

## Decisions of the Policy and Resources Committee

23 February 2017

Members Present:-

Councillor Richard Cornelius (Chairman)  
Councillor Daniel Thomas (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Dean Cohen  
Councillor Tom Davey  
Councillor Anthony Finn  
Councillor Ross Houston  
Councillor Joan Scannell

Councillor Arjun Mittra (in substitute for  
Councillor Paul Edwards)  
Councillor Alison Moore  
Councillor Alon Or-Bach  
Councillor Sachin Rajput  
Councillor Barry Rawlings

### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

### 2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Edwards who was substituted for by Councillor Arjun Mittra. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Sachin Rajput.

### 3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest declared
Councillor Arjun Mittra	Item 8 – Golders Green Station Draft Planning Brief	Non pecuniary interest as Cllr Mittra is an employee of the GLA. Cllr Mittra noted he would leave the room for consideration and voting on this item.
Councillor Arjun Mittra	Item 10 – Business Planning 2017-20	Non pecuniary interest with respect to Early Years Funding as Cllr Mittra's mother runs a nursery in the borough.
Councillor Ross Houston	Item 10 – Business Planning 2017-20	Non pecuniary interest as Cllr Houston is a Council appointed representative on the Barnet Group Board.
Councillor Alon Or-Bach	Item 9 – Implementation of IT strategy	Non pecuniary interest as he works for Samsung which produces a wide variety of products which might be purchased by the Council.
Councillor Alison Moore	Item 10 – Business Planning 2017-20	Non pecuniary interest as she is a governor of a school in the borough.

It was noted that many of the Councillors were governors of schools and a non-pecuniary interest was declared for those members relating to Item 10 – Business Planning 2017-20.

**4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

There was none.

The Chairman proposed to vary the order of the agenda to allow for consideration of Item 7 – Referral from Full Council 31 January 2017 – Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Phil Cohen, to be considered before public questions. This was duly agreed.

**5. REFERRAL FROM FULL COUNCIL 31 JANUARY 2017 - OPPOSITION MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR PHIL COHEN**

Councillor Helena Hart spoke on this item, having provided notice to the Chairman in advance of the meeting.

The Committee considered the report and discussed the issues raised. It was noted that the issues raised were of significant political interest and warranted further consideration by all Members as part of a collective discussion, but not necessarily in a full council meeting. It was noted that a meeting could be convened via an informal meeting of Members, a special meeting of Policy and Resources Committee, or another option. The Committee agreed that officers should liaise with Members following the meeting to agree a meeting format and time to further consider these matters, and that it may be appropriate to hold the meeting when more is known about the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. It was noted that the discussion could lead to formal recommendations and that there was a need to consider the possible outcome of the meeting to ensure that decisions can be made and implemented.

**RESOLVED that officers liaise with Members to agree a meeting for further consideration of the matters raised in the motion.**

**6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)**

Details of the questions asked and the published answers were provided with the agenda papers for the meeting. Verbal responses were given to supplementary questions at the meeting.

**7. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)**

There were none.

**8. GOLDERS GREEN STATION DRAFT PLANNING BRIEF**

Councillor Arjun Mittra left the room for consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Peter Zinkin spoke on this item, having provided notice to the Chairman in advance of the meeting.

The Committee considered the report. On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	11
Against	0
Abstain	0
Absent	1

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the Committee approve the draft Golders Green Station Planning Brief for public consultation.**
- 2. That the proposed final Planning Brief is reported back to the Committee for adoption after taking into account comments made as part of the consultation.**

**9. IMPLEMENTATION OF IT STRATEGY: FULL BUSINESS CASE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MICROSOFT SMARTER WORKING TOOLS AND A PILOT OF ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY**

The Committee considered the report.

The Chairman noted that officers had advised that not all Members in the working group were agreed on the findings.

The Head of Information Management agreed to clarify whether electronic documents are acceptable admissions in tribunals.

The Leader moved a motion, seconded by Councillor Daniel Thomas, that amendments be made to recommendation 1.6 to reflect that the decision will be made in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, and to include reference to ensure that Disaster Recovery Plans are aligned as part of this decision making.

On the motion being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows

For	7
Against	0
Abstain	5
Absent	0

The motion was passed.

On the recommendations in the report, as amended, being put to the vote the votes were declared as follows:

For	7
Against	0
Abstain	5
Absent	0

The recommendations were passed.

**RESOLVED that the Committee approves:**

- 1. The implementation of Microsoft Smarter Working technology at a capital cost of £1,373,725 and yearly revenue costs of £423,282. This is a maximum cost that may reduce following the technical assurance of the proposal.**
- 2. The implementation of a pilot of an Electronic Document Management System at a capital cost of £250,000. This is a maximum cost that may reduce following the technical assurance of the proposal.**
- 3. The investigation and implementation of a 'Choose your Own Device' approach to accessing the network at an initial capital cost of £50,000, along with the purchase of IT Peripherals at an initial capital cost of £90,000.**
- 4. That the Committee approves commissioning CSG, as part of their managed service provision to the Council, to investigate and undertake any required strengthening work on the Council IT network to ensure fast and efficient access to Smarter Working and EDM tools.**
- 5. That the Committee notes the intention to commission Leidos, the council's contracted IT technical assurance partner, to scrutinise the technical proposals before funding is released or contracts are signed.**
- 6. That the Committee delegates authority to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, to enter into contracts and take all other necessary actions to implement the recommendations of this report and to ensure that Disaster Recovery Plans take full account of these changes.**

**10. BUSINESS PLANNING 2017-20**

The Committee considered the report.

Councillor Ross Houston noted the overall target for new homes of 2,313 for 2017-18 as set out in Appendix N, page 687 of the agenda report pack, and queried whether the affordable homes target of 122 represented 4% of that. The Commissioning Director Growth and Development clarified that the figures represented a phasing of big schemes rather than an overall representation.

Councillor Barry Rawlings requested that the Regeneration and Investment in Infrastructure targets set out in the Corporate Plan also include a target for 2018-19. The

Commissioning Director Growth and Development agreed to develop a range figure for the 2018-19 year, noting this would be indicative.

The Director of Resources noted that amendments to recommendations 1.16 and 1.19 had been made to update the figures in recommendation 1.16a and 1.16b and to reference additional housing fees and charges in 1.19. The committee noted the updates which had been tabled.

The Director of Resources provided an update on which reserves were deleted to balance the MTFS as follows:

- Risk Reserve;
- London Borough Grants Scheme underspend;
- Business Rates Deficit Reserve, as this is now being funded from CF surplus;
- Welfare Reserve, as this will now be funded through an on-going budget rather than a reserve;
- Grahame Park Reserve; being held to fund library which is no longer needed;
- Area Committee – Non-CIL; corporate grants programme in place to partly mitigate impact;
- Benefit Subsidy Error Mitigation Reserve; and
- Underspend on other smaller specific reserves

On the recommendations in the report as amended being put to the vote the votes were declared as follows:

For	7
Against	0
Abstain	5
Absent	0

**RESOLVED that the Committee:**

- 1.1 Consider the issues that have emerged from the consultation when making their decisions. That the committee are also mindful of the equalities impact assessments, including the cumulative equalities impact assessments, when making the decision below;**
- 1.2 Recommend to Council for approval the MTFS attached as Appendix A and the detailed revenue budgets in Appendices B1 and B2. The MTFS sets out all of the budget changes over the period 2017-20, including assumptions around inflation, changes to levies, pressures, savings and grant funding. It is the model around which the council's financial strategy is based. Taking the consultation responses and the equality impact assessments into consideration;**
- 1.3 Recommend to Council that the budget for 2017/18 is prepared on the basis of no increase to council tax in 2017/18, other than for the increase set out below in 1.4;**
- 1.4 Recommend to Council applying a social care precept at 3% in 2017/18 – to help fund care for the elderly;**

- 1.5 Note that the Chief Finance Officer, under their delegated powers in accordance with para 4.3.2 of the Financial Regulations, has calculated 139,049 (band D equivalents) as the amount for the Council Tax base for the year 2017/18 [item T in the formula in Section 31B (1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)];
- 1.6 Recommend to Council for approval, the following amounts calculated for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 31(A) and (B), 34, 35 and 36 of the Act:
- a) £936,231,444 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act;
  - b) £775,671,564 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimated for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act;
  - c) £160,559,880 being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.6(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.6(b) above, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula section 31A(4) of the Act);
  - d) £1,154.70 being the amount at 1.6(c) above (item R), divided by Item T (Item 1.5 above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

**London Borough of Barnet Valuation Bands (£)**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
769.80	898.10	1,026.40	1,154.70	1,411.30	1,667.90	1,924.50	2,309.40

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 1.6(d) above by the number which, in proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

- 1.7 Recommend to Council, on the advice of the Chief Finance Officer, that it determines that the council’s basic amount of Council Tax for 2017/18 as set out in 1.6(d) above is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set out in the Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles)(England) Report 2017/18 - subject to any changes to that Report; which at the time of publication of this report was still in draft;
- 1.8 Note that for the year 2017/18 the Greater London Authority has provisionally indicated that the following amounts in precepts will be issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

**Greater London Authority Valuation Bands (£)**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
186.68	217.79	248.91	280.02	342.25	404.47	466.70	560.04

- 1.9 Recommend that having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.6(d) with the amounts at 1.8, the council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2017/18 for each of the categories dwellings shown below:**

**Council Tax for Area (£)**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>956.48</b>	<b>1,115.89</b>	<b>1,275.31</b>	<b>1,434.72</b>	<b>1,753.55</b>	<b>2,072.37</b>	<b>2,391.20</b>	<b>2,869.44</b>

- 1.10 Recommend to Council for approval the Barnet Council Tax Support Scheme, adopted in January 2015, remain unchanged except for uprating in line with Department for Work and Pension changes for housing benefit (see 1.11 below).**
- 1.11 Notes that the working age non-dependent (ND) charges be uprated as set out in paragraph 1.7.13**
- 1.12 Recommend to Council that in accordance with Section 38(2) of the Act the Chief Executive be instructed to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 1.9 above within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;**
- 1.13 Recommend to Council for approval the capital programme as set out in Appendix C1 and C2, and the capital budget changes as set out in Appendix C3 and that the Chief Officers be authorised to take all necessary actions for implementation;**
- 1.14 Recommend to Council that the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to adjust capital project budgets and financing in 2017/18 throughout the capital programme after the 2016/17 accounts are closed and the amount of slippage and budget carry forward required are known;**
- 1.15 Recommend to Council the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix I;**
- 1.16 Approve the following in relation to the Housing Revenue Account:**
- a) The proposed rent decrease by 1% for council dwelling as set out in paragraph 1.10.3 to take effect from 1 April 2017;**
  - b) The proposed increase to service charges for council dwelling as set out in paragraph 1.10.9 to take effect from 1 April 2017; and**
  - c) The proposed rent increase of 2.2% for council garages as set out in paragraph 1.10.9 to take effect from 1 April 2017.**
- 1.17 Approve the Housing Revenue Account estimates for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix D;**
- 1.18 Note the submission of the Authority Proforma Tool in relation to the Dedicated Schools Budget as set out in Appendix E;**

- 1.19 Approve the fees and charges for hire of Hendon Town Hall as detailed in Appendix F2 and note the Adult's, Children's, Environment and Housing fees and charges that were approved at their relevant Theme Committee as detailed in Appendix F1 and F3;**
- 1.20 Note the summary equality impact assessment (EIA) and cumulative assessment set out in section 5.6. Appendix H provides the cumulative impact and individual Delivery Unit assessments where significant changes to service delivery are proposed;**
- 1.21 Recommend to Council approval of the reserves and balances policy as set out in Appendix K and indicative amounts as set out in para 1.12 and the Chief Finance Officer's assessment of adequacy of reserves in section 1.12. The Committee recommend to Council that the CFO be authorised to adjust balances in 2017/18 after 2016/17 accounts are closed and the amount of balances carry forward required are known;**
- 1.22 Approve revenue budget movements as set out in para 1.14;**
- 1.23 Note the progress of the transformation programme as detailed in Appendix J;**
- 1.24 Recommend to Council to approve the debt write offs as detailed in Appendix L and summarised in para 1.14.11;**
- 1.25 Note the corporate risk register and recommend it to Council as set out in Appendix M; and**
- 1.26 Recommend to Council for approval the Corporate Plan – 2017/18 addendum attached as Appendix N.**

## **11. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

The Committee agreed to vary the order of the agenda to allow for consideration of Item 13 – Any other items the Chairman decides are urgent, as it was noted that an urgent item had been requested by Councillor Barry Rawlings, and that the remaining agenda item 15 (Decision taken under delegated powers – Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES) – Agreement of short extension of existing service for safe transition to new single provider contract framework) involved exempt papers.

Councillor Barry Rawlings introduced the item, citing the recent DWP proposals to close Finchley and Edgware Job Centres and deliver these services instead at Barnet and Hendon respectively. It was noted that building leases are up for renewal shortly, and the Government are trying to save money by merging with a closing date of 28 February. The Committee noted that the consultation had been launched on 30 January with a closing date of 28 February.

The Commissioning Director Growth and Development provided the committee with an update on the issue. Following consideration it was noted that a response to the consultation was being drafted which addressed many of the concerns raised. The Committee requested that the draft consultation response be circulated to the Committee for their comment which was duly agreed.



**RESOLVED** that officers circulate the draft consultation response to Policy and Resources Committee members for their comment.

**12. DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS - INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE (ICES)- AGREEMENT OF SHORT EXTENSION OF EXISTING SERVICE FOR SAFE TRANSITION TO NEW SINGLE PROVIDER CONTRACT FRAMEWORK**

The Committee considered the report. The Chairman invited Members to indicate whether they had any questions regarding the information contained in the exempt report, which would require the Committee to go into private session. There were none.

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote the votes were declared as follows:

For	12
Against	0
Abstain	0
Absent	0

**RESOLVED** - That the Policy and Resources Committee notes the decision taken by Adults and Health Commissioning Director through emergency waiver of Contract Procedure Rule (CPRs), under the Council's Constitution.

**13. DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS - INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE (ICES)- AGREEMENT OF SHORT EXTENSION OF EXISTING SERVICE FOR SAFE TRANSITION TO NEW SINGLE PROVIDER CONTRACT FRAMEWORK (EXEMPT)**

The Committee;

**RESOLVED** that the information contained in the exempt report be noted.

**14. COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted that the Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document scheduled for 21 March 2017 meeting may need to be moved due to co-dependencies with other on-going work. The Commissioning Director Growth and Development agreed to provide the Committee with an update on the timing of these items.

The Chief Operating Officer noted that an additional item would be added to 16 May 2017 meeting to update the Committee on the Customer Transformation Programme.

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm