings of 3 bedrooms and below, and a new Council rent policy for dwellings of 4 bedrooms and above, of 5.42% and also that approval be given to the simplification of the presentation of Sheltered Accommodation rents as referred to in paragraph 9.7, be approved.
4. That a rent increase of 3.73% based on application of the Government's rent restructuring formulae for properties under licence and hostels as referred to in paragraph 9.6 of the report, be approved.
5. That in order to move towards full recovery of Water Rates an increase in water rate charges equating to an average rise of 58 pence per week as set out in paragraph 15.7 of the report, be approved.
6. That a reduction in the communal heating charge of 5% as set out in paragraph 15.3 of the report, be approved.
7. That an increase in service charges for 2013/14 of 3.1% as set out in section 10 of the report, be approved.
8. That an increase in garage and parking rents of 3.1% as set out in paragraphs 15.4 and 15.5 of the report be approved and that Cabinet note that a review of garage and parking operations is currently being conducted by officers in consultation with residents which is likely to result in further changes.
9. That in line with the strategic financial objective of repaying debt as it becomes due £ 9.582 million of HRA debt is repaid in 2013/14, be approved.
10. That the risks outlined in section 12 and in Appendix 5 of the report, be noted.

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.

155. BARCLAY CLOSE LIFTS A-D, ETHEL RANKIN COURT AND THE GRANGE, LISGAR TERRACE LIFTS A & B - MODERNISATION OF THE EXISTING PASSENGER LIFTS

RESOLVED:

1. That funding for this scheme is contained within the 2012/13 Housing Capital Programme which was approved by Cabinet on 11 December 2011 and by Budget Council on 29^h February 2012 (within this £80k was included in 2012/13 and £690k in 2013/14, now revised to £770k - excluding professional fees - in 2012/13 in order to accelerate delivery of the project funded by savings and movement on other programmes), be noted.
2. That the contract is expected to be awarded on 18 February 2013, and has a contract period of 45 weeks from the date of the award, with start on site expected on 20 May 2013, be noted.

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.

156. APPROVAL OF THE 2013/14 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

1. That the list of planned carriageway and footway maintenance schemes as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Technical Services, in conjunction with the Executive Director of Transport and Technical Services and the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance, to make amendments to the programme as agreed for operational and cost effectiveness reasons in order to make the optimum use of resources allowing virements to contain expenditure within the approved resources and not subject to the normal virement rules.
3. That reports and updates on programme amendments (additions and removals) to the approved scheme list be made to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Technical Services, be approved.

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.

157. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Forward Plan was noted.

158. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they contain information relating to of Schedule 12A of the Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

[The following is a public summary of the exempt information under S.100C (2) of the Local Government Act 1972. Exempt minutes exist as a separate document.]

159. TRI-BOROUGH MANAGED SERVICES - FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES (TRANSACTIONAL SERVICES) : EXEMPT ASPECTS (E)

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

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.

160. **BARCLAY CLOSE LIFTS A-D, ETHEL RANKIN COURT AND THE GRANGE LISGAR TERRACE LIFTS A & B - MODERNISATION OF THE EXISTING PASSENGER LIFTS : EXEMPT ASPECTS (E)**

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

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.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm

Meeting ended: 7.03 pm

Chairman