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DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RESOURCES COMMITTEE

13 JANUARY 2011

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 30 November 2010 were approved as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Coleman and Councillor Lynne Hillan who was absent on other Council business.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

The following interest was declared.

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Richard Cornelius	Frith Manor School, Lullington Garth, Finchley N12 (Agenda Item 13 and X4)	Councillor Richard Cornelius declared a personal and prejudicial interest as he was a Local Authority Governor for the school. Councillor Cornelius left the room whilst the item was debated and took no part in the decision making process.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

The following questions were received on Agenda Item 5 relating to Fees and Charges for Environment and Operations:

1. Question asked of the Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee by Mr Max Bourn:

The level of allotment rent increase which are proposed are outrageous and far exceed rises proposed for other Council charges. Why is the increase so high? I believe you did not make a loss last year.

Reply by the Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee:

The Council faces very difficult decisions about the budget for the next 3 years linked to the need to bridge the national budget deficit. The allotment rents proposed for 1 April 2012 have been determined in order to address the investment requirements and ongoing costs of Council staff supporting the allotment portfolio. It is envisaged that an alternative allotment management model will have been developed and be in effect by this time, in which the sites manage and set their own rents.

Should sites decide to remain within Council management, the proposed cost of an allotment from 1 April 2012 will be £17 a pole per year i.e. 33p a week, an average plot is 10 poles i.e. £3.30 a week. It will be a year before the new charges will be levied giving ample opportunity for people to consider whether they want to take on the management of allotments themselves or continue to have the Council doing it at the proposed costs. A meeting has been organised on Tuesday evening for representatives of allotment groups to discuss self management with Council staff.

2. Question asked of the Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee by Mr Joe Kuis:

Do the unilateral proposed increases of allotment rents go squarely against the recommendations of the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs – Fifth Report 1997 –1998 House of Commons, the increased rents inhibiting people to take on or continue allotments and therefore reducing the health, social and environmental benefits of allotments, based on real examples, as highlighted and recommended in the report?

Reply by the Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee

The allotment rent increases due to come into effect on 1 April 2012 equates to of £3.30 per week for a full size 10 pole plot. It is not expected that this small cost will inhibit the general public from enjoying the benefits of renting an allotment.

3. Question asked of the Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee by Ms Sue Jankowski:

Can you explain and justify why allotment rents on our site are to be raised by over 250%?

Reply by the Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee

Please see the answer to Question 1.

4. Question asked of the Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee by Mrs Rosalind Morgan:

On 29th November 2010 at the Cabinet Meeting for the Environment item 11 on the agenda, paragraphs 6.7 to 6.9 states in short, that the proposed handing over of management control of allotments from the Council to allotment holders would mean that the costs would need to rise by up to 50%. How does the Council justify proposing today, just 6 weeks later, an almost threefold increase in rents from £6 per pole to £17 per pole?

Reply by the Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee

The report of 29 November 2010 set out an indicative position of anticipated increases in allotment rents, which has been further determined to be an increase of £17.00 per pole in order to meet the increasing costs in providing the allotment service. It is proposed that the management of the allotments is handed to allotment holders during the forthcoming financial year.

Ms Sue Jankowski and Mrs Rosalind Morgan decided not to ask a supplementary question whilst Mr Max Bourn and Mr Joe Kuis were unable to attend the meeting.

5. FEES AND CHARGES FOR ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATIONS (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance and the Cabinet Member for Environment – Agenda Item 5):

A petition with 2324 signatories opposing the increase in motoring taxes was received by the Committee. An addendum to the Cabinet Member's report was tabled at the meeting; and for the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the fees and charges for Environment and Operations, detailed in the appendices to the Cabinet Member's report, be approved in principle, but for the final decision to be taken by Cabinet on 14 February 2011 following full consideration of the detailed outcomes of the budget consultation and any responses received. The fees and charges will take effect as soon as reasonably practicable.

6. FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE PLANNING, HOUSING AND REGENERATION DIRECTORATE (Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Civic Affairs – Agenda Item 6):

An addendum to the Cabinet Member's report was tabled at the meeting; and for the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the fees and charges for Planning, Housing and Regeneration, as detailed in Appendices A-J of the Cabinet Members' report, be approved in principle, but for the final decision to be taken by Cabinet on 14 February 2011 following full consideration of the detailed outcomes of the budget consultation and any responses received. The fees and charges will take effect as soon as reasonably practicable or 1 April 2011 as indicated.
- (2) That the new schedule of fees and charges be published on the Council's website and within the Planning Customer Reception, subject to the final decision taken by Cabinet on 14 February 2011.

7. VOLUNTARY MORTGAGE SCHEME (Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration – Agenda Item 7):

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

RESOLVED – That the Voluntary Council Mortgage Scheme be terminated with immediate effect.

8. SECTION 75 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT – LEARNING DISABILITIES INTEGRATION PROJECT (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance and the Cabinet Member for Adults – Agenda Item 8):

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) That a pooled fund for an integrated community learning service in Barnet be established, which will be led by the Council, under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Adults be authorised on behalf of the Council to enter into a two-year Section 75 pooled funding agreement between the London Borough of Barnet (LBB) and NHS Barnet (NHSB), subject to the legal and financial terms of the agreement being approved by the Assistant Director – Legal and the Chief Finance Officer, respectively.

- 9. CONTRACT AWARD – MEALS AT HOME (Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults – Agenda Item 9):**
 An amended table with the outcome of the tender evaluation in 9.9 of the Cabinet Member's report was tabled the meeting; and for the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee
 RESOLVED – That Sodexo Ltd be awarded the contract for the provision and delivery of meals for a period of three years commencing 1 April 2011.
- 10. USE OF CAPITAL MONEY FOR DEVELOPING ADULT IT INFRASTRUCTURE (Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults – Agenda Item 10):**
 For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee
 RESOLVED –
- (1) That £1,150,000 of capital money be allocated for the improvement of information systems for adult social care in line with the business case as shown in the appendix to the Cabinet Member's report.
 - (2) That £103,000 be vired from Corporate Services Capital Programme – Swift (IT15) to Adults Capital Programme.
 - (3) That the Adults Capital Programme be increased by £1,047,000 for Swift upgrade funded from capital grants (see paragraph 6.1.1 of the Cabinet Member's report).
 - (4) That the Commercial Director be authorised to commence the procurement process to replace the Adult Social Services information management system SWIFT following completion of the pre-procurement options appraisal.
- 11. PREVENTION SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS – EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS (Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults – Agenda Item 11):**
 For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee
 RESOLVED –
- (1) That requirements of paragraph 5.6.2 of the Contract Procedure Rules be waived to allow:
 - (a) the extension of the contracts for services in receipt of housing related support services funding as listed in the schedule at Appendix 1 of the accompanying exempt report, subject to a maximum duration of one year.
 - (b) the entry into interim funding agreements for prevention services commissioned by the Council's Adult Social Services as listed in the schedule at Appendix 2 of the accompanying exempt report; subject to a maximum duration of two years.
 - (2) That authorisation be given to the following arrangements for further decisions in respect of implementation of the procurement of domestic violence provision and a Framework Agreement for supported housing provision:
 - (a) the procurement of domestic violence provision be undertaken following consideration of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group's work on this topic and subject to approval by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families.
 - (b) the procurement of a Framework Agreement for supported housing provision for Adult Social Services clients be undertaken subject to endorsement by the Commercial Director and approval by the Cabinet Member for Adults.
- 12. REMOVAL OF LONG TERM EMPTY PROPERTY COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 12):**
 For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee
 RESOLVED – That the reduction of the Council Tax discount for long-term empty properties from 50% to nil be approved with effect from 1 April 2011.

- 13. FRITH MANOR SCHOOL, LULLINGTON GARTH, FINCHLEY N12 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 13):**
For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member’s report, the Committee RESOLVED – That, subject to the grant of any necessary consent by the Secretary of State, a lease of the land shown edged red on the attached plan no. 23964-1 be granted to Oakleigh Park School of Swimming on the terms detailed in the Cabinet Member’s report and in the accompanying exempt report.
- 14. PARK HOUSE, 16 HIGH ROAD, FINCHLEY N2 9PJ (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item 14):**
For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member’s report, the Committee RESOLVED –
- (1) That, a lease of the whole of Park House and adjacent car park (shown edged red on the accompanying plan no.23068/10) be granted to Party 1, or failing that granted to either Party 2, Party 3 or Party 4 on the respective principal terms set out in and also as requested in the body of the accompanying exempt report. The identity of all the parties was set out in the accompanying exempt report.
 - (2) That, should the findings of the Council’s financial due diligence prove unsatisfactory in relation to Party 1, then subject to (3) below, it be recommended to grant a lease to either Party 2, Party 3 or Party 4.
 - (3) That, any lease granted to either Party 2, Party 3 or Party 4 be subject to the Council’s financial due diligence and subject to a separate Delegated Powers Report authorising the grant of the lease.
- 15. 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**

X1	Exempt information relating to item 9 in public session – Contract Award – Meals at Home
X2	Exempt information relating to item 10 in public session – Use of capital money for developing Adult IT infrastructure
X3	Exempt information relating to item 11 in public session – Prevention Services for Vulnerable Adults – Extension of Contracts
X4	Exempt information relating to item 13 in public session – Frith Manor School, Lullington Garth, Finchley N12
X5	Exempt information relating to item 14 in public session – Park House, 16 High Road, Finchley N2 9PJ

- 16. EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 9 IN PUBLIC SESSION – CONTRACT AWARD – MEALS AT HOME (Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults – Agenda Item X1):**
RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.
- 17. EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 10 IN PUBLIC SESSION – USE OF CAPITAL MONEY FOR DEVELOPING ADULT IT INFRASTRUCTURE (Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults – Agenda Item X2):**
RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.

18. **EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 11 IN PUBLIC SESSION – PREVENTION SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS – EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS (Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults – Agenda Item X3):**
RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.
19. **EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 13 IN PUBLIC SESSION – FRITH MANOR SCHOOL, LULLINGTON GARTH, FINCHLEY N12 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item X4):**
RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.
20. **EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 14 IN PUBLIC SESSION – PARK HOUSE, 16 HIGH ROAD, FINCHLEY N2 9PJ (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance – Agenda Item X5):**
RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.

The meeting finished at 7.52pm.