

DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RESOURCES COMMITTEE

30 NOVEMBER 2010

COMMITTEE:

*Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman)

Councillors

* Brian Coleman
* Andrew Harper
* Robert Rams

* Richard Cornelius
\$ Lynne Hillan

*Denotes Member present

\$Denotes member absent on Council business

1. **MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2010 were approved as a correct record.

2. **ABSENCE OF MEMBERS:**

Apology for absence was received from Councillor Lynne Hillan who was absent on Council business.

3. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:**

No interests were declared:

4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

The following question was received from Mr Roger Chapman on Item 10 relating to Stanley Road Playing Fields and former Herbert Wilmot Centre, East Finchley N2:
What research has the Council undertaken to make the assertion in paragraph 3.1 of the report that the land is unused?

The Chairman tabled the following reply:

The recent history of the lease evidences under-use of this site.

The land has been leased for a number of years for the purpose of recreation. During this time the area has become neglected, poorly maintained, and the all weather pitch has become unusable.

After discussions with the former lessee a 6 month period was given for a realistic and funded proposal to be put forward to enable the land to be put back into use and the lease renewed. No proposals were received and possession of the land reclaimed by the Council.

Although the land was leased, there were opportunities for groups to approach the lessee with proposals to use the land, which with all community resources tends to be encouraged to see areas actively used. Often where the resource is held under a lease, if the lessee falls into difficulties there are links with a range of Council Services as well as general enquiries to the Council, which may provide opportunities to use the facility more fully. There has been low take up in this instance which have not developed. We have got other sites in the Borough where the current lessee has found difficulty and has shared with other groups, which has been successful and has enabled the resource to continue.

We are aware that on occasions the land has been used for joy riding, youth graffiti groups, rough sleepers, rubbish tipping.

In order for the land to be used effectively it will require investment and commitment and it is intended that the proposal to market seeking expressions of interest from any interested parties with intended use and level of bids will allow full consideration of all the options available to the Council.

No supplementary question was given as Mr Chapman was unable to attend the meeting.

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2010 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 5):

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee RESOLVED – That the Treasury Management activity for the half year ended 30 September 2010 be noted.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 6):

A revised appendix to the Cabinet Member's report, the Treasury Management Strategy, was tabled at the meeting. For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the revised Treasury Management Strategy, including the borrowing and cash management strategies and the investment counterparty criteria, be approved. The key amendments to the strategy are set out in paragraph 9.7 of the Cabinet Member's report, including amendments to the duration of investments and the counterparty list.

7. EXTENSION OF WEST HENDON REGENERATION SCHEME PDA (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 7):

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee RESOLVED – That approval be given to the following:

- (i) The extension of the expiry date of the Principal Development Agreement for the West Hendon Regeneration Scheme for a period of 12 months, expiring on 15 December 2011.
- (ii) That the Director of Planning, Housing and Regeneration be authorised, to grant a further extension of up to 12 months up to 15 December 2012, by delegated powers, with the terms to be approved in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, subject to being satisfied that reasonable progress had been achieved on a revised masterplan in line with Barratt Metropolitan LLP's programme contained in the accompanying appendix.
- (iii) That the Commercial Director be instructed to appropriate the Council owned lands within the West Hendon Regeneration Area at the appropriate time from their existing uses to planning purposes pursuant to Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- (iv) That the Commercial Director be authorised to grant the demolition and works licences required for the implementation of the West Hendon Regeneration Scheme to Barratt Metropolitan Limited Liability Partnership, as appropriate.

8. MONITORING 2010/11 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 8):

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee RESOLVED –

- (1) That Directors take appropriate action to ensure costs are kept within budget and income targets are met. (Paragraph 9.1.2)

- (2) That Quarter 2 performance by directorate be noted. (Paragraph 9.2.1)
- (3) That the proposed virements be approved and recommended to Council for approval. (Paragraph 9.4)
- (4) That the Recharges review be noted. (Paragraph 9.5.1)
- (5) That the proposed Capital additions of £71.585k from S106 for the improvement of parks be approved. (Paragraph 9.6.1)
- (6) That the cost of agency staff procured through the Hays tempdesk be noted. (Paragraph 9.7.1)
- (7) To approve proposed drawdown's from contingency of:
 - £390k to cover the costs of rent for NLBP Buildings 2 and 4. (Paragraph 9.8.2)
 - £590k to cover the management costs of the new establishment in Commercial. (Paragraph 9.8.3)
- (8) That the write off's for Council Tax £4.565m, Business Rates £0.234m, Accounts Receivable £0.720m and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Overpayments £0.441m approved under the Chief Finance Officer's authority be noted. (Paragraph 9.9.1)
- (9) That Directors ensure that those capital projects in their services are managed closely to ensure they are delivered within budget and in accordance with the agreed timeframe. (Paragraph 9.10.1)
- (10) That the Children's Service capital redirection £6.9m and the review of council owned assets, including school estates approved at Cabinet on 6 September 2010 be noted. (Paragraph 9.11)
- (11) That the proposed capital virement of £465k for building enhancement within the Accommodation Project in Commercial, be vired to Customer Services for the development of the web project in the Chief Executives Service be approved. (Paragraph 9.12.1)
- (12) That the proposed Capital additions/deletions of £7.020m, slippage of £8.548m and £37.019m deletion for PSCIP future years as set out in Appendix B and the related funding implications summarised in table 7 be approved.

9. LAND EAST OF ARKLEY LANE, ARKLEY EN5 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 9):

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee RESOLVED – That the Council's freehold interest in the land edged red on the attached plan no 205/2 be sold to Mr James Copeland and Mrs Maggie Copeland on the terms set out in the accompanying exempt report.

10. STANLEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS AND FORMER HERBERT WILMOT CENTRE, EAST FINCHLEY N2 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 10):

After deliberation about the disposal of a playing field asset, the Committee inserted a further condition to enable community groups to bring proposals to the Council regarding managing the playing fields. Taking consideration for the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Council's freehold interest in the land edged red on the attached plan no. 24177 be declared surplus to its requirements.
- (2) That the disposal of the freehold interest be advertised on the open market to seek details of proposed schemes and initial bids.
- (3) That the appraisal and results of the open market testing be reported to a future meeting of the Cabinet Resources Committee for further consideration.
- (4) That a community use bid be considered for a period of six months alongside the open market testing appraisal.

11. REQUEST BY A MEMBER FOR AN INDEMNITY IN RESPECT OF LEGAL COSTS (Report of the Director of Corporate Governance / Monitoring Officer – Agenda Item 11):

The Director of Corporate Governance tabled a replaced report. For the reasons set out in the Director's report, the Committee
RESOLVED – That a Member be provided with an indemnity for costs of up to £3,000 for their own choice of legal representation to deal with a complaint concerning an alleged breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

12. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC:

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006):

**Agenda Subject
Item**

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| X1 | Exempt information relating to item 9 in public session – Land East of Arkley Lane, Arkley EN5 |
| X2 | Exempt information relating to item 10 in public session – Stanley Road Playing Fields and Former Herbert Wilmot Centre, East Finchley N2 |

13. EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 9 IN PUBLIC SESSION – LAND EAST OF ARKLEY LANE, ARKLEY EN5 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item X1):

RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.

14. EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 10 IN PUBLIC SESSION – STANLEY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS AND FORMER HERBERT WILMOT CENTRE, EAST FINCHLEY N2 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item X2):

RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.

The meeting finished at 7.28pm.