

Decisions of the Policy and Resources Committee

21 July 2014

Members Present:-

Councillor Daniel Thomas (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Tom Davey	Councillor Barry Rawlings
Councillor Dean Cohen	Councillor Ross Houston
Councillor Anthony Finn	Councillor Paul Edwards
Councillor David Longstaff	Councillor Alon Or-Bach
Councillor Sachin Rajput	Councillor Mark Shooter (In place of
Councillor Alison Moore	Richard Cornelius)

Also in attendance

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Richard Cornelius

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Having been put to the vote the minutes of 10 June 2014 were agreed as an accurate record. Votes were recorded as follows:

In Favour: 6
Against: 5
Abstentions: 1

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Cornelius. Councillor Mark Shooter attended as substitute Member. Councillor Daniel Thomas acted as Chairman.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS (IF ANY)

The Chairman noted a general dispensation had been granted at Full Council on 15 July 2014 which would apply to consideration of item 7.

Councillor Ross Houston declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to item 10 by virtue of his being a member of the Barnet Group Board. Councillor Houston remained in the room during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Paul Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest noting he is a member of UNITE.

Councillor Mark Shooter and Councillor Dean Cohen declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 11 as they are both members of the NLWA.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

There were no public questions. Mr Dix provided an oral comment on the Sport and Physical Activity Review. Members asked questions following the comment, which were answered by Mr Dix.

5. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

There were none.

6. FINANCE AND BUSINESS PLANNING – CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND REVIEW OF RESERVES

The Committee considered the report.

RESOLVED –

1. That Policy and Resources Committee agree the process for theme Committees to review the capital programme and the development of capital programme priorities for the period 2015-20 which will come back to this committee in December 2014 to form the basis of a draft budget.
2. That Policy and Resources Committee agree the process for the review revenue reserves which will come back to this committee in December 2014.
3. That Policy and Resources Committee agree the tests which will need to be met for the Council to borrow to fund a Thameslink Station as part of the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration as set out in section 1.5.
4. That Policy and Resources Committee agree the savings target for the Housing Revenue Account and the process for developing an HRA investment plan (including proposals for the HRA headroom) as set out in section 1.6.
5. That Policy and Resources Committee agree the recommended drawdowns from reserves and contingency as set out in section 1.7.
6. That Policy and Resources Committee note the draw down from Corporate reserves as set out in section 1.7.4 and contingency in 1.7.1, 1.7.2 and 1.7.5.
7. The Policy and Resources Committee agree the virement between Street Scene and the Commissioning Group as set out in 1.7.6 in line with Financial Regulation 4.4.3.
8. That Officers report back to the relevant future Committee meeting providing:
 - a. a comprehensive description of reserves and options;
 - b. an update on options for borrowing for Brent Cross; and
 - c. a regular Quarterly update on Treasury Management

7. OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT 2015/16

The Committee considered the report.

Councillor Alison Moore moved that the Committee agree to consult publicly on options 1, 2, 3 and 4 as outlined in the report. Councillor Barry Rawlings seconded the motion.

Votes were recorded as follows:

In Favour: 5

Against: 7

Abstentions: 0

The motion was lost.

Councillor Tom Davey moved that the Committee agree to consult publicly on options 1, 2 and 3, as outlined in the report. Councillor Daniel Thomas seconded the motion.

Votes were recorded as follows:

In Favour: 7

Against: 5

Abstentions: 0

The motion was carried and became the substantive motion.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee considered the options for a revised CTS scheme set out in this paper and agreed to consult publicly on options 1, 2 and 3 before implementation. The public consultation will run for a period of 12 weeks, starting in July, with the revised scheme implemented at the start of the 2015/16 Financial Year.
2. That the Committee agree proposals for a new Council Tax enforcement policy set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
3. That the Committee agree that the CTS scheme would remain the scheme until revised, and that future changes will be made as part of the budget cycle.

The Committee requested that the next report to the Committee on this matter include information on the number of residents in each band.

8. SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REVIEW

The Committee considered the report. The Chairman noted that there was exempt information relating to this item contained in a separate report which could be discussed at the end of the meeting if Members had questions.

RESOLVED –

1. That Policy & Resources Committee agree the business case in Appendix 1 and the initiation of a procurement exercise to the timetable set out in section 5.4 of the Outline Business Case.
2. That Policy & Resources Committee agree the start of discussions to look at options including a Trust to manage the Copthall site as a whole entity with a view to develop an agreement between the council and partners, including current and future leaseholders and users.
3. That Policy & Resources Committee agree a maximum budget of £427,000 for the delivery of the first phase of the recommended option from the Outline Business Case.
4. That Policy & Resources Committee agree the SPA Strategy Statement and draft Delivery Plan as set out in Appendices A and B of the Outline Business Case, which will be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
5. That Policy & Resources Committee note the revised position for the savings to be achieved from the recommendations originally put forward in a report to Cabinet Resources Committee on 4 November 2013 in regards to the transfer of utilities and changes to opening hours at Hendon and Burnt Oak leisure centres and that the shortfall for 2014/15 will be funded through council's reserves.
6. That Policy & Resources Committee note that the MTFs in December 2014 will set out how the funding gap for the period 2015/16 to December 2017 for leisure services will be addressed.
7. That Policy & Resources Committee agree to the project to look at restructuring the roles linked to sports development to consolidate these into one team for consideration by General Functions Committee.
8. That Policy & Resources Committee note the updated Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) price schedule for leisure centres in Appendix 2 taking effect from 1st September 2014.
9. That the feasibility study for the pre-procurement will include partnership options including a Trust for all sites

Officers noted that the next report to committee should include a list of the Marmot principles.

9. PROCUREMENT FORWARD PLAN

Having been put to the vote the Committee

RESOLVED –

That the Committee agree to include the list of proposed procurements listed in Appendix to the 2014/15 Procurement Forward Plan.

Votes were recorded as follows:

In favour: 11

Against: 1
Abstentions: 0

10. FUNDING FOR AN EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEME AT MORETON CLOSE, NW7 AND ADVANCE ACQUISITIONS OF LEASEHOLD PROPERTIES ON REGENERATION ESTATES

The Committee considered the report. The Chairman noted that there was exempt information relating to this item contained in a separate report which could be discussed at the end of the meeting if Members had questions.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee agree funding of £8.773 million for RE to acquire leasehold properties for the Council on the Council's Regeneration Estates from leaseholders who wish to sell in advance of a Compulsory Purchase Order and use these properties as temporary accommodation until they are required by the development partners
2. That the Committee agree funding of £12.344 million for Barnet Homes to redevelop the site at Moreton Close, NW7 to provide an Extra Care Housing Scheme for the Council and to pay statutory homelessness and disturbance to those residents moving from the existing scheme.

11. RECYCLING SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION

The Committee considered the report.

RESOLVED –

That the Committee authorise a waiver of the Contract Procedure Rules and agree to the extension and variation of the Recycling Services Contract, which is held by May Gurney Recycling CIC now Kier May Gurney Plc (formerly ECT Recycling CIC) to facilitate the removal and disposal of materials collected at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre until 3 October 2015. The variation is to allow Kier May Gurney Plc to continue to remove and dispose of materials collected at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre only and to; pass on the cost of providing this service to the council where a cost is incurred, and to share the material income 50/50 with the council where an income is received.

12. ANNUAL EQUALITIES REPORT

The Committee considered the report.

RESOLVED –

That the Committee approve the Annual Equalities Report 2014 before its publication on the Council's website.

13. COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the report.

14. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

15. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman invited the Committee Members to advise if they had any matters to discuss relating to the information in the exempt papers. No requests were received. The Chairman noted there was no need to move into exempt session.

The meeting finished at 9.47 pm